United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2012 No. 92

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 18, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

In these days, give wisdom to all the Members that they might execute their responsibilities to the benefit of all Americans.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURGESS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRESIDENT OBAMA CREATES MORE CHAOS AND UNCERTAINTY

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the administration showed it is less concerned with supporting policies that will put millions of unemployed Americans back to work and instead has decided to go in an entirely new direction. Unilateral changes in law that have been done for political expediency put individuals ahead of the 12.5 million people who have been seeking work for the past 3½ years.

Mr. Speaker, the administration has produced an executive order that is a political decision—purely political—and one that will continue to block opportunities for American citizens trying to find employment.

Prosecutorial discretion is what we heard this was. This is not prosecutorial discretion. Prosecutorial discretion means you decide whether or not to prosecute an individual for a crime they may or may not have committed. What this is is new policy, new policy that is being implemented by the administration unilaterally—no respect for the people's House, no respect for the United States Congress, no respect for the legislative branch. Instead, prosecutorial discretion now has morphed into, well, we'll provide you a work permit good for 2 years that's renewable for 2 years.

This administration has a history of picking winners and losers. This time it's got to stop. This Congress needs to stand up to this administration starting today.

CHIEF IGNORER OF THE LAW

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed.

Mr. Speaker, that was President Obama a year ago. But that was then and this is now.

On Friday, the administration issued an imperial decree, acting to unilaterally ignore portions of the immigration law of the land. Mr. Speaker, the last time I checked, it was Congress who makes law, not the President. And it is the job of the Executive to enforce laws, not ignore the ones he just doesn't like.

The President has no interest in fixing the broken immigration system. Instead, he has decreed this temporary amnesty in hopes of winning votes in November. He doesn't like the constitutional process for law-making because it just gets in his way, so he acts like an emperor instead of a President.

It's time for the former constitutional professor to read the Constitution.

And that's just the way it is.

UNCERTAINTY DESTROYS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in Wednesday's Washington Examiner, columnist John Stossel quoted Economist John B. Taylor of the Hoover Institution who stated:

Printed on recycled paper.

Unpredictable economic policy—massive fiscal stimulus and ballooning debt, the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing with multiyear near-zero interest rates, and regulatory uncertainty due to ObamaCare and the Dodd-Frank financial reforms—is the main cause of persistent high unemployment and our feeble recovery.

Over the last 3 years, our economy has not improved, our unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent, our small business owners have been forced to pay higher taxes, and the government spending continues to spiral out of control. The President and his liberal allies in the Senate continue to support legislation that creates more barriers resulting in job loss. The President and the Senate should work with House Republicans and pass over 30 House bills that are aimed to create jobs through private sector growth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops; and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for Earl Brown of Columbia.

SENATE SUGAR VOTE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I want to praise my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator TOOMEY, for introducing an amendment to the farm bill to phase out the Federal sugar program. Though the Senate narrowly voted to table the amendment, it demonstrated that there is substantial bipartisan support to reform a program that hurts American job creators and consumers.

Today's Wall Street Journal editorial entitled ''A Tale of Two Conservatives'' also praises Senator TOOMEY and calls out the Republicans who voted against this free-market amendment.

By some estimates, the Federal sugar program artificially doubles the price of sugar in the United States. While we protect sugar growers and processors, sugar users and consumers are at a severe disadvantage. American jobs have been lost as foreign competitors benefit from reduced prices for raw sugar.

The Department of Commerce estimates that sugar-using industries lost 112,000 jobs from 1997 to 2009. Here in the House, I'm working with DANNY DAVIS on a bipartisan amendment to the farm bill. I hope that when the Chamber considers reforming the farm bill, Democrats and Republicans can come together to protect jobs and stop the government from playing favorites.

PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION FROM WHITE HOUSE ATTACKS

(Mr. BROOKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, last week Barack Obama unilaterally and unlawfully changed America's immigration law by ordering the Federal Government to accept illegal aliens' applications for work permits. I am deeply alarmed that America's President so blatantly undermines the rule of law.

Article I, section 1 of our Constitution states:

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

Article I, section 8 states:

The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization.

Article II defines executive branch power. It does not give any President the power to make his own laws. In America, we elect Presidents, not Caesars. The only way to change America's immigration law is as our Constitution demands, through Congress, not by imperial decree. In America, no one, not even the President, is above the law. I urge Congress and all law-abiding Americans to protect our Constitution from White House attacks.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all Members to avoid personal references toward the President of the United States.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the more than 1,500 youth from across America visiting our Nation's capital this week to participate in the 48th annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. These high school juniors and seniors are attending meetings with their Senators and Representatives, watching floor action from the respective galleries, and visiting museums and memorials dedicated to our country's rich past.

I personally look forward to meeting with the 18 participating students from Nebraska and urge my colleagues to take time this week to meet with youth from their States as well. These students are part of a great tradition. Every June, for the past 48 years, more than 50,000 young citizens and future leaders have come to Washington, D.C., with the help of their electric cooperatives. Electric Cooperative Youth Tour alumni are now engaged at many levels of government as well.

I want to once again applaud these young people and thank participating electric cooperatives and rural electric associations for sponsoring these programs to instill lessons of citizenship in the next generation.

□ 1410

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CAREER OF DR. JOHN W. BECHER

(Mr. HECK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of Dr. John W. Becher, or ''Chief'' as he was called by scores of medical residents, an osteopathic physician who has dedicated his life to his patients, his students, and to the improvement of the medical profession.

Dr. Becher's commitment to the field of emergency medicine spans more than 30 years. As professor and chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, he has helped countless students and residents, myself included, develop their skills and become an essential part of our health care workforce.

As a young resident at Albert Einstein Medical Center, I was fortunate to have Dr. Becher's insight and guidance as my residency director. His dedication to emergency medicine was evident then, and his understanding of the osteopathic profession was invaluable to my training and to my career.

His involvement in the field of osteopathic medicine is unparalleled. In addition to his work at PCOM, he currently serves as the secretary treasurer of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and is a member of the board of trustees for the American Osteopathic Association.

He was a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association for nearly 20 years, and he is the past president of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians—and these are only some of his accomplishments. His never-ending contributions and service to his profession and his patients have rightly been recognized, most recently by the awarding of the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal.

Dr. Becher's lifelong commitment to patient care and to the excellence of future physicians serves as a powerful legacy to the field of emergency medicine. I consider myself fortunate to have learned under his leadership, and it is an honor to recognize his achievements.

Chief, my sincere congratulations on your well-deserved retirement.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 15, 2012 at 10:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 128.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the day.

OMNIBUS INDIAN ADVANCEMENT ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1556) to amend the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow certain land to be used to generate income to provide funding for academic programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1556

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LAND USE.

Section 824(a) of the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act (Public Law 106–568) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) LIMITATION FOR EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.—The land taken into trust under section 823(a) shall be used solely for the educational, health, or cultural purposes of the Santa Fe Indian School and economic development projects that provide funding for such purposes.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Santa Fe Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico, established in the late 1800s, is a Federal off-reservation boarding school for the 19 pueblo governors of New Mexico. On December 20, 2000, Public Law 106–568 transferred 115 acres of property to the school with certain limitations. H.R. 1556 would allow the Santa Fe Indian School to use its 115 acres of land for economic development. The bill will retain the prohibition on Indian gaming on the transferred land.

I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman HASTINGS, Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member MARKEY, and Ranking Member BOREN for working with me in the Natural Resources Committee to help address the many issues impacting Indian Country and the tribes I represent in New Mexico. I also want to recognize the hard work of the superintendent of Santa Fe Indian School and former governor of Kewa Pueblo, Everett Chavez, and former AIPC president and former NCAI president Joe Garcia on this bill. They worked with the pueblos and the All Indian Pueblo Council to support this legislation, which will help Santa Fe Indian School and New Mexico's 19 pueblos achieve educational sovereignty for Native American students across New Mexico.

Santa Fe Indian School and the 19 pueblos approached my office early last year seeking the introduction of a technical change to the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow certain lands designated to the school to be used to generate income to provide funding for academic and cultural programs at the Indian school. Knowing the importance of what Santa Fe Indian School provides to Native American students in New Mexico, I was very interested in their approach to move toward true financial independence and educational sovereignty for Santa Fe Indian School and its students.

I want to point out the importance of sovereignty and what it means for our tribal brothers and sisters to be able to provide a quality education for their own children. Education is truly empowering, especially when Native American students are able to get an education that embraces their cultural and traditional identities—and that is the type of education Santa Fe Indian School provides.

I worked with Superintendent Chavez and Santa Fe Indian School to draft a bill that would make a technical amendment to allow the school to explore economic opportunities so that students at the Indian school can attain the best possible education and to be able to support their mission. Santa Fe Indian School provides a challenging, stimulating, and nurturing learning environment that shares educational responsibility with Native communities, parents, and students to develop the students' true potential to meet obligations to themselves and their tribal communities.

In this time of financial uncertainty and the limitations of the Federal Government to assist in Federal education programs, it is so important to give Santa Fe Indian School the tools they need to help their students receive a quality education regardless of the climate in Washington. H.R. 1556 would achieve that goal. I'm proud to be able to assist the Santa Fe Indian School in amending the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow the school to achieve new heights in educating Native American students. This technical amendment will help make the school more self-sufficient and create greater opportunities for students attending the Indian School by ensuring the financial capability to maintain and expand the level of academic and cultural education for Native American students.

This is a commonsense bill that will help Native American students in New Mexico, and I urge the support of my colleagues. I thank the chairman for his support as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1556, which amends the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow land taken into trust for the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico to be used to generate income to provide funding for academic programs and other purposes of the Sante Fe Indian School. I am proud to co-sponsor the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act, and I thank my colleague, Congressman LUJÁN for introducing this legislation.

As a member of the Native American Caucus, addressing the needs of Native Americans is of great importance to me. California is home to over one hundred federally recognized tribes and it is my belief that these tribes deserve the right to use land to fund academic programs for the advancement of their citizens.

This legislation will allow eligible tribes to promote self-determination and economic self-sufficiency by allowing the land taken into trust under section 823(a) to be used solely for the educational, health, or cultural purposes and economic development projects that provide funding for such purposes.

The Sante Fe Indian School has a Community-Based Education Program that is seen nationwide as a model of instructional innovation. The over 700 students that attend the Sante Fe Indian School, are able to participate in a constructive learning environment with new dormitories, new classrooms, and student activity centers. Sante Fe Indian School graduates are given an effectual education and past graduates have received over $800,000

in scholarship assistance to schools such as Dartmouth, Georgetown, and Notre Dame. Not only are students of the Sante Fe Indian School able to enter into the competitive environment of college admissions, but students are also equipped with a knowledge to better understand the issues facing tribes in the Southwest to one day be able to return to these communities to contribute positively to the infrastructure that is necessary for continued growth.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1556 to allow Native American tribes the opportunity to continue to improve the educational programs and environment for these students. Native Americans should be afforded the opportunity to raise funds for their educational pursuits and become actively involved in the economic development and constructive use of their land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1556.

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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY GRANTED REGARDING DEFINING EXTERIOR BOUNDARY OF THE UINTAH AND OURAY INDIAN RESERVATION

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4027) to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled ''An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4027

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.

The Act entitled ''An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes'', approved March 11, 1948 (62 Stat. 72), as amended by the Act entitled ''An Act to amend the Act extending the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah so as to authorize such State to exchange certain mineral lands for other lands mineral in character'' approved August 9, 1955, (69 Stat. 544), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 5. In order to further clarify authorizations under this Act, the State of Utah is hereby authorized to relinquish to the United States, for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, State school trust or other State-owned subsurface mineral lands located beneath the surface estate delineated in Public Law 440 (approved March 11, 1948) and south of the border between Grand County, Utah, and Uintah County, Utah, and select in lieu of such relinquished lands, on an acre-for-acre basis, any subsurface mineral lands of the United States located beneath the surface estate delineated in Public Law 440 (approved March 11, 1948) and north of the border between Grand County, Utah, and Uintah County, Utah, subject to the following conditions:

''(1) RESERVATION BY UNITED STATES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall reserve an overriding interest in that portion of the mineral estate comprised of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 171 et seq) in any mineral lands conveyed to the State.

''(2) EXTENT OF OVERRIDING INTEREST.—The overriding interest reserved by the United States under paragraph (1) shall consist of—

''(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the State as consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

''(B) 50 percent of any rental or other payments received by the State as consideration for the lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

''(C) a 6.25 percent overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of oil and gas production under any lease or authorization to develop such oil and gas resources; and

''(D) an overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of production of such minerals other than oil and gas, equal to 50 percent of the royalty rate established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation as of October 1, 2011.

''(3) RESERVATION BY STATE OF UTAH.—The State of Utah shall reserve, for the benefit of its State school trust, an overriding interest in that portion of the mineral estate comprised of minerals subject to leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq) in any mineral lands relinquished by the State to the United States.

''(4) EXTENT OF OVERRIDING INTEREST.—The overriding interest reserved by the State under paragraph (3) shall consist of—

''(A) 50 percent of any bonus bid or other payment received by the United States as consideration for securing any lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources on the relinquished lands;

''(B) 50 percent of any rental or other payments received by the United States as consideration for the lease or authorization to develop such mineral resources;

''(C) a 6.25 percent overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of oil and gas production under any lease or authorization to develop such oil and gas resources; and

''(D) an overriding royalty on the gross proceeds of production of such minerals other than oil and gas, equal to 50 percent of the royalty rate established by the Secretary of the Interior by regulation as of October 1, 2011.

''(5) NO OBLIGATION TO LEASE.—Neither the United States nor the State shall be obligated to lease or otherwise develop oil and gas resources in which the other party retains an overriding interest under this section.

''(6) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the State and the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation to facilitate the relinquishment and selection of lands to be conveyed under this section, and the administration of the overriding interests reserved hereunder.

''(7) TERMINATION.—The overriding interest reserved by the Secretary of the Interior under paragraph (1), and the overriding interest reserved by the State under paragraph (3), shall automatically terminate 30 years after the date of enactment of this section.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4027 is a bipartisan bill that would clarify the boundaries of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation as passed by the Hill Creek Extension of 1948. The bill would authorize Utah's School and Industrial Trust Land Administration to relinquish to the Ute Indian Tribe its subsurface mineral rights in exchange for subsurface rights to an equal number of acres of other land owned by the Federal Government. The exchange would allow the school trust fund and the tribe to explore additional oil and gas development that will help support Utah education and create jobs for the tribe while preserving more culturally sensitive land for the tribe.

I urge adoption of the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4027 clarifies existing law regarding the Federal Government's authority to permit land exchanges within the boundaries of the Ute Indian Reservation in northeastern Utah and resolves the tribe's split estate problem caused by Federal error over 50 years ago. This legislation returns the subsurface mineral estate to the Ute Tribe in a portion of its reservation that the tribe considers culturally and environmentally significant and thus preserves the area's pristine wilderness from development. The bill also benefits the State of Utah by opening up Federal minerals for development in an area of the tribe's reservation already being developed by the tribe's energy company.

Legislation that corrects a Federal error and satisfies both tribal and State interests, without cost to the Federal Government, does not come along very often. Mr. MATHESON is to be commended for his dedication in seeing this bill pass out of the House and for crafting a workable solution to a difficult problem.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4027, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1610

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4027, a bill to authorize an acre-for-acre exchange of subsurface mineral lands within the Hill Creek Extension between the State of Utah and the United States on behalf of the Ute Tribe.

I really want to thank Chairman HASTINGS and his staff, and also subcommittee Chairman YOUNG and his staff, Ranking Member MARKEY and his staff, and Ranking Member BOREN and his staff for their support in moving this bill through the Natural Resources Committee. And I would also like to thank my colleague from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) who is a cosponsor of the bill.

In the transaction authorized in this bill, the tribe would acquire certain State minerals in Grand County, Utah, and in exchange, the BLM would relinquish certain Federal lands in Uintah County, Utah, to the State.

This bipartisan bill would give the Bureau of Land Management the authority to approve this transaction that was first proposed several years ago. In order to fully protect State and Federal interests, this legislation reserves identical overriding financial interests in each other's exchanged lands should development occur. Often in the past, these land exchanges had challenges with appraisals and making sure everyone is treated fairly. This legislation tries to address that issue looking forward.

This bill is a win/win. It helps the tribe consolidate its management of land that is considered sacred and culturally significant, and at the same time, it allows for domestic energy development on land not considered environmentally sensitive that would provide more school trust fund revenue for Utah and employment for energy workers in the State as well.

This legislation has broad support from local government, including Grand, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, the State of Utah, and the Ute Tribe as well as partner agencies. The Wilderness Society also testified in support of this legislation.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this bill.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I'm prepared to yield back if the gentleman has no more requests for time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, we thank the gentleman from Utah for his hard work, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4027, which redefines the boundary of the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. I thank my colleague, Congressman MATHESON, for introducing this legislation.

This bill will authorize Utah to relinquish certain subsurface mineral lands for the benefit of the Ute Indian Tribe. Native American tribes deserve the opportunity to benefit from the natural resources available on their land.

The bill concurrently protects the interests of Utah, by requiring the State to reserve an overriding interest in the portion of the mineral estate that is being relinquished. This portion of the mineral lands is to be reserved for the benefit of the school trust.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Native American Caucus, I am proud to work with my colleagues in the House to continue to protect the rights and interests of Native Americans around the country. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4027.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4027.

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.

LAND GRANT PATENT MODIFICATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 404) to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 404

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) pursuant to section 5505 of division A of the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208; 110 Stat. 3009–516), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, issued to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society located in Chippewa County of the State of Michigan United States Patent Number 61–98–0040 on September 23, 1998;

(2) United States Patent Number 61–98–0040 was recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chippewa County of the State of Michigan, on January 22, 1999, at Liber 757, on pages 115 through 118;

(3) in order to correct an error in United States Patent Number 61–98–0040, the Secretary issued a corrected patent, United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007, on March 10, 2000;

(4) after issuance of the corrected United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007, the original United States Patent Number 61–98–0040 was cancelled on the records of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(5) corrected United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007 should be modified in accordance with this Act—

(A) to effectuate—

(i) the Human Use/Natural Resource Plan for Whitefish Point, dated December 2002; and

(ii) the settlement agreement dated July 16, 2001, filed in Docket Number 2:00–CV–206 in the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan; and

(B) to ensure a clear chain of title, recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chippewa County of the State of Michigan.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF LAND GRANT PATENT ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall modify the matter under the heading ''Subject Also to the Following Conditions'' of paragraph 6 of United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007 by striking ''Whitefish Point Comprehensive Plan of October 1992 or for a gift shop'' and inserting ''Human Use/Natural Resource Plan for Whitefish Point, dated December 2002''.

(b) EFFECT.—Each other term of the conveyance relating to the property that is the subject of United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007, including each obligation to maintain the property in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) and any other appropriate law (including regulations), and the obligation to use the property in a manner that does not impair or interfere with the conservation values of the property, shall remain in effect.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The modification of United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007 in accordance with section 2 shall become effective on the date of the recording of the modification in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Chippewa County of the State of Michigan.

(b) ENDORSEMENT.—The Office of the Register of Deeds of Chippewa County of the State of Michigan is requested to endorse on the recorded copy of United States Patent Number 61–2000–0007 the fact that the Patent Number has been modified in accordance with this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 404 would simply modify a land patent that was issued by the Department of the Interior to the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society in 1998 to reflect an agreement between the historical society, the Michigan Audubon Society, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The current land patent references an outdated 1992 Comprehensive Plan for Whitefish Point, a 43-acre spit of land surrounded by Lake Superior. The Michigan Audubon Society sued when this plan for development was proposed, and following a court-ordered settlement of the lawsuit, a new plan was negotiated in 2002. This bill would modify the land patent to appropriately reference the 2002 plan and finally allow for the development to go forward.

Congressman DAN BENISHEK, our colleague from Michigan, is the author of the companion House bill, H.R. 3411, and he should be commended for his commonsense approach to help manage this important tourism area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

And with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 404 requires the Secretary of the Interior to modify a land grant patent in Chippewa County, Michigan. The patent, issued to the Michigan Audubon Society and the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, will be amended to allow for use and modification of the property to allow for new use plans.

We have no objection to this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the author of the companion bill in the House of this legislation, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BENISHEK).

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, this evening the House will take up Senate bill S. 404, a bill authored by my colleague in the Senate, Senator CARL LEVIN. As you heard, I authored a companion bill in the House last November.

This bill will end a bureaucratic roadblock that has prevented the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum from making improvements to its facility located in Chippewa County, Michigan, along the southern shore of Lake Superior. Only an act of Congress is able to correct an error in the land patent that was enacted in 1992.

From the bell of the Edmund Fitzgerald to the U.S. Coast Guard's Whitefish Point Lighthouse, the shipwreck museum's exhibits tell the story of brave men and women who have navigated the Great Lakes for hundreds of years.

This facility displays important parts of Northern Michigan's history. Each year, some 60,000 individuals visit the museum and explore firsthand the rich maritime traditions of Michigan's First District. Preserving Michigan's maritime history is a resource that both Senator LEVIN and I agree warrants enthusiastic bipartisan support for the benefit of future generations of visitors.

I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this measure and bring it one step closer to the President's desk.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of S. 404, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 404.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ALTA, UTAH, CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 684) to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land in the town of Alta, Utah.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 684

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The term ''National Forest System land'' means the parcels of National Forest System land that—

(A) are located—

(i) in sec. 5, T. 3 S., R. 3 E., Salt Lake meridian;

(ii) in, and adjacent to, parcels of land subject to special use permit SLC102708, the authority of which expires on December 30, 2026;

(iii) in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Salt Lake County, Utah; and

(iv) in the incorporated boundary of the town of Alta, Utah; and

(B) consist of approximately 2 acres (including appurtenances).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) TOWN.—The term ''Town'' means the town of Alta, Utah.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—On the request of the Town submitted to the Secretary by the date that is not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the Town, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the National Forest System land.

(c) SURVEY; COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3), the exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land shall be determined by a survey approved by the Secretary.

(2) MAXIMUM AREA.—The acreage of the National Forest System land determined under paragraph (1) may not exceed 2 acres.

(3) COSTS.—The Town shall pay the reasonable survey and other administrative costs associated with the conveyance.

(d) USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (b), the Town shall use the National Forest System land only for public purposes.

(e) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—In the deed to the Town, the Secretary shall provide that the National Forest System land shall revert to the Secretary, at the election of the Secretary based on the best interests of the United States, if the National Forest System land is used for a purpose other than a public purpose.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—With respect to the conveyance under subsection (b), the Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 684, introduced by Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, would address a pressing issue in the town of Alta, Utah.

Alta is a small ski town that currently operates most of its municipal infrastructure on land managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest under a multitude of special use permits. This legislation would convey this land—a maximum of 2 acres—to the town to provide for certainty, simplicity, and flexibility in maintaining its facilities.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 684, sponsored by Senator MIKE LEE of Utah, provides for the conveyance of no more than 2 acres of land from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest to the town of Alta, Utah. The town of Alta has built two facilities for public use on this government property under a special use permit. The town will be paying for all survey costs.

We have no objections to this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 684.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER CONTRACT EXTENSION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 997) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend a water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 997

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND WATER CONTRACT.

The Secretary of the Interior may extend the contract for water services between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District, numbered 14–06–600–3593, until the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 4 years after the date on which the contract would have expired if this Act had not been enacted; or

(2) the date on which a new long-term contract is executed by the parties to the contract.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

□ 1620

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 997, the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act, extends the water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District in southwestern Montana until December 31, 2013, or until a new contract can be executed.

This bill allows for the continued irrigation of 28,000 acres of land which is important to that area's economy. It also preserves the district's renewal rights while a local matter is adjudicated at the State level. The bill will not influence the outcome of State actions.

S. 997 is supported by our colleague from Montana, Congressman DENNIS REHBERG, and by the administration. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 997 was introduced by Senator JON TESTER in May of last year and passed the Senate in November 2011.

As my colleague mentioned, S. 997 would extend the East Bench Irrigation District's water contract for 4 years pending a judicial ruling. The administration has testified in support of S. 997 because it would allow for water service to the district to continue and allows for contract renewal while the court confirmation process is given time to be completed.

We thank Senator JON TESTER for his leadership, and we have no objections to this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 997, the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension.

Water and energy are pretty important to Montana, and as you may know, I've spent a lot of time working with the House Water and Power Subcommittee over the years on these issues. This time, though, there's something a little different. There's just something cool about working on a bill that starts with "S" instead of "H.R."—I think I could get used to this!

I'm sure it's not lost on you that this legislation is sponsored by Senator JON TESTER, the Junior Senator from Montana. We're both Montanans and while there are certainly things we disagree about—President Obama's health reform and stimulus, protecting gun rights and government bailouts—even with all those differences, there are ways to find common ground.

An example of common ground is this legislation. S. 997 is a good idea, and it's one I hope my colleagues will vote in favor of.

The bill simply authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to extend a water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District in Beaverhead and Madison Counties in southwestern Montana. It has no impact on the federal budget.

The Clark Canyon Dam and Reservoir—owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation—supplies irrigation water for 28,000 acres within the East Bench Irrigation District.

The operation is bound by a contract between the federal government and the District—a contract that expired on December 31, 2005. Since then, federal appropriations acts have extended the original contract for two year durations. S. 997 extends it again through the end of 2013.

I realize this sort of congressional contract extension isn't common, but in cases where specific variables delay contract renewals, it's appropriate and necessary. In this case, the law requires Montana's 5th District Court to issue a decree before any new contract can be signed.

That decree has been delayed, so S. 997 provides the regional farmers and ranchers with necessary water certainty until at least 2014. Hopefully, by then, all parties will be ready to agree to a new long-term contract.

For dry land farmers and ranchers, water is our most precious resource. We have a lot of land—plenty of dirt between light bulbs—and our productivity is only constrained by our access to water. In Montana where we rely on water for drinking, irrigation, and energy.

It's vitally important we pass this bill to try to avoid needless disruptions in service. There is no conflict or objection to this "housekeeping" matter, and its importance to the many impacted farmers and ranchers cannot be over-emphasized. I have worked hard to extend the contract in the past and look forward to passing this critical legislation today. As I said, it's a good idea.

I'm here to do what's best for Montana, and a good idea is a good idea regardless of who gets credit. That's why I'm up here today.

This is a good bill, and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting in favor of its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 997.

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.

□ 1630

EXPRESSING REGRET FOR PASSAGE OF LAWS ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 683) expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 683

Whereas many Chinese came to the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, as did people from other countries, in search of the opportunity to create a better life;

Whereas the United States ratified the Burlingame Treaty on October 19, 1868, which permitted the free movement of the Chinese people to, from, and within the United States and made China a ''most favored nation'';

Whereas in 1878, the House of Representatives passed a resolution requesting that President Rutherford B. Hayes renegotiate the Burlingame Treaty so Congress could limit Chinese immigration to the United States;

Whereas, on February 22, 1879, the House of Representatives passed the Fifteen Passenger Bill, which only permitted 15 Chinese passengers on any ship coming to the United States;

Whereas, on March 1, 1879, President Hayes vetoed the Fifteen Passenger Bill as being incompatible with the Burlingame Treaty;

Whereas, on May 9, 1881, the United States ratified the Angell Treaty, which allowed the United States to suspend, but not prohibit, immigration of Chinese laborers, declared that ''Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will,'' and reaffirmed

that Chinese persons possessed ''all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation'';

Whereas the House of Representatives passed legislation that adversely affected Chinese persons in the United States and limited their civil rights, including—

(1) on March 23, 1882, the first Chinese Exclusion bill, which excluded for 20 years skilled and unskilled Chinese laborers and expressly denied Chinese persons alone the right to be naturalized as American citizens, and which was opposed by President Chester A. Arthur as incompatible with the terms and spirit of the Angell Treaty;

(2) on April 17, 1882, intending to address President Arthur's concerns, the House passed a new Chinese Exclusion bill, which prohibited Chinese workers from entering the United States for 10 years instead of 20, required certain Chinese laborers already legally present in the United States who later wished to reenter the United States to obtain ''certificates of return,'' and prohibited courts from naturalizing Chinese individuals;

(3) on May 3, 1884, an expansion of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which applied it to all persons of Chinese descent, ''whether subjects of China or any other foreign power'';

(4) on September 3, 1888, the Scott Act, which prohibited legal Chinese laborers from reentering the United States and cancelled all previously issued ''certificates of return,'' and which was later determined by the Supreme Court to have abrogated the Angell Treaty; and

(5) on April 4, 1892, the Geary Act, which reauthorized the Chinese Exclusion Act for another ten years, denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus, and contrary to customary legal standards regarding the presumption of innocence, authorized the deportation of Chinese persons who could not produce a certificate of residence unless they could establish residence through the testimony of ''at least one credible white witness'';

Whereas in the 1894 Gresham-Yang Treaty, the Chinese government consented to a prohibition of Chinese immigration and the enforcement of the Geary Act in exchange for readmission to the United States of Chinese persons who were United States residents;

Whereas in 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, took control of the Philippines, and excluded only the residents of Chinese ancestry of these territories from entering the United States mainland;

Whereas, on April 29, 1902, as the Geary Act was expiring, Congress indefinitely extended all laws regulating and restricting Chinese immigration and residence, to the extent consistent with Treaty commitments;

Whereas in 1904, after the Chinese government withdrew from the Gresham-Yang Treaty, Congress permanently extended, ''without modification, limitation, or condition,'' the prohibition on Chinese naturalization and immigration;

Whereas these Federal statutes enshrined in law the exclusion of the Chinese from the democratic process and the promise of American freedom;

Whereas in an attempt to undermine the American-Chinese alliance during World War II, enemy forces used the Chinese exclusion legislation passed in Congress as evidence of anti-Chinese attitudes in the United States;

Whereas in 1943, in furtherance of American war objectives, at the urging of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Congress repealed previously enacted legislation and permitted Chinese persons to become United States citizens;

Whereas Chinese-Americans continue to play a significant role in the success of the United States; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the principle that all persons are created equal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

That the House of Representatives regrets the passage of legislation that adversely affected people of Chinese origin in the United States because of their ethnicity.

SEC. 2. DISCLAIMER.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed or relied on to authorize or support any claim, including but not limited to constitutionally based claims, claims for monetary compensation or claims for equitable relief against the United States or any other party, or serve as a settlement of any claim against the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on House Resolution 683 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for introducing H. Res. 683, expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.

I know, through conversations with several of my colleagues, including the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. BERMAN, that this is an important resolution for them and their constituents.

The resolution concerns laws passed by the House of Representatives that restricted the civil rights of certain individuals in the United States based solely on the ethnicity of those individuals. Specifically, during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Congress passed, and Presidents signed, laws that restricted the rights of people of Chinese ethnicity.

For instance, in March 1882, the House of Representatives passed the initial Chinese Exclusion Act that denied Chinese people the right to be naturalized as American citizens. And in April 1892, the House of Representatives passed the Geary Act, which reauthorized the Chinese Exclusion Act for 10 years and denied Chinese immigrants the right to be released on bail upon application for a writ of habeas corpus.

Laws that deny certain civil rights to individuals legally in the United States are inconsistent with the values on which this country was founded. I thank the gentlewoman from California for working with me to refine the text of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 683. First, I want to thank Chairman LAMAR SMITH and Subcommittee Chair TRENT FRANKS of the Judiciary Committee for all their work on this resolution. I appreciate it so much.

We have come together across party lines to show that no matter what side of the aisle we sit on, Congress can make amends for the past, no matter how long ago those violations occurred. It is because we have worked together in a bipartisan way that we will make history today. Today, for the first time in 130 years, the House of Representatives will vote on a bill that expresses regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, one of the most discriminatory acts in American history.

Over a century ago, the Chinese came here in search of a better life. During the California Gold Rush, the Chinese came to the United States to make something of themselves. Their blood, sweat, and tears built the first transcontinental railroad, connecting the people of our Nation. They opened our mines, constructed the levees, and became the backbone of farm production. Their efforts helped build America.

But as the economy soured in the 1870s, the Chinese became scapegoats. They were called racial slurs, were spat upon in the streets, and even brutally murdered. The harsh conditions they faced were evident in the Halls of Congress.

By the time 1882 came around, Members of Congress were competing with each other to get the most discriminatory law passed and routinely made speeches on the House floor against the so-called ''Mongolian horde.'' Representative Albert Shelby Willis from Kentucky fought particularly hard for a Chinese Exclusion Act. In his floor speech, he said the Chinese were an invading race. He called them aliens with sordid and unrepublican habits. He declared that the Pacific States had been cursed with the evils of Chinese immigration and that they disturbed the peace and order of society.

□ 1640

The official House committee report accompanying the bill claimed that the Chinese ''retain their distinctive peculiarities and characteristics, refusing to assimilate themselves to our institutions and remaining a separate and distinct class, entrenched behind immovable prejudices; that their ignorance or disregard of sanitary laws, as evidenced in their habits of life, breeds disease, pestilence and death.''

So on April 17, 1882, under a simple suspension of the rules, the House

passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. It prevented them from becoming naturalized citizens. It prevented them from ever having the right to vote. It also prevented the Chinese—and the Chinese alone—from immigrating.

But this was only the beginning.

As the years passed, the House built upon this act, increasing the discriminatory restrictions on the Chinese. Two years later, the House made clear that any ethnically Chinese laborer, even if he were not from China but from somewhere like Hong Kong or the Philippines, was banned from U.S. shores.

Four years later, the House passed the Scott Act. This bill prohibited all Chinese laborers from reentering the United States, if they ever left, even if they were legal residents in the U.S. and even if they had the certificates of return that should have guaranteed their right of return. This prevented approximately 20,000 legal U.S. residents who had gone abroad, including 600 on ships who were literally en route back to the United States, from returning to their families or their homes. With little floor debate, the Scott Act passed the House unanimously.

In 1892, when the Chinese Exclusion Act was set to expire, the House extended it for another decade, but it increased restrictions further. It made the Chinese the only residents who could not receive bail after applying for a writ of habeas corpus, that being to protest an unjust imprisonment. It made them the only people in America who had to carry papers, or certificates of residence, with them at all times. If they couldn't produce the proper documents, authorities threw them into prison or out of the country regardless of whether they were U.S. citizens or not. Legally, the only means by which this could be stopped is if a white person testified on their behalf.

In 1898, the U.S. annexed Hawaii and the Philippines, making them U.S. Territories; and while other residents of the territories could come and go between their homes and the U.S., who did the House make sure to exclude? Only the Chinese.

Then, in 1904, the House made the Chinese Exclusion Act permanent. This act lasted for 60 long years. It was not until 1943 that this law was repealed, but it was only because of World War II, when the United States needed to maintain a critical military alliance with China. U.S. enemies were pointing to the Chinese Exclusion Act as proof that the U.S. was anti-Chinese, and the U.S. had to erase that perception. However, Congress made no formal acknowledgment that these laws were wrong. The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first and only Federal law in our history that excluded a single group of people from immigration on no basis other than its race, and the effects of this act produced deep scars on the Chinese American community.

Families were split apart permanently without the ability to naturalize as citizens and to vote. The community was disenfranchised. Because immigration had been so severely restricted, few women could come, and the ratio of males to females was as high as 20–1. Many Chinese American males could not have families and were forced to die completely alone. If they did try to marry, they were forced to go abroad, and families were separated.

The family of Jean Quan, mayor of Oakland, had been here legally since 1880. Her father went abroad to marry a woman in China in 1920, but had to leave her behind along with her children. When the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed over 25 years later, his wife was finally able to come and have Jean in the United States, but the siblings did not know each other for decades.

The Chinese, like my grandfather, did not have the legal right to become naturalized citizens. He had been here legally since 1904, but unlike non-Chinese immigrants, he was forced to register and carry a certificate of residence at all times for almost 40 years or else be deported. He could only be saved if a white person vouched for him. These laws are why we ask for this expression of regret.

Last October, the U.S. Senate did its part to right history by passing its own resolution of regret for these hateful laws. It did so unanimously with bipartisan support. Today, the House should also issue its expression of regret. It is for my grandfather and for all Chinese Americans that we must pass this resolution, for those who were told for six decades by the U.S. Government that the land of the free wasn't open to them. We must finally and formally acknowledge these ugly laws that were incompatible with America's founding principles.

We must express the sincere regret that Chinese Americans deserve. By doing so, we will acknowledge that discrimination has no place in our society, and we will reaffirm our strong commitment to preserving the civil rights and constitutional protections for all people of every color, ever race, and from every background.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have no other speakers on this side, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California, Representative MIKE HONDA.

Mr. HONDA. I, too, would like to add my thanks to the leadership, specifically to Chairman LAMAR SMITH.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 683, a resolution expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

A century and a half ago, the Chinese were used as cheap labor to do the most dangerous work—laying the tracks of our transcontinental railway and building the California delta levees. They strengthened our Nation's infrastructure only to be persecuted when their labor was seen as competition and when the dirtiest work was done.

In 1848, when gold fever spread across the Pacific Ocean, many thousands of young Chinese came in boats to Gold Mountain, to California.

In 1861 to 1865, there was waged a Civil War in this country. There were over 50 Chinese Americans who battled each other in this Civil War, a battle which went unnoticed.

In 1863, the construction of the transcontinental railway commenced. With the discovery of silver in Nevada in 1865, many of the white workers left the railroad to search for silver. To fill the labor shortage, Charles Crocker, one of the big four investors of the railroad and the man responsible for constructing the western portion of the railroad, began hiring Chinese immigrants. Crocker's famous justification was, They built the Great Wall of China, didn't they?

For the promise of $25 to $30 a month, the new workers endured long hours and harsh winters in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. While working in the Sierras, Chinese workers were hung in baskets, which were 2,000 feet above raging rivers, in order to blast into the impenetrable granite mountain, making way for laying the tracks. Once they bored holes and stuffed them with dynamite, they had to be pulled back up before the fuse exploded, endangering the lives of everyone on both ends of the rope; and sometimes these poor souls in the baskets were not drawn up safely because there was no faith in the timing of the fuse—hence the origin of the phrase: you ain't got a Chinaman's chance. By 1867, 90 percent of the workers were Chinese; and by 1869, over 11,000 workers were Chinese.

On the national historic site of the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah, where on May 10, 1869, the final spike was driven, sits a plaque commemorating ''the attainment and achievement of the great political objective of binding together by iron bonds the extremities of the continental United States, a rail link from ocean to ocean.'' However, neither in Thomas Hill's famous painting nor in the historical photos of ''The Last Spike'' are the faces of the 11,000 Chinese workers visible.

One wonders, where were these 11,000 workers? Perhaps they were given the day off on that day.

Though absent in these visual, historical depictions, the Chinese left an undeniable and indelible mark on the history of California and in the larger story of binding this country from ocean to ocean. Upon the railroad completion, the Chinese settled in the California delta to help with the levee construction, thus advancing California's agricultural development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. CHU. I yield one more minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HONDA. The passage of anti-Chinese laws illustrates the xenophobic hysteria of this country's shameful chapter of exclusion. We cannot vilify entire groups of people—we learned that—because it is politically or economically expedient.

□ 1650

The great thing about humanity is that we have the opportunity to learn from our mistakes.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that this resolution is on the floor today. Acknowledging and addressing these injustices throughout our Nation's history not only strengthens civil rights and civil justice, but doing so brings us closer to a more educated Nation and a more perfect union.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa, Representative ENI FALEOMAVAEGA.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. LAMAR SMITH, for his leadership and support of this legislation, as well as my good friend, Congressman CONYERS, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee for his support. I especially want to express my appreciation and thanks to the chairwoman of our congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, Ms. JUDY CHU, not only as the chief sponsor of this legislation but for her dynamic leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 683, a resolution of regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first major law restricting immigration to the United States to enforce a 10-year moratorium on Chinese immigrant laborers and denying naturalization to those who were already in the United States. Enacted on the premise that Chinese labors ''endangered the good order of certain localities,'' the law was largely motivated by economic fears by our fellow Americans who felt that Chinese laborers were to blame for unemployment and the declining wages in the West.

Through the Geary Act of 1892, the Chinese Exclusion Act was extended for another 10 years before becoming permanent in 1902, and it was only repealed by the Magnuson Act of 1943, when China became an ally of the United States during World War II. Even then, the new law only allowed 105 Chinese immigrants per year, a much lower quota than immigrant quotas from other countries and regions of the world. Large-scale Chinese immigration was only finally allowed again with the Immigration Act of 1965, some 80 years after the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Like their counterparts from European countries, Chinese immigrants in the 19th century came to the United States in search of opportunities for a better life. Since the first wave of Chinese immigrants to the United States, the Chinese American community has contributed greatly to the development of our Nation, and it is a shame that these discriminatory practices and fear-based laws split up Chinese families and prevented them for decades from pursuing the American Dream. For example, Chinese laborers made up the majority of the Central Pacific railroad network workforce that connected the First Transcontinental Railroad through the Sierra Mountains into the Western States. Of course, that final spike was done in the State of Utah. The completion of the railroad—with the help of these Chinese laborers—would later mobilize other industries and pave the way for a more connected and prosperous America.

But the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mr. Speaker—the first law restricting entry of an ethnic working group—stifled Chinese immigrants' ability to lend their skills to the betterment of our Nation and become a part of the American family.

Because this law was validated by leaders in our Nation, it gave credence to the underlying notion that certain groups did not deserve fair treatment in our Nation. The policy sent a clear message that Chinese immigrants were not qualified for the American Dream. Furthermore, it set a precedent for later policies against immigrant groups such as the National Origins Act of 1929, which barred Asian immigration, and our shameful policy of interning some 100,000 Americans born in the United States but who happened to be of Japanese ancestry.

This is one reason why I always admired our Nation, Mr. Speaker, and our form of democracy, and that is, it tries to correct its mistakes from the past. While our Nation has come a long way since this legislation was enacted 130 years ago, let us continually be reminded in our diverse country to uphold the founding principle of our Nation: that all men and women are to be treated equally and fairly under the law.

With that, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today is historic. This is a very significant day in the Chinese American community. It is an expression that discrimination has no place in our society and that the promise of equality is available to all.

This is only the fourth such apology in the last 25 years. In 1988, President Reagan signed the bill apologizing for the Japanese American interment during World War II. In 1993, Congress apologized to Hawaiians for the U.S.-led overthrow of their monarchy. In 2008, the House issued an apology to African Americans on behalf of the people of the United States for the wrongs committed against them and their ancestors who suffered under slavery and Jim Crow.

This bill was a huge undertaking, requiring the efforts of Chinese Americans and their supporters all across the Nation. Without the dedication of countless community organizations and grassroots advocates across the country, none of this would have happened.

I thank them, and I thank all the Congress Members from both sides of the aisle, including the 50 cosponsors of the bill and especially Chairman LAMAR SMITH, for their support.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 683, which expresses regret for a series of discriminatory laws passed between 1879 and 1904 that targeted individuals of Chinese descent in the United States, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I'd like to begin by thanking the gentlelady from California, Ms. CHU, for her leadership on this bipartisan resolution. To my friend, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SMITH, thank you for your work on this resolution and for bringing it to the floor so quickly.

Beginning in 1879, Congress passed a series of discriminatory measures against the Chinese that restricted immigration and violated the civil rights of the Chinese living in the U.S.

At the height of Chinese immigration to the U.S. in the 19th and 20th centuries, many Chinese—like immigrants from other parts of the world—were searching for the opportunity to create a better life, driven by their hope that America could be their new promised land.

With the enactment of multiple Chinese Exclusion Acts, immigrants from China were denied the right to be naturalized as American citizens.

Six decades of anti-Chinese legislation resulted in the persecution and political alienation of persons of Chinese descent and legitimized racial discrimination, excluding them both from the democratic process and the American promise of freedom.

Chinese-Americans have since achieved prominence in all walks of American life. Though we may not be able to reverse the past, we can take action now.

By acknowledging and expressing regret for this bleak period in our history, we reaffirm our core principles of equality and justice upon which our country was founded.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 683 is an important demonstration of our bipartisan commitment to recognize the continued contributions of the Chinese-American community in the United States, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 683, ''Expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passages of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act.'' This resolution acknowledges the historical injustices against Chinese Americans, as reflected by a series of laws; however, with a particular emphasis on the Chinese Exclusion Act that which was first passed on March 23, 1882.

One hundred thirty years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act and other such measures unjustly targeting individuals in the U.S. with Chinese heritage, it is necessary for

Congress to take steps to right the wrongs that were placed on thousands of people by recognizing that discriminatory laws were passed that had a harmful effect on persons of Chinese decent here in the United States.

Just last year, I congratulated the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in Houston, Texas during their momentous 51st Biennial National Convention. This historical and highly respected organization was founded in response to the repressive 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and other Federal and State laws that aimed to restrict and ostracize. This celebration highlights the organization's 116 years as the oldest Asian American civil rights organization, consciously commemorating its courageous founders by continuing to pioneer a pragmatic future.

Securing equal economic and political support, cultivating minds through the exchange of knowledge, defending American citizenship, and observing the practice of the principles of brotherly love and mutual help, are a few of this organizations highly beneficial practices.

These goals are achieved by the organization's eighteen affiliated chapters being highly decorated with individuals of significant achievement; including leaders in the legal, medical, educational, scientific, arts and literature as well as corporate, business, and entrepreneurial endeavors. These endeavors are also supported by Members of Congress who recognize the important contributions of Chinese Americans. Legislation like the one before us today serve as reminders of how important it is not to remember our past so that we do not repeat it.

The United States has always been a place where people from diverse backgrounds arrive in hopes of attaining better opportunity, seeking refuge to escape prosecution and provide a more fruitful lifestyle for their families, likewise in the 19th and 20th century many Chinese came to the United States for similar reasons, unfortunately they were not treated favorably.

With the passage of legislation that limited Chinese immigration such as the renegotiation of the Burlingame Treaty and the Fifteen Passenger Bill which only permitted 15 Chinese passengers on any ship coming to the United States, the Chinese in this country were directly affected by unequal treatment.

On a personal level I can relate to the plight of many Chinese Americans as they fought to be accepted in the United States. I am well aware of the United State's history of discrimination and the harmful impact such discrimination has upon our society as a whole. It is my belief that no one should be forced to endure inequality on the basis of their race, class, gender or religious belief.

It is necessary that measures are constantly taken to ensure that our past failures are acknowledged and not repeated. H.R. 683 demonstrates the regret felt by the House of Representatives for the passages of laws that targeted people of Chinese origin solely based upon their ethnicity.

The passage of this bill will make clear that we do not support those actions today. It is essential that we continue to aim for cultural acceptance and embrace the differences that make up the diversity of this country that sets us apart from any other nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 683.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COUNTERFEIT DRUG PENALTY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2012

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3668) to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3668

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. COUNTERFEIT DRUG PENALTY ENHANCEMENT.

(a) OFFENSE.—Section 2320(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by inserting ''or'' at the end of paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) traffics in a counterfeit drug,''; and

(4) by striking ''through (3)'' and inserting ''through (4)''.

(b) PENALTIES.—Section 2320(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting ''AND COUNTERFEIT DRUGS'' after ''SERVICES''; and

(2) by inserting ''or counterfeit drug'' after ''service''.

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 2320(f) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (4);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) the term 'counterfeit drug' means a drug, as defined by section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with the drug.''.

(d) PRIORITY GIVEN TO CERTAIN INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS.—The Attorney General shall give increased priority to efforts to investigate and prosecute offenses under section 2320 of title 18, United States Code, that involve counterfeit drugs.

SEC. 3. SENTENCING COMMISSION DIRECTIVE.

(a) DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994(p) of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and amend, if appropriate, its guidelines and its policy statements applicable to persons convicted of an offense described in section 2320(a)(4) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 2, in order to reflect the intent of Congress that such penalties be increased in comparison to those currently provided by the guidelines and policy statements.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section, the Commission shall—

(1) ensure that the sentencing guidelines and policy statements reflect the intent of Congress that the guidelines and policy statements reflect the serious nature of the offenses described in subsection (a) and the need for an effective deterrent and appropriate punishment to prevent such offenses;

(2) consider the extent to which the guidelines may or may not appropriately account for the potential and actual harm to the public resulting from the offense;

(3) assure reasonable consistency with other relevant directives and with other sentencing guidelines;

(4) account for any additional aggravating or mitigating circumstances that might justify exceptions to the generally applicable sentencing ranges;

(5) make any necessary conforming changes to the sentencing guidelines; and

(6) assure that the guidelines adequately meet the purposes of sentencing as set forth in section 3553(a)(2) of title 18, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MEEHAN of Pennsylvania and Ms. LINDA SÁNCHEZ of California for their work on this issue. This is a bipartisan, bicameral bill. Similar legislation sponsored by Senator LEAHY was approved by the Senate last March by voice vote.

This bill enacts penalties for trafficking in counterfeit drugs similar to those for trafficking in military goods and services, as established in the National Defense Authorization Act, which Congress passed last December.

Counterfeit military goods affect the credibility of the supply chains that support our national defense, and counterfeit drugs call into doubt the credibility of America's pharmaceutical legal drug supply. In both situations, the significant and multiple dangers to the public demand enhanced penalties.

Counterfeit drugs are fake drugs. They may be contaminated, contain the wrong ingredient or no ingredient at all, or have the right active ingredient but the wrong dose. They are intentionally packaged to convince the consumer they are genuine. Counterfeit drugs are illegal and can be harmful to a person's health and even deadly.

□ 1700

Counterfeit drugs present not only a financial loss to the manufacturer or mark holder, but also a real health risk to consumers.

While current law technically includes counterfeit drugs, the law does

not expressly prohibit trafficking in counterfeit drugs and carries a maximum penalty of only 10 years.

Late last month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warned consumers and health care professionals about a counterfeit version of Adderall that is available for sale on the Internet. Approved for treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, this medication is a prescription drug classified as a controlled substance, a class of drugs for which special controls are required for dispensing by pharmacists. The FDA's preliminary laboratory test revealed that the counterfeit version of this drug contained the wrong active ingredients. The counterfeit product contained none of the four active ingredients found in the genuine medication. In fact, it contained two different drugs found in medicines used to treat acute pain.

Rogue Web sites and corrupt distributors now prey on the fears of Americans when medicines are in short supply. Drug shortages have increased in frequency and severity in recent years and adversely affect patient care. An unfortunate and potentially deadly side effect of drug shortages is counterfeit drug trafficking.

Last February, the FDA warned health care professionals and patients about a counterfeit version of Avastin, a cancer treatment. Tests revealed the counterfeit version did not contain the medicine's active ingredient. This may have resulted in patients not receiving needed cancer therapy. Several medical practices in the United States may have purchased the counterfeit drug from a foreign supplier. The FDA requested that the medical practices stop the use of any remaining products from this supplier. Unfortunately, in this case alone, there were dozens of cancer patients who may never know that they did not receive lifesaving cancer drugs. Instead, they got a useless counterfeit drug, a drug counterfeited and sold only for the purpose of financial gain. These recent situations prove that those who traffic in counterfeit drugs should be subject to enhanced penalties.

I urge my colleagues to support this bicameral legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3668, the Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act of 2012, would increase the maximum criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit drugs. Counterfeit drugs are a serious public threat to all Americans for several reasons.

To begin with, a person who unknowingly consumes a counterfeit medication may be harmed by dangerous but undisclosed substances in the drug. As a Food and Drug Administration representative testified at a hearing before the Judiciary Committee's Crime Subcommittee, ''a counterfeit drug could be made using ingredients that are toxic to patients and processed under poorly controlled and unsanitary conditions.''

Also, an individual who consumes a counterfeit drug is deprived of meaningful treatment that can respond to life-threatening illnesses. Consider, for example, a patient suffering from a heart ailment or a child who is desperately fighting an aggressive life-threatening infection. The consequences of consuming an ineffective counterfeit drug are blatantly obvious.

By receiving these counterfeit drugs instead of the real medications that they require, each of these individuals would be denied receiving the effective treatment that they must quickly be given in order to address their illnesses.

Finally, the proliferation of counterfeit drugs poses a grave nationwide risk to the public health and safety of all of our citizens. Current technology and distribution channels present the real danger that a very large quantity of these counterfeit drugs could enter into the marketplace where they can injure and possibly risk the lives of many Americans before they are even detected.

The Food and Drug Administration is working with medical product supply chain stakeholders to respond to this emerging threat, but we need to do more. It is critically important for us to reinforce our criminal law so that it clearly addresses the national menace presented by large-scale, intentional trafficking in counterfeit drugs.

Under current law, trafficking in counterfeit drugs receives the same criminal penalty as trafficking in other less dangerous items. This shortcoming in current law explains why the U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator supports H.R. 3668, as stated in her recent annual report to Congress.

This bill not only appropriately recognizes the need to treat crimes involving counterfeit medications more seriously, but also requires the Justice Department to prioritize its investigatory and prosecutorial efforts with respect to these crimes.

I am particularly pleased that during the Judiciary Committee's markup of the bill, an amendment offered by my colleague, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, was adopted that would direct the Attorney General to give increased priority to efforts to investigate and prosecute these offenses.

As amended, this measure appropriately recognizes that, while penalty increases may be warranted, effective deterrence depends mostly on the likelihood of apprehension and conviction of offenders.

I commend the efforts of my colleagues, Congressman PATRICK MEEHAN and Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ, for introducing this important legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3668, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN), who is the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. MEEHAN. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3668, the Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act.

I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for his leadership on this issue on the Judiciary Committee, and I also want to thank my colleagues from the other side of the aisle as we rise in a truly bipartisan, bicameral fashion in working for the passage of this very important legislation. So I appreciate the kind remarks of the gentlelady from California in support of this bill as well.

Like so many other health care costs, prescription drugs are expensive, and the cost is rising. So what we are beginning to see increasingly is people going online to make the purchases of those drugs. It's an issue that I saw firsthand as a Federal prosecutor who began to work on the proliferation of illegal drug sales over the Internet. Oftentimes, the people who are purchasing these are senior citizens.

Online, there are not the kinds of protections that would exist traditionally as there are in a pharmacy setting where, not only do you have the ability to have the advice of a pharmacist, but the certainty of the chain of custody, so to speak, for the drugs that have been traveling in commerce.

What we are finding is that close to 90 percent of counterfeit drugs are sold online. And we're not just talking about mislabeled pills here. The fakes could actually contain no active ingredients, the wrong active ingredient, or even a contaminant.

The counterfeit medicines pose a threat because of the conditions under which they are manufactured, often in unregulated locations and frequently under unsanitary conditions. In many instances, they contain none of the active pharmaceutical ingredients found in the authentic medicine or are in incorrect doses. In others, they may contain toxic ingredients, such as heavy metals, arsenic, pesticides, rat poison, brick dust, floor wax, and even leaded highway paint. In a worst-case scenario, the medicine itself is a fake, and the result of the counterfeit sale is harm to the patient's health and safety.

And while all types of drugs are counterfeited, what's of particular concern to me is the illicit market in significant drugs, cancer drugs, like Avastin and Altuzan; ADHD drugs, like Adderall; and pain treatments, like Vicodin.

This is an economic harm. Estimates are that there are $75 billion worth of counterfeit drug sales annually. But it's not just the economic harm that is of the greatest concern to me; it is the consumer safety associated with this.

The World Health Organization, in their estimates, predicted or believed that counterfeit drugs caused 100,000 deaths worldwide last year. This is an

issue of such importance, it even captured the attention of the world governments, with the G–8 leaders at Camp David issuing a declaration on the need to address this international crisis.

Today it's illegal to introduce counterfeit drugs into interstate commerce, but the penalties are no different than those assessed for trafficking other counterfeit products, such as movies or fashion products like purses.

□ 1710

That's why our bill seeks to have sentencing laws reflect the seriousness of the crime. The bill increases fines to a maximum of $4 million for the first offense and $8 million for subsequent offenses, and prison terms for a maximum of 10 to 20 years. This is an overdue and needed change—and I can say that as a prosecutor.

I would like to thank Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ for her leadership on this issue. I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania, Congressman TOM MARINO, for his hard work on the Judiciary Committee, working with Chairman SMITH on this issue. And I want to thank the Members in both parties that should be recognized for bringing this critical measure to the floor so expeditiously.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lend their support for this very important legislation.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3668, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–113)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2012.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to these threats and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 18, 2012*.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CREATED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–114)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2012.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 18, 2012*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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:

S. 684, by the yeas and nays;

S. 404, by the yeas and nays.

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

ALTA, UTAH, CONVEYANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 684) to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 3, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 379]

YEAS—383

Adams	Akin	Altmire
Aderholt	Alexander	Amash

Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—3

Brooks
Griffith (VA)
Woodall

NOT VOTING—45

Ackerman
Austria
Berkley
Blumenauer
Buerkle
Butterfield
Campbell
Carter
Coble
Davis (KY)
Donnelly (IN)
Flores
Fudge
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Griffin (AR)
Gutierrez
Harper
Hartzler
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (IL)
Lewis (CA)
Lowey
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Miller (FL)
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Pelosi
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ross (AR)
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schilling
Scott (VA)
Speier
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Wasserman Schultz
Young (FL)

□ 1854

Messrs. GRAVES of Missouri, McDERMOTT, AMASH and POE of Texas changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HARPER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 379 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LAND GRANT PATENT MODIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 404) to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 380, nays 0, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 380]

YEAS—380

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Forbes
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel

Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—51

Ackerman
Austria
Berkley
Blumenauer
Buerkle
Butterfield
Campbell
Carter
Chandler
Cicilline
Coble
Davis (KY)
Dicks
Donnelly (IN)
Flores
Fortenberry
Fudge
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Griffin (AR)
Gutierrez
Hartzler
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (IL)
Lee (CA)
Lewis (CA)
Lowey
Lucas
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Miller (FL)
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Pelosi
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ross (AR)
Rush
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schilling
Scott (VA)
Speier
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner (OH)
Wasserman Schultz
Young (FL)

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Champaign, Illinois and missed suspension votes on S. 684, a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah and S. 404, a bill to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the above stated bills.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2578, CONSERVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–539) on the resolution (H. Res. 688) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 4348, the transportation conference report.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Walz of Minnesota moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4348 be instructed to resolve all issues and file a conference report not later than June 22, 2012.

MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE JUDGMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1272) to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al., by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1272

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2012''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 22, 1948, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, representing all Chippewa bands in Minnesota except the Red Lake Band, filed a claim before the Indian Claims Commission in Docket No. 19 for an accounting of all funds received and expended pursuant to the Act of January 14, 1889, 25 Stat. 642, and amendatory acts (hereinafter referred to as the Nelson Act).

(2) On August 2, 1951, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, representing all Chippewa bands in Minnesota except the Red Lake Band, filed a number of claims before the Indian Claims Commission in Docket No. 188 for an accounting of the Government's obligation to each of the member bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe under various statutes and treaties that are not covered by the Nelson Act of January 14, 1889.

(3) On May 17, 1999, a Joint Motion for Findings in Aid of Settlement of the claims in Docket No. 19 and 188 was filed before the Court.

(4) The terms of the settlement were approved by the Court and the final judgment was entered on May 26, 1999.

(5) On June 22, 1999, $20,000,000 was transferred to the Department of the Interior and deposited into a trust fund account established for the beneficiaries of the funds awarded in Docket No. 19 and 188.

(6) Pursuant to the Indian Tribal Judgment Funds Use or Distribution Act (25 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), Congress must act to authorize the use or distribution of the judgment funds.

(7) On October 1, 2009, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee passed Resolution 146–09, approving a plan to distribute the judgment funds and requesting that the United States Congress act to distribute the judgment funds in the manner described by the plan.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this Act:

(1) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—The term ''available funds'' means the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and interest earned and received on those funds, less the funds used for payments authorized under section 4.

(2) BANDS.—The term ''Bands'' means the Bois Forte Band, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage Band, Leech Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band, and White Earth Band.

(3) JUDGMENT FUNDS.—The term ''judgment funds'' means the funds awarded on May 26, 1999, to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe by the Court of Federal Claims in Docket No. 19 and 188.

(4) MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE.—The term ''Minnesota Chippewa Tribe'' means the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota, composed of the Bois Forte Band, Fond du Lac Band, Grand Portage Band, Leech Lake Band, Mille Lacs Band, and White Earth Band. It does not include Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. LOAN REIMBURSEMENTS TO MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to reimburse the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe the amount of funds, plus interest earned to the date of reimbursement, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe contributed for payment of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses associated with the litigation of Docket No. 19 and 188 before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and the distribution of judgment funds.

(b) CLAIMS.—The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe's claim for reimbursement of funds expended shall be—

(1) presented to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) certified by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe as being unreimbursed to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe from other funding sources;

(3) paid with interest calculated at the rate of 6.0 percent per annum, simple interest, from the date the funds were expended to the date the funds are reimbursed to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and

(4) paid from the judgment funds prior to the division of the funds under section 5.

SEC. 5. DIVISION OF JUDGMENT FUNDS.

(a) MEMBERSHIP ROLLS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe shall submit to the Secretary updated membership rolls for each Band, which shall include all enrolled members the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DIVISIONS.—After all funds have been reimbursed under section 4, and the membership rolls have been updated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) set aside for each Band a portion of the available judgment funds equivalent to $300 for each member enrolled within each Band; and

(2) after the funds are set aside in accordance with paragraph (1), divide 100 percent of the remaining funds into equal shares for each Band.

(c) SEPARATE ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary shall—

(1) deposit all funds described in subsection (b)(1) into a ''Per Capita'' account for each Band; and

(2) deposit all funds described in subsection (b)(2) into an ''Equal Shares'' account for each Band.

(d) WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS.—After the Secretary deposits the available funds into the accounts described in subsection (c), a Band may withdraw all or part of the monies in its account.

(e) DISBURSEMENT OF PER CAPITA PAYMENTS.—All funds described in subsection (b)(1) shall be used by each Band only for the purposes of distributing one $300 payment to each individual member of the Band. Each Band may—

(1) distribute the $300 payment to the parents or legal guardians on behalf of each dependent Band member instead of distributing such $300 payment to the dependent Band member; or

(2) deposit into a trust account the $300 payment to each dependent Band member for the benefit of such dependent Band member, to be distributed under the terms of such trust.

(f) DISTRIBUTION OF UNCLAIMED PAYMENTS.—One year after the funds described in subsection (b)(1) are made available to the Bands, all unclaimed payments described in subsection (e) shall be returned to the Secretary, who shall divide these funds into equal shares for each Band, and deposit the divided shares into the accounts described in subsection (c)(2) for the use of each Band.

(g) LIABILITY.—If a Band exercises the right to withdraw monies from its accounts, the Secretary shall not retain liability for the expenditure or investment of the monies after each withdrawal.

SEC. 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) PREVIOUS OBLIGATIONS.—Funds disbursed under this Act shall not be liable for the payment of previously contracted obligations of any recipient as provided in Public Law 98–64 (25 U.S.C. 117b(a)).

(b) INDIAN JUDGMENT FUNDS DISTRIBUTION ACT.—All funds distributed under this Act are subject to the provisions in the Indian Judgment Funds Distribution Act (25 U.S.C. 1407).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMASH). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 1999, the United States Court of Federal Claims awarded a $20 million settlement to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, pursuant to the Nelson Act and various treaties that are not covered by the Nelson Act, for various accounting obligations of the Federal Government. These funds have been held in trust and have not been disbursed. H.R. 1272 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to disburse the balance held in trust to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

I would like to thank Congressman CHIP CRAVAACK and the sponsor of this bill, Congressman COLLIN PETERSON, for working with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and for getting this bill to the floor.

I urge the adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the legislation, the ranking member of the Agriculture Committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1272, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act.

Thirteen years ago, the United States Court of Federal Claims awarded and appropriated $20 million to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. This settlement appropriation was to compensate the descendents of the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota for the improper valuation of timber and the taking of land under the Nelson Act of 1889. Now, because of the Indian Judgment Fund Act of 1983, Congress must pass legislation detailing how the settlement should be distributed amongst the six bands that make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act, H.R. 1272, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to release the funds, plus interest that has been earned, that were appropriated into the trust fund for the Minnesota tribe in 1999. Being the expenses for prosecuting the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe claims were shared equally by all the bands, these expenses should be expended equally from the fund. H.R. 1272 requires that each of the six bands provide the Secretary with updated membership rolls. It directs the Secretary to set aside $300 to each member enrolled and to divide the remaining funds into equal shares for each band.

It is important to note that the CBO has concluded that H.R. 1272 does not need an appropriation and that it has no budgetary impact because the $20 million settlement proceeds were appropriated and paid to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in 1999. They've been there since 1999.

So I think it is high time that this settlement is finally distributed and put to work within these communities. The sooner we resolve this issue, the sooner these funds can be released and go to work within these economically depressed areas. There is a great need on these reservations for things like schools, health care facilities, and other infrastructure improvements.

I want to alert everybody that this is not unanimous. Five of the six tribes support this. This has been going on for 13 years, but this is as good as we can do. We don't want the perfect to be the enemy of the good, and it's time that we got this settled. I think it makes no sense for anybody to draw hard-line positions on this. Judging from experience, no hard-line position has ever succeeded, so it's time for everybody to come together and find an agreement that maybe not everybody loves but that everybody can benefit from.

That is what H.R. 1272 is. We encourage the adoption of the bill. Our folks back home would really appreciate getting this settled and letting these funds go to work on their reservations.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. CRAVAACK), the author of the bill.

Mr. CRAVAACK. I thank my good friend from Alaska for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1272, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2012, of which I am an original cosponsor.

I represent five of the six bands that constitute the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which is a sovereign, federally recognized tribal entity and the sole plaintiff in the litigation whose settlement gives rise to this legislation.

□ 1910

The five bands that reside in my district are: Bois Forte, Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, Leech Lake, and Fond Du Lac.

I've met with the representatives from all five bands on a number of occasions in the 112th Congress, and they've all made it very clear to me that it is more than past time to bring resolution to this longstanding issue. I agree.

The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe entered into a $20 million legal settlement with the United States Government in 1999 to compensate for damages stemming from the improper taking of land and valuation of timber under the Nelson Act of 1889.

These settlement funds have been sitting in a Department of the Interior trust fund ever since and with interest have grown to about $28 million. That money now belongs to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The United States' only role in this has been to temporarily hold it in trust for them until it can be distributed. Thus I've joined with my fellow Minnesota Representatives, Mr. PETERSON and Mr. PAULSEN, in cosponsoring the legislation before you today.

This legislation puts forth a disbursement formula which reflects and honors the formula decided democratically by the governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, known as the Tribal Executive Committee. This formula voted for and passed by the committee supports a per capita apportionment of $300 each to each member, followed by a six-way split for the remaining settlement funds. Importantly, H.R. 1272 will distribute the settlement funds according to the formula that has been determined by the CBO to have no budgetary impact.

It is always difficult to craft a compromise between such varied and competing interests. However, the compromise represented in this bill respects the decision of the governing body of the entity that brought forth the claim on behalf of all six bands, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims recognizes as having the constitutional authority to enter into a proposed settlement on behalf of all six bands. All six bands shared equally in the expense of the risk of prosecuting the case, and the tribal executive committee provided the six bands an equal opportunity to vote on how the judgment funds should be distributed.

The release of the $28 million to the members of the Chippewa Tribe will have positive implications far beyond just righting a past wrong. This money will flow directly into the hands of the bands and their members, sparking much needed consumer activity and, hopefully, investment in the reservations in northern Minnesota. This will benefit the entire region.

H.R. 1272 is the solution that must be enacted in order to fulfill the U.S. Government's legal obligations, conclude its litigation with the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and release over $28 million in settlement funds in a fair and expeditious manner. Thus, I am hopeful that my colleagues will join me in support of the bill that brings resolution to this longstanding issue.

Mr. LUJAN. If my friend doesn't have any other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I have no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation.

And I misspoke a moment ago. Congressman COLLIN PETERSON has been fighting this battle for years and years, and I'm glad to finally see that he has succeeded. He is the prime sponsor of this legislation, along with Mr. CRAVAACK and Mr. PAULSEN. So we're on the right track. And I want to congratulate you. Perseverance overcomes many things, and you persevered this time.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time, and I urge the passage of this legislation.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1272, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2012. As a Member of the Native American Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues in Congress to address the needs of Native Americans.

This legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for the amount, plus interest, that the Tribe contributed for the payment of attorneys' fees and litigation expenses associated with the litigation of Docket No. 19 and No. 188 before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and the distribution of judgment funds.

This legislation before us today is not a handout, but a guarantee that directs the fair distribution of funds to a claim awarded to Native Americans by the United States Court of Federal Claims; these funds have been held in trust since June 22, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, by today's end four Native American bills will have passed. I hope that these are not the last. While we can't undo the damage that the Federal Government inflicted on black farmers and Native Americans, today we will help compensate them for their losses and ensure that this never happens again. I urge my colleagues to continue supporting Native Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1272, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GILA BEND INDIAN RESERVATION LANDS REPLACEMENT CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2938) to prohibit certain gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2938

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 1986, Congress passed the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act, Public Law 99–503, 100 Stat. 1798, to authorize the Tohono O'odham Nation to purchase up to 9,880 acres of replacement lands in exchange for granting all right, title and interest to the Gila Bend Indian Reservation to the United States.

(2) The intent of the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act was to replace primarily agriculture land that the Tohono O'odham Nation was no longer able to use due to flooding by Federal dam projects.

(3) In 1988, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which restricted the ability of Indian tribes to conduct gaming activities on lands acquired after the date of enactment of the Act.

(4) Since 1986, the Tohono O'odham Nation has purchased more than 16,000 acres of land. The Tohono O'odham Nation does not currently game on any lands acquired pursuant to the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act.

(5) Beginning in 2003, the Tohono O'odham Nation began taking steps to purchase approximately 134.88 acres of land near 91st and Northern Avenue in Maricopa County, within the City of Glendale (160 miles from the Indian tribe's headquarters in Sells). The Tohono O'odham Nation is now trying to have these lands taken into trust status by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act of 1986 (''Gila Bend Act''), and has asked the Secretary to declare these lands eligible for gaming, thereby allowing the Indian tribe to conduct Las Vegas style gaming on the lands. The Secretary has issued an opinion stating that he has the authority to take approximately 53.54 acres of these lands into trust status, and plans to do so when legally able to do so.

(6) The State of Arizona, City of Glendale, and at least 12 Indian tribes in Arizona oppose the Tohono O'odham Nation gaming on these lands. No Indian tribe supports the Tohono O'odham Nation's efforts to conduct gaming on these lands.

(7) The Tohono O'odham Nation's proposed casino violates existing Tribal-State gaming compacts and State law, Proposition 202, agreed to by all Arizona Indian tribes, which effectively limits the number of tribal gaming facilities in the Phoenix metropolitan area to seven, which is the current number of facilities operating.

(8) The Tohono O'odham casino proposal will not generate sales taxes as the State Gaming Compact specifically prohibits the imposition of any taxes, fees, charges, or assessments.

(9) The proposed casino would be located close to existing neighborhoods and a newly built school and raises a number of concerns. Homeowners, churches, schools, and businesses made a significant investment in the area without knowing that a tribal casino would or even could locate within the area.

(10) The development has the potential to impact the future of transportation projects, including the Northern Parkway, a critical transportation corridor to the West Valley.

(11) The Tohono O'odham Nation currently operates three gaming facilities: 2 in the Tucson metropolitan area and 1 in Why, Arizona.

(12) Nothing in the language or legislative history of the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act indicates that gaming was an anticipated use of the replacement lands.

(13) It is the intent of Congress to clarify that lands purchased pursuant to the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Act are not eligible for Class II and Class III gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Such lands may be used for other forms of economic development by the Tohono O'odham Nation.

SEC. 3. GAMING CLARIFICATION.

Section 6(d) of Public Law 99–503 is amended by inserting ''except that no class II or class III gaming activities, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703), may be conducted on such land if such land is located north of latitude 33 degrees, 4 minutes north'' after ''shall be deemed to be a Federal Indian Reservation for all purposes''.

SEC. 4. NO EFFECT.

The limitation on gaming set forth in the amendment made by section 3 shall have no effect on any interpretation, determination, or decision to be made by any court, administrative agency or department, or other body as to whether any lands located south of latitude 33 degrees, 4 minutes north taken into trust pursuant to this Act qualify as lands taken into trust as part of a settlement of a land claim for purposes of title 25 U.S.C. 2719(b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the author of the bill, Congressman FRANKS from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman YOUNG and Chairman HASTINGS and the House leadership for bringing this bill to the floor today, as well as the bipartisan group of cosponsors for their support.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2938, the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act, seeks to prevent Las Vegas-style casino gambling in the Phoenix metropolitan area on lands purchased by the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Tohono O'odham Nation has tried to manipulate the

Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act of 1986 to acquire lands for gambling which are more than 100 miles from the Tohono O'odham's existing reservation. This ''reservation shopping'' for casino gambling purposes is contrary to the express and public commitments that the Tohono O'odham made between 2000 and 2002 to the other 16 Indian tribes in Arizona, the State, and the voters of Arizona when it openly and definitively supported passage of Proposition 202, a State referendum to limit casino gambling in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Indeed, while the Tohono O'odham was in negotiations with the other tribes to craft a gaming compact agreement, they were simultaneously in the process of covertly purchasing attractive land in the Phoenix metropolitan area for casino gambling purchases. Thus, the bipartisan cosponsors of H.R. 2938 are simply trying to keep the Tohono O'odham Nation to its publicly stated commitment not to engage in casino gambling in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, during the subcommittee hearing on this bill, witnesses made it clear that there is a problem and a serious threat to existing gaming structure in Arizona if the Tohono O'odham Nation is able to develop a Las Vegas-style casino in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

The passage of H.R. 2938 will prevent an ominous precedent that could lead to an expansion of off-reservation casinos and dangerous changes to the complexion of tribal gaming in the other States across the country in which Indian tribes can use front companies to buy up land and declare it part of their sovereign reservation for gaming purposes.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, even if the casino weren't in violation of Federal law—which it is—but if it weren't, claims that the operation would create jobs and benefit the economy of the surrounding area are woefully misinformed at best and shamefully dishonest at worst. The most frequently cited job creation numbers that have been thrown about during this debate come almost without exception from a study commissioned by the Tohono O'odham tribe themselves. The study was conducted by the Spectrum Gaming Group. Tellingly, multiple organizations asked the tribe to release the data and the methodology supporting this so-called ''study,'' which was released roughly 3 years ago. To this day, the tribe continuously to steadfastly refuse. In other words, the tribes released a slew of numbers extolling the supposed amazing economic benefits of their casino, then refused to tell anybody how they came up with the numbers.

Far from economically benefiting the West Valley, one recent well documented study found that casino operations would ultimately provide $172,500 of revenue annually for the city of Glendale—keep in mind the surrounding areas would not benefit from the normal sales taxes, bed taxes, and property taxes because the casino, being on tribal land, would be exempt from all three. Meanwhile, Glendale estimates an added cost of $3.6 million per year just for the additional cost of public safety services necessary to such a large operation. Of course, it should always be remembered, Mr. Speaker, that casino revenues are primarily comprised of gambling losses that would otherwise have found their way into the economy in more productive sectors.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would not seek to take any lands away from Tohono O'odham. Consistent with the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, my bill merely prevents the Tohono O'odham from building a gambling casino on certain lands, as it previously agreed it would never do.

I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me and the members of Arizona's delegation in supporting this bill.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Let me thank my good friend, Mr. LUJÁN from New Mexico, for his time.

H.R. 2938 is named the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act. However, do not be misled by this bill's benign sounding title. It does not aim to clarify anything. Rather, it seeks to unilaterally abrogate an Indian land claim and water rights settlement, and it would also interfere with pending litigation in Federal court.

In 1986, the United States enacted Federal legislation specific to this tribe and this situation. The Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act, Public Law 99–503, was to implement a settlement reached between the United States and the Tohono O'odham Nation. In this settlement, the nation released claims against the United States for flooding and loss of its land, as well as water rights of 36,000 acre feet per year. In exchange for releasing the claims, Congress guaranteed, via statute, that the nation could obtain replacement reservation lands within three counties without restriction as to the use of that land.

□ 1920

H.R. 2938 seeks to renege on Congress' solemn promise and change the material terms of the settlement; this while Congress contemplates in a very real way breaking its word to Indian Country one more time. The legislation will reopen and change the terms of a 1986 bipartisan land settlement authored by Congressman Mo Udall, then-Congressman JOHN MCCAIN, then-Senator Dennis DeConcini, and then-Senator Barry Goldwater that compensated the Tohono O'odham Nation for 10,000 acres of land destroyed by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1950s. By violating an existing settlement, this legislation will create new liabilities for the Federal Government, as taxpayers will have to provide more compensation to the nation as a result of prohibiting the purchase of replacement lands, as provided in the original settlement act.

Enactment of this legislation would also set a dangerous precedent in which Congress could unilaterally alter the terms of a Federal settlement years later. If this is the case that would stop Congress from revisiting any settlements over the years, then all settlements are open for review.

H.R. 2938 is job-killing special interest legislation. The primary advocates for this legislation are wealthy gaming entities, tribal entities trying to protect their monopoly on a gaming market. If they get their way, they will prevent the Tohono O'odham Nation from creating thousands of new jobs, permanent and construction.

It reneges on the United States' promise to replace the reservation lost, and it vastly diminishes the Tohono O'odham settlement by imposing new restrictions on the land replacement provided for in the 1986 settlement.

It creates new liabilities for the United States. If this were to become law, H.R. 2938, it will breach the settlement act, and it will leave the United States liable for untold millions of dollars in land and taking claims for the land and water rights that the nation relinquished under the original settlement act.

And it undermines ongoing litigation. The same interests that support H.R. 2938 have brought various lawsuits to stop the nation from exercising its rights. But so far, both State and Federal courts have fully upheld the Tohono O'odham Nation's rights. The proponents of H.R. 2938 want Congress to change the law in order to legislate a victory that they cannot get through legislation.

In addition, misinformation, distortion, and outright lies have been spread through congressional offices by a major lobbying firm in D.C. in the employment of a gaming entity that is opposed to the original law and is promoting this law.

This has nothing to do with ''reservation shopping.'' In no way would defeating this bill allow tribes to start buying up plots of land outside of, say, New York City and open up casinos. The original act was specific only to the Tohono O'odham. The replacement land could be only purchased in one of three Arizona counties. In fact, the land in question is in the exact same county, Maricopa, where the flooded land of Gila Bend reservation was located.

So I think it's time to stop this. This land was purchased legally by the Tohono O'odham Nation, all in accordance with the Gila Bend Reservation Land Replacement Act, to replace reservation land the U.S. Government flooded and destroyed, to be used by

the nation at their discretion for economic development. The innuendo of reservation shopping or the idea that its defeat will cause rampant reservation shopping is absurd, and it needs to stop.

I also want to address the idea that compact guaranteed no new casinos in the Phoenix area. If this was the case, the only casinos that would exist in the Phoenix area are the ones that were in existence in 2003. But lo and behold, the very tribes supporting this legislation have built two additional casinos since then. In fact, one of these tribes is about to break ground on a new $135 million Las Vegas-style casino and hotel right outside of southwest Phoenix.

And, finally, let's stop the lies about the administration being ''neutral'' on this bill. They have testified against it. I have spoken to them. Their position hasn't changed, and the administration does not support this legislation.

This legislation is causing disparate treatment of one tribe for the sake of protecting a market. The market should be competitive. This is not a violation of the Arizona Gaming Compact, but it is an abrogation of a law this Congress passed in 1986 that is now being changed due to the whims of those afraid of a competitive market.

I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for yielding.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my friend TRENT FRANKS' legislation, H.R. 2938.

Ten years ago, stakeholders from across the State of Arizona gathered together to come up with a 21st-century plan to manage gaming activity. As part of that final agreement, many tribes agreed to forgo building a casino to share revenues as a whole. Gaming revenues were set aside for education, health care, and other measures to improve the lives of average tribal members.

The key part of that compact was a tribal agreement that no new additional casinos would be permitted in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The Tohono O'odham Nation agreed to those terms; but as they agreed to one thing publicly, they were preparing privately to undermine the entire agreement. The tribe has since acquired land in Glendale and has made it clear they intend to break their agreement and establish a casino on that land. This legislation ensures the Tohono O'odham Nation must keep the promise they made in 2002 to the other tribes, the State, and our constituents.

Additionally, the small, but vocal, opposition to this legislation claims the bill before us seeks to unilaterally nullify an Indian water rights settlement. I assure my House colleagues that statement is false. Water rights associated with the Gila Bend reservation were settled in the Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act of 2004, not the Gila Bend Act.

The passage of H.R. 2938 would not affect the State adjudication of water rights. Any claims to water rights based on aboriginal occupancy that Tohono might have claimed were also waived in the tribe's separate water rights settlement, an act that provided for a complete and total waiver of all such water rights in exchange for substantial consideration and payments. Last fall, the Department of the Interior testified on this bill, and water rights were not mentioned. The committee resolved any concerns during the markup of the bill.

Today's debate is not about jobs or Native American water rights. It is about protecting the integrity of Arizona's gaming compact and preventing a dangerous precedent that could lead to the expansion of off-reservation casinos in other States.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 2938.

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico.

H.R. 2938 should not have been brought to the House floor under suspension of the rules. This legislation doesn't name a post office or authorize a park study. H.R. 2938, instead, is a highly controversial piece of legislation that will amend a settlement agreement between the United States and an Indian tribe, impose restrictions on a tribe's authority to use its own land, and circumvent years of Federal and State court rulings.

During consideration by the Natural Resources Committee, members from both sides of the aisle expressed concern with this measure. House Members have heard from tribes across the country, Arizona State legislators, local mayors, small business owners, and community leaders on both sides of this issue. The number of stakeholders with strong feelings on both sides of this issue is plain evidence that the bill does not belong on suspension.

□ 1930

So we're here tonight, and the implications for local, regional, and national gaming industry precedents are quite significant. We should only bring suspension-worthy bills out here on the floor. I say that because Mr. GRIJALVA from Arizona, whose tribal constituents are the sole target of this legislation, is being denied this opportunity and, therefore, any chance to address his constituents' needs. And I think that since it does affect his district, his tribe, he's on the Natural Resources Committee, he deserves the right to be able to make amendments that can improve this legislation, and he is not going to be allowed to do that.

So that is my view on this bill, that it's under the wrong process. Suspensions are really meant for bills that do not bring the level of complexity and the level of controversy that a bill like this brings to the House floor, and as a result, I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. I have one more speaker.

Mr. LUJAN. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) stated the facts very clearly. In the 1950s, the Federal Government condemned and seized land and water rights owned by the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation. In 1986, Congress settled the tribe's outstanding claims by agreeing, in part, to take into trust replacement land that the Tohono O'odham might acquire under specific conditions. The tribe has acquired a particular parcel meeting all of the conditions set forth in the law and asserted its rightful claim under that law. This bill retroactively and fundamentally alters that settlement, breaking the promises the Tohono O'odham have relied upon as they've spent many years and millions of dollars acquiring this parcel and planning the project.

Now, why in the world would we want to do such a thing? Well, it's obvious. Like many tribes, the Tohono O'odham want to build a casino on this land. This casino would compete with another tribe's casino in the region, and that tribe doesn't want the competition. Competition is so annoying and inconvenient. It requires offering your customers a better service at a lower price. Tohono O'odham seeks to do that. The other tribe doesn't want to.

So that other tribe, which has a monopoly on gaming in the Phoenix area, created a front made up of antigambling pressure groups and NIMBY activists to try and stop them. They have been defeated in the courts at every turn. So what to do? What to do? They don't want to compete for customers. They don't have a leg to stand on in court. What is left? Well, of course. Get Congress to break its promise, which is why we're all here tonight.

Let's be very clear about what passing this bill would mean. Many in this House have widely criticized the President for killing thousands of jobs to satisfy his ideological opposition to the Keystone pipeline. Well, this bill does exactly the same thing. It kills 6,000 construction jobs and 3,000 permanent, ongoing service jobs by blocking this project on ideological grounds. But the damage only begins there. Federal taxpayers will become liable for hundreds of millions of dollars of economic damages to compensate the Tohono O'odham for lost profits, for the devaluation of their property, and for years of planning suddenly rendered worthless by this act.

So what's the balance sheet here? On the plus side, we satisfy the ideological itch of antigaming busybodies and antigrowth zealots, and we protect a gambling monopoly in Phoenix from any competition. On the minus side, we

destroy 6,000 construction jobs, 3,000 service jobs, and we open our constituents to hundreds of millions of dollars of damages that we are certain to lose in court.

I would suggest that this bill ought to be laughed off the floor, but there's nothing in it to laugh about.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I come to this with a somewhat unique view, because I was actually there 19 years ago as the majority whip in the Arizona State House when this was originally being negotiated. I sat in the room hour after hour after hour for months with many of these Native American communities and these very discussions about what would happen in this type of scenario and assurances that were given to those of us who were in the legislature who were having to make the decision that this would never happen.

And I've listened to a little bit of this testimony, even from my good friend here from California, and the facts don't line up. First off, in the gaming agreements, in the compacts, there's the language about the distance from the base aboriginal territories and how far things could move away from that. This is outside that. The jobs numbers are an absolute fantasy for the construction. And I think Mr. FRANKS actually went over that in his discussion earlier.

But why do I stand here so passionately supporting TRENT's bill? If this happens, it's going to destroy the nature of my State because, understand, the compacts go kaboom, the cascade begins. And this isn't just for Arizona. It will be all over the country. I promise you, in a few years you will wake up and my State will be a statewide gaming State. And then when this becomes precedent, understand, all your States are now in play.

This is more than just us having a dispute with the Tohono O'odhams. That isn't what this is about. This is about keeping the promises that were made for many of us who were embattled in building these compacts years ago.

Let's have everyone keep their promise, and let's keep the deal we made.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Will the gentleman yield for a moment? If he doesn't have the time, I will yield him additional time.

Does the tribe in question have a casino on their own property?

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Oh, yes. I think they have multiple casinos.

There's another fact that bounced up here, Mr. Speaker. There's actually, I think, one, two, three, four, five casinos in the urban area by, I think, three different Native American communities. This isn't about defending one tribe versus another. This is about there's 21 tribes in Arizona and the agreements that have been put together. Heaven forbid what you're going to do to these communities, particularly the rural ones that get some of the sharing, if we blow up the compacts through my State.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman have any more speakers?

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, yes, I do.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUJÁN. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

Mr. GRIJALVA. Thank you, Mr. LUJÁN.

Just, I think, important points to clarify. One is that the Tohono O'odham Nation's proposed gaming facility in this land that was authorized by Congress would violate its tribal-State gaming compact, or Prop 202. The Department of the Interior has spoken clearly on this issue and confirmed in section 3(j) of the tribal-State gaming compact clearly allows the nation to develop a gaming facility on the land. Nothing in Proposition 202 would disallow the nation from gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area, as the other five to six casinos show that there were gentlemen's agreements for no additional casinos in Phoenix.

Well, there was no such side deal. The line of argument is, I think, an after-the-fact rationalization for a position that is entirely unsupported by the letter of the law. The compact has stated all elements of tribal-State gaming agreements must be embodied in the compact and must be approved by the Department of the Interior.

I think that we have to look at what has not been said. The United States' breach, if this becomes law, will void the nation's release of its original land claims and open the United States to a liability that was valued at $100 million in 1986 dollars. The breach will also open the portion of the nation's original water claims settlement. This settlement is key to the negotiations going on now with the Salt River Project, the Central Arizona Water Conservation District, the State of Arizona, the Maricopa-Stanfield Water District, and the Central Arizona Irrigation District, all affecting the very precious commodity in Arizona, which is water.

So at the expense of those liabilities, that breach could cause not only the State of Arizona, but the United States taxpayer, millions and millions of dollars and loss in settlements that are so vitally needs around the water issues affecting Arizona and the West.

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

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Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I can say that this is somewhat difficult for me because I have a rule about laws that are being passed in Members' districts, and I usually support. Mr. FRANKS represents that district.

And I will say, Mr. GRIJALVA has made some statements. I would suggest Congress makes laws, and Congress can remake laws. Lawsuits, that's a scare tactic. They can sue all they want. One of the problems we have in America today is we have too many lawyers, so you can sue anything and anybody, anytime, anywhere.

This is a battle about a State and a large group of American Natives that reached an agreement. Mr. GOSAR said this very clearly. He was there, and they reached an agreement and they are signatories. We had a hearing on this legislation. We had a quite intensive hearing, and that was brought up. And, of course, they can cite all the arguments they want, but they also understand that when a State is involved under Native gaming laws, which I and Mr. Udall sponsored, the State had to be directly involved; otherwise, you wouldn't have gambling anyplace in Arizona because the State would not have agreed to that if there hadn't been an agreement between all of the tribes, there would be no more than was established in the compact. And I think we have to consider the State's belief in this because that does affect the State. They probably wouldn't have any gambling at all.

This money from those five existing casinos is shared, even by the tribe requesting this casino outside their territory where they have their own casinos, they want it in the Phoenix area, and we all know that. This is about money. There's no doubt about that. But what concerns me the most is the compact. When I listen to this, when you make an agreement and you're a tribe and you agree to something, don't try to go around and change that later on by asking some lawyers. We talk about finances and where the finances are coming from. We can find that out, too, later on.

So with the understanding that this is an Arizona battle, but as chairman, I have to listen to both sides, and right now I come down on the side that Arizona, the State of, has an agreement, and we ought to live by it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2938, the Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act.

I support this important legislation because I believe we should all be bound by the agreements we make.

In the late 1990s, Arizona tribes' gaming ventures were being threatened by litigation and anti-Indian gaming interests.

As a response, a number of tribes formed a coalition to create a joint negotiating position before entering into tribal compact discussions with state officials.

One of these tribes was the Tonoho O'odham Nation.

Following this agreement, proposition 202 was passed, limiting Phoenix area casinos to seven.

Through all this time, the Tonoho O'odham Nation never expressed any hesitation to the agreement they signed with other tribes or Proposition 202, until now.

I ask my colleagues to support this important measure because it upholds the good

faith negotiations that were conducted to reach this joint power resolution between the Arizona Tribes.

I ask my colleagues to support it because it upholds the integrity of all the other tribes who have and still are living up to their word.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2938, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CRISIS IN SYRIA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the crisis in Syria is getting worse and worse and worse. I join with the United Nations, but I ask that the Arab League and NATO raise their voices to remove women and children and the elderly and the disabled and the sick from this onslaught of violence.

And I ask the head of Russia, Mr. Putin, does he have a heart? Is he going to continue on the basis of ego and collaboration, determined that he allow the violence against the Syrian people to continue?

I ask my Christian friends in Syria, as well, to join with the world of humanity to stop the violence against women and children. It is time now.

ONE VOTE, ONE PERSON

Mr. Speaker, I change to another topic very quickly and say: one vote, one person. The voter ID law doesn't allow that, and the massive infusion of dollars coming from places that no one knows, no one has to account for. Let us have the Constitution stand again. Let America have a 2012 election without the infusion of unnamed dollars; now, $100 million may be coming into this election from one person. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution deserves respect—one vote, one person.

CLEARING THE NAMES OF JOHN BROW AND BROOKS GRUBER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I won't take the entire hour, but this is a 10-year journey that I have been on since I was notified by the wife of one of the pilots, Connie Gruber, who lives in my district, that the very tragic plane crash on April 8, 2000, when 19 marines were killed in a V–22 Osprey, that her husband, Major Brooks Gruber and Colonel John Brow, pilots, were being blamed for the accident. Nineteen marines that night were killed. And again, 10 years ago I was contacted by Mrs. Gruber, who lives in Jacksonville, North Carolina, which is the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base.

Mr. Speaker, I have, for the House, a photograph of the V–22 Osprey that many people might have forgotten. In the year 2000, it was a plane going through a lot of trouble, meaning from the standpoint of testing, standpoint of records being changed, and the standpoint that the Secretary of Defense at the time, Dick Cheney, wanted to scrap the program. But the Marine Corps was saying that they had to have the MV–22. And again, Mr. Speaker, for you to know, this is the plane that goes from a helicopter mode to an airplane mode, that the nacelles will go from this way to a plane mode. I have this beside me so that people can see the V–22. The pilot was Colonel John Brow. He's pictured immediately on my left, and the copilot to the poster's left was Major Brooks Gruber.

Connie Gruber wrote me a letter. It's a full page, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to just read what she said, just one paragraph:

> With so many wrongs in the world we cannot make right, I ask you prayerfully consider an injustice that you can make right. I realize you alone may not be able to amend the report, but you can certainly support my efforts to permanently remove this black mark from my husband's honorable military service record.

Mr. Speaker, there was a time when there was an issue involving the V–22 that the Marine Corps did not recognize, nor did Bell-Boeing, the manufacturer of the plane. It's called vortex ring state, VRS, and it's where the different, the two helicopter nacelles can be impacted in a different way, and that's what caused this tragic accident on April 8, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, right after the accident, the Marine Corps sent three investigators—Colonel Mike Morgan, Colonel Ron Radich, and Major Phil Stackhouse—to Arizona to investigate this accident, which was very, very difficult for the marines who were given the responsibility to find out why this plane crashed and burned.

Mr. Speaker, they came back and completed what was known as the JAGMAN report that was submitted to the Marine Corps. The investigators, this was their findings of what caused the accident.

□ 1950

This is what has created the problem is that the Marine Corps issued a press release that I will talk about in just a few minutes. And the JAGMAN the families agreed with. Everything in the JAGMAN they agree with. And I'll touch on that in just a moment.

I also at this time want to thank Congressman STENY HOYER from Maryland, who is the Congressman for the wife of the pilot. Her name is Trish Brow. She has two sons, Matthew and Michael. Mr. HOYER has joined me in clearing the names of these two pilots, and I want to thank him again for that.

In addition, Congressman NORM DICKS from the State of Washington, who will be leaving this year, has heard me speak on the floor about this accident, and he also wants to join in clearing the names of these two pilots.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank attorney Jim Furman in Texas. Attorney Jim Furman represented Connie Gruber and Trish Brow in the lawsuit against Bell-Boeing. In addition, Brian Alexander and his associate, Francis Young, were the attorneys for the 17 Marine families. So those two attorneys, Jim Furman and Brian Alexander, have joined me in clearing the names of John Brow and Brooks Gruber.

Mr. Speaker, I must state that they won their case against Bell-Boeing. The amount of money allotted to the families has been secured, so therefore no one knows except the families; but it tells me a whole lot when a manufacturing company decides that they would rather settle out of court than take the case to court.

Phil Coyle, the Assistant Secretary of Defense and Director of Operational Test and Evaluation in the Department of Defense at the time of this accident, has also joined us in clearing the names of the two pilots. Also, shortly after the accident in the year 2002, CBS "60 Minutes," led by Mike Wallace, who is now deceased, gave the story of what happened and why this plane crashed and why the two pilots should not be seen at fault.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many people in this 10-year journey. Local press in eastern North Carolina all the way to press in Texas have joined us in this effort to say to Connie Gruber and Trish Brow and their sons and their daughter: your husbands were not at fault.

Why the Marine Corps will not join in this effort I do not understand. All the Marine Corps has to do is to issue a paragraph that clearly states to Trish Brow that your husband, John Brow, Colonel John Brow, pilot, was not at fault for the accident that occurred on April 8, 2000, in Marana, Arizona. All the Marine Corps has to do is to write a paragraph on the commandant stationery to Connie Gruber stating the same thing, except: your husband, Major Brooks Gruber, copilot, was not at fault for the accident that happened on April 8, 2000, in Marana, Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, you might think—and maybe some people watching tonight might think—well, why is this so difficult? The lawsuits are over, the plane is surviving, there's no threat to the Marine Corps that they're going to eliminate the V–22. It is part of their

arsenal now. But this is what happened: a Marine Corps press release July 27, 2000, states:

> Unfortunately, the pilot's drive to accomplish that mission appears to have been the fatal factor.

Mr. Speaker, the official JAGMAN investigation that I made reference to, Colonel Morgan, Colonel Radich and Major Stackhouse, this is what they said in the JAGMAN:

> During this investigation, we found nothing that we would characterize as negligence, deliberate pilot error, or maintenance/material failure.

Mr. Speaker, if only the Marine Corps, after the JAGMAN report came out, would have released a press statement that would have said: After we have reviewed this JAGMAN report, it is now our determination, because of the JAGMAN report, that Colonel John Brow and Major Brooks Gruber were not at fault for this accident.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of this accident, this issue of vortex ring state was not fully understood. It was understood in the world of the helicopters, but not in the world of the Osprey. The Marine Corps did not understand, nor did Bell-Boeing understand, how the vortex ring state, how these pilots could have reacted. Mr. Speaker, in fact, at the time of the accident, the NATOPS manual that was given to the pilots of the V–22—and this night given to Colonel John Brow and Major Brooks Gruber—the NATOPS manual had absolutely nothing about the vortex ring state. It had one sentence. Since that time, the NATOPS manual for the Marine Corps and the Navy and the Air Force, Mr. Speaker, is six pages about vortex ring state and how you react to vortex ring state.

Mr. Speaker, there are warning systems in the cockpit of the V–22 now that these two Marines never saw, never had, never understood, never knew about. But since that accident, Mr. Speaker, they now have a warning system that tells the pilots that you're in trouble, you're in trouble. They even have in the helmets they wear a voice of a woman saying ''sink, sink, sink,'' meaning you have to react to the sinking of the ship, this plane.

Mr. Speaker, that's why tonight and once a month I'm coming down on the floor to talk about the fact that these marines have every right to rest in peace. One's buried in Arlington Cemetery; that's Colonel John Brow. And the other, Major Brooks Gruber, is buried in the veterans cemetery down in Jacksonville, North Carolina, where his wife lives.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank WTVD of Durham. They're bringing a film crew up tomorrow to interview Trish Brow and one of her sons. They will meet Mrs. Brow over at Arlington Cemetery. This is why it does not make any sense why the Marine Corps will not issue a public statement in a paragraph to the two wives saying: after this many years and all the facts and all the testing and everything that we've done, there's no way that your husbands could have known what they were doing.

Mr. Speaker, they were sitting in the air. They did not understand how to react to vortex ring state. The Marine Corps knew not how to explain to them how to react. And Bell-Boeing had not done the proper research. Mr. Speaker, when I say proper research, after this accident and an additional accident, Tom MacDonald, a test pilot, spent 700 hours trying to figure out how the V–22 responds to vortex ring state and how the pilot should respond to vortex ring state. In fact, Mr. MacDonald deserved and he earned from the Test Pilots Association the Kincheloe Award for finding out and figuring out what you do when a plane gets into vortex ring state.

Mr. Speaker, these two men would not have given their lives and 17 marines in the back of the plane if Bell-Boeing had done its job and the Marine Corps had demanded that Bell-Boeing understand vortex ring state and how it would impact the V–22.

Mr. Speaker, very quickly—I'm going to close in just a few minutes, but I wanted to share with the RECORD that when the JAGMAN said that this was not deliberate pilot error, I wrote to one of the investigators, Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, and I asked him how and why did you use the words ''deliberate pilot error'' in the JAGMAN report. Again, the families, we accept the JAGMAN report; but I did not quite understand, I'm not a pilot, not a marine, never served, but I wanted to understand why. And I'd like to read this for the RECORD.

□ 2000

Colonel Morgan stated, and these are his words:

> My personal feeling and opinion, supported by my interview with the lead flight crew, is that the mishap aircraft had no idea they had exceeded any flight parameters.

Mr. Speaker, the pilots had no idea they had exceeded any flight parameters. They were merely trying to remain in position on a flight lead trying to salvage a bad approach.

Mr. Speaker, the bad approach was by the lead plane. This was the second plane.

And, again, he said, the pilots had no idea they had exceeded any flight parameters.

Mr. Speaker, as I said just a moment ago, they now have warning systems, and if the pilots today had exceeded any flight parameters, there would be a warning system going off, and the plane would not crash and 19 Marines would not burn to death.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Congressman STENY HOYER for joining in this effort to clear the names of these two Marines. I want to thank the families, Trish Brow and her two boys, and Connie Gruber and her little girl, Brooks, for continuing to say somebody's got to clear the names of these two men.

They were outstanding pilots. Mr. Speaker, I've never had anyone in the Marine Corps tell me anything different than that John Brow and Brooks Gruber were outstanding pilots. But, as I've said tonight, the environment of the times, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney was opposed to the V–22 program. He wanted to eliminate the program. There were Members in Congress in both parties that wanted to save the program. There was a fight going on.

So when these two Marines crashed, and the 17 Marines in the back of the plane that died, they sent out this press release that I just made mention of, and they never had a second press release that would clearly have stated, based on the investigation, based on the JAGMAN report that we, the Marine Corps, have reviewed, and signed by General McCorkle, that these two pilots were not at fault. They had not been trained. They did not understand vortex ring state. Bell Boeing didn't do its job. The Marine Corps didn't demand that Bell Boeing make this plane safe, and how it would react to vortex ring state, and they didn't understand it.

So for 10 years—actually 12 now; the crash was in 2000—for 10 years there have been many people who have joined me in trying to say to the Marine Corps, you owe these two men. They deserve and their families deserve a letter from the Marine Corps stating that they were not at fault for this accident.

Mr. Speaker, again, all I can say, and I will continue to say to the Marine Corps, you have the utmost respect of the American people. They have great respect for the history of the Marine Corps and what the Marine Corps has done for our country in all the wars, just like the other services.

But in this case we're talking about the Marine Corps. And all the families want is one paragraph that clearly states that Colonel John Brow, pilot, was not at fault for the accident that occurred on April 8, 2000, in Marana, Arizona. All Connie Gruber wants is the same letter, but with her husband's name. This is to certify that copilot Brooks Gruber, Major Brooks Gruber, was not at fault for the accident that occurred on April 8, 2000, in Marana, Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, this is a journey that I will not stop till we clear the names of these two pilots. The facts are on our side. There's so much more that I could say tonight. I have volumes, Mr. Speaker. I have the tape that Jim Furman presented in the lawsuit case. I have a copy of that, given to me by Jim Furman. I've seen it all.

I've seen the tape from Mike Wallace and ''60 Minutes.'' I've talked to Jim Shaffer, Colonel Shaffer, now retired. He was in the air. There were four planes flying that night, and he was in the air. These were his buddies, John Brow and Brooks Gruber. He saw the plane crash. He's joined us in this effort to clear the names of Colonel John Brow and Major Brooks Gruber.

I want to thank Chairman BUCK MCKEON and Ranking Member ADAM SMITH. They allowed language to be in the NDAA bill that basically says they hope that the Marine Corps will work to clear the names of these two pilots.

And, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the press that has taken on this effort also. Voltaire said, and I quote Voltaire, We owe the living our respect. We owe the dead the truth. And that's all this effort has ever been about is trying to call on the Marine Corps, who the American people respect, I respect, to issue the letter to Trish Brow and Connie Gruber.

Mr. Speaker, all the lawsuits are over, and I look at this letter from Mike Morgan, and I don't read it because the first sentence is about me. But it says:

> I applaud and fully support the extraordinary effort you have undertaken in support of John Brow and Brooks Gruber and the families who lost loved ones in the tragic crash of Nighthawk 72.

Let me read just a couple more, and then I'm going to close, Mr. Speaker. This is from Phil Stackhouse. Again, this is one of the three investigators. He said:

> I do not believe that it would be a surprise to anyone that it is my opinion the mishap was not a result of pilot error, but was the result of a perfect storm of circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, that's what I'm talking about. They did not understand vortex ring state. The manufacturer didn't understand it. The Marine Corps didn't understand it, so they couldn't train the pilots to understand it. That's what Major Stackhouse meant by a perfect storm of circumstances.

During the conduct of this investigation, we collected some 20 binders of evidence, including, among other things, maintenance records, training records, telemetry records, operational and testing records, and dozens of photographs. He further states this includes, for example, compressed testing and evaluation created by deadlines, funding, and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, that's what he's talking about—at that particular time, when this plane was up and going to Arizona, they were cutting programs to test the plane. You had Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney trying to kill the program. They did everything they could.

I don't blame the Marine Corps for trying to save the program. They believed that this was the helicopter of the present and the future.

But he further stated:

> The actions of the lead aircraft in the section, and lack of understanding how vortex ring state/power settling would actually affect the Osprey in the real world, was part of the problem. I do not feel that our investigation reflects that the mishap was a result of pilot error, and if the investigation was interpreted that way, it was misinterpreted.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the three investigators. They all wrote about the same letter. And Major Phil Stackhouse closed by saying this:

> For any record that reflects the mishap was a result of pilot error, it should be corrected. For any publication that reflects the mishap was a result of pilot error, it should be corrected and recanted.

Mr. Speaker, I've had the privilege and the pleasure to meet Major Brooks Gruber's daddy and mom. They live in Florida. One time after the accident they came to Jacksonville, North Carolina, and Connie Gruber invited me to the First Baptist Church of Jacksonville. And it's one of those falls where they have reunions. And I never will forget, after the church service, Connie said, I want you to meet my father-in-law.

□ 2010

I went out and met Mr. Gruber. Mr. Speaker. He was a marine who fought for this country in Korea. We were in the vestibule of the First Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

He said, I want to shake your hand.

With tears in his eyes, he said, Congressman, I cannot thank you enough for trying to clear my son's name.

Mr. Speaker, I've stayed in touch with Mr. Gruber from time to time to let him know we're making progress. No, we're not there yet, but we keep beating this drum, the drum saying, Clear their names; clear their names; clear their names.

I called Trish Brow last week to tell her that WTVD wanted to come up and interview her about the accident. It happened to be a tough day, Mr. Speaker, because her father-in-law, who is 80 years old, was having surgery. I am pleased to report that the surgery went well.

I want Mr. Brow, Sr., and his family and I want Mr. Gruber, Sr., and his family to see the letter that we are asking the Marine Corps to send to the two wives. Both men are in their eighties.

I will read it one more time before closing:

> For any record that reflects the mishap was a result of pilot error, it should be corrected. For any publication that reflects the mishap was a result of pilot error, it should be corrected and recanted.

The three investigators—Colonel Mike Morgan, Colonel Ron Radich, Major Phil Stackhouse—have all written me letters and have said the same thing, that our JAGMAN report says the pilots were not at fault.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to keep battling this thing for the families. I will say we're getting closer because I have such faith in God Almighty that I know that it's God's will that these two pilots who are dead and their families who are living deserve to have their names cleared. I just call on the Marine Corps to do what's right for their marines.

Do what's right for the marines. Forget the Congressman. He just happens to be the foot soldier. Do what's right for the two marines who are dead. Do what's right for the 17 marines who were in the back of the plane who are dead, and do what's right for the families of the pilot and co-pilot.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I want to thank you and the staff. You stayed here tonight to give me this chance to share my concern, my heart.

I will ask God to please touch the hearts of those in the United States Marine Corps, to look at the face of Colonel John Brow, pilot, and at the face of Major Brooks Gruber, co-pilot, and call on the Marine Corps to write the letters to the families and to publicly say that the JAGMAN report has cleared these two pilots' names and that we, the Marine Corps, could have 8 years ago issued a press release to the Nation saying that these two pilots were not at fault.

Had they done that, I would not be on the floor tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I close, as I always do, from the bottom of my heart for all of those fighting in Afghanistan: God, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. Please, God, bless those who are serving our Nation. Those who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq, hold them in your arms, dear God. Give them comfort.

God, please bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. Please bless President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for God's people.

And three times I will say in closing: God, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. SCHILLING (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending the visitation of a fallen soldier.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6456. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the amount of purchases from foreign entities in Fiscal Year 2011, pursuant to Public Law 104-201, section 827 (110 Stat. 2611); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6457. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Energy Conservation Program for Certain Industrial Equipment: Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Commercial Heating, Air-Conditioning, and Water-Heating Equipment [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-STD-0029] (RIN: 1904-AC47) received May 17, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6458. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers [Docket Number: EERE-2008-BT-STD-0019] (RIN: 1904-AB90) received June 13, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6459. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food [Docket No.: FDA-1999-F-0021; Formerly 1999F-2673] received May 17, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6460. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Labeling and Effectiveness Testing; Sunscreen Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Delay of Compliance Dates [Docket No.: FDA-1978-N-0018] (Formerly Docket No.: 1978N-0038) (RIN: 0910-AF43) received May 17, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6461. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of State, Local, and Tribal Affairs, Executive Office Of The President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting reports on the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign for Fiscal Year 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6462. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's annual report for 2011 on Voting Practices in the United Nations, pursuant to Public Law 101-246, section 406; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6463. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6464. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Export and Import of Nuclear Equipment and Material; Export of International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards Samples [NRC-2011-0213] (RIN: 3150-AJ04) received May 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6465. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6466. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Requirements for Specimens and for Affidavits or Declarations of Continued Use or Excusable Nonuse in Trademark Cases [Docket No.: PTO-T-2010-0073] (RIN: 0651-AC49) received May 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6467. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Clinton Engineer Works in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6468. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6469. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from the Electro Metallurigical site in Niagara Falls, New York to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6470. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of workers from Hangar 481 on the premises of Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6471. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Americans With Disabilities Act Title II and Title III Regulations To Extend Compliance Date for Certain Requirements Related to Existing Pools and Spas Provided by State and Local Governments and by Public Accommodations [CRT Docket No: 123; A.G. Order No. 3332-2012] (RIN: 1190-AA69) received May 21, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6472. A letter from the Director, Executive Office Of The President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting a report of the Use of High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program Funds to Combat Methamphetamine Trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6473. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Modifications to Definition of United States Property [TD 9589] (RIN: 1545-BK11) received May 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6474. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — June 2012 (Rev. Rul. 2012-15) received May 22, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6475. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Allocation of Mortgage Insurance Premiums [TD 9588] (RIN: 1545-BH84) received May 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3668. A bill to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs; with an amendment (Rept. 112–537). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3100. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, to conduct a study of potential land acquisitions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–538). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 688. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes (Rept. 112–539). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MANZULLO (for himself, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. KISSELL):

H.R. 5952. A bill to require each Federal agency to submit and obtain approval from the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy of guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of scientific information relied upon by the agency; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. QUAYLE (for himself, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BROOKS, and Mr. LONG):

H.R. 5953. A bill to prohibit the implementation of certain policies regarding the exercise of prosecutorial discretion by the Secretary of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 5954. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 7th Street in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, as the ''Sergeant Leslie H. Sabo, Jr. Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. KIND, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 5955. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve energy programs; to the Committee on

Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. STARK):

H.R. 5956. A bill to provide safe, fair, and responsible procedures and standards for resolving claims of state secrets privilege; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 5957. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from granting deferred action or otherwise suspending the effectiveness or enforcement of the immigration laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TURNER of New York (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. GRIMM):

H.R. 5958. A bill to name the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Visitor Contact Station of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge unit of Gateway National Recreation Area in honor of James L. Buckley; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.J. Res. 111. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to the authority of Congress and the States to regulate contributions and expenditures in political campaigns and to enact public financing systems for such campaigns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to the health insurance premium tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. ESHOO):

H. Res. 689. A resolution honoring Catholic sisters for their contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MANZULLO:

H.R. 5952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause

By Mr. QUAYLE:

H.R. 5953.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 5954.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 5955.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I & Clause I of section 8 of Article I

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5956.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clauses 9 and 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 5957.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1. Section 8. Clause 4—The Congress shall have the power to establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

By Mr. TURNER of New York:

H.R. 5958.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3:[2]

The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States,

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.J. Res. 111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.J. Res. 112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1:

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 25: Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 139: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. HAHN, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 140: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. MICA.

H.R. 191: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 266: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 267: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 459: Mrs. ELLMERS and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 529: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 587: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 605: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 694: Mr. SIRES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 718: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 733: Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 791: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 812: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 816: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 835: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 860: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 905: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 1170: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1236: Mr. REED, Ms. HANABUSA, and Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 1265: Mr. MACK.

H.R. 1327: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1344: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1385: Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1409: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 1513: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1653: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1704: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 1746: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1755: Mr. BONNER, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. AKIN, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1802: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1878: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1910: Mr. TURNER of Ohio.

H.R. 1916: Mrs. LOWEY and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1936: Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 1956: Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 2010: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 2030: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2104: Mr. BACA and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2123: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 2151: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 2194: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 2267: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. OLVER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BARTLETT, and MR. ROONEY.

H.R. 2327: Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 2499: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 2514: Mr. MICA and Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 2634: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2671: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2866: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 3145: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3187: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 3307: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 3458: Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 3481: Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 3485: Ms. BASS of California and Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 3506: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 3510: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 3596: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3612: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 3618: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 3627: Mr. KELLY and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 3656: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 3668: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 3798: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. REYES, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3849: Mr. KISSELL, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 3860: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 3895: Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 3905: Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.

H.R. 4052: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 4070: Mr. HULTGREN and Ms. HOCHUL.

H.R. 4104: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YODER, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MARINO, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HANABUSA, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. PENCE, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JONES, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CALVERT,

Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 4122: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 4238: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 4256: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 4285: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 4286: Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 4287: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 4318: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4323: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 4335: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 4342: Mr. ROSKAM and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 4367: Mr. HONDA, Mr. AMASH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 4965: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 5186: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. OLVER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 5542: Ms. SUTTON and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5593: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 5646: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 5683: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 5684: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 5744: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 5796: Mr. RIGELL, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 5822: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 5823: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5850: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 5859: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 5860: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 5893: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 5901: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 5910: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 5911: Mr. PETRI, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, and Mr. LANDRY.

H.R. 5942: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 5943: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HANNA, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 5948: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.J. Res. 78: Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Con. Res. 116: Mr. BERG.

H. Con. Res. 127: Mr. CRITZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. FARR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. POLIS, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H. Con. Res. 129: Mr. CAMP.

H. Res. 20: Mr. MEEKS.

H. Res. 21: Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 29: Mr. SHERMAN.

H. Res. 608: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. CLARKE of Michigan.

H. Res. 616: Mr. CARTER.

H. Res. 623: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. LANCE.

H. Res. 654: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H. Res. 662: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. CRAVAACK.

H. Res. 678: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. GOSAR.

H. Res. 683: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. PELOSI, and Mr. STARK.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of the rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative HASTINGS of Washington, or a designee, to H.R. 2578, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2012 No. 92

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Your faithfulness guide our Senators today. As they trust Your leadership, may they experience Your faithful love. Lord, lead them from the path of disunity, as You teach them Your will. As they experience the constancy of Your presence, guide them to Your higher wisdom and fill their hearts with Your peace. Watch over them with Your gracious protection.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1940.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1940, a bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will continue debate on the farm bill today. At 5 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Mary Lewis to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina. At 5:30 this evening there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Lewis nomination.

MOVING FORWARD

Mr. President, I have spoken to Senator STABENOW several times in the last couple of days. In fact, I spoke to her today—what time did I get back? It is 3 o'clock—at 2 o'clock or thereabouts. She indicated to me they are making progress on the bill. There was one amendment she was concerned about. I worked that out and told her she could go ahead and have that as part of the consent agreement. So I have worked very hard to try to make the lives of Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS easier, and I have worked through some of the problems my people had.

But, Mr. President, the issues on this bill overwhelmingly are on the other side, and I hope we can work something out. They have worked so hard—Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS—and I hope we can find a path forward. It is important. I commend them for their dedication to this measure which cuts subsidies and protects 16 million American jobs.

We have spent so much precious time on this bill—precious time we do not have—and we need to move forward on it. We are going to move forward or off of this bill. I hope we will be able to move forward today with this bill; otherwise, we are going to have to file cloture on the bill because it is the third week of jockeying around on this bill.

THE DREAM ACT

Mr. President, Astrid Silva is an average American 24-year-old from all outward appearances. She is a Las Vegas resident. She is fascinated with Nevada history—whether it is Area 51 or about the time when it is alleged the mob ran the casinos. She is active in her community, school politics, and local politics.

One day Astrid would like to come to Washington, DC, to see, as she said, the Declaration of Independence—see it herself. She recently completed her associate's degree at the College of Southern Nevada, and she dreams of completing her bachelor's degree at UNLV.

But there is one issue standing in her way: Astrid is not an American citizen. Twenty years ago this week this little girl, 3½ years old—a little baby girl—was brought to the United States by her parents. She has no knowledge of Mexico. America is her country. The country where she was born—Mexico—she knows nothing about. She speaks perfect English. She was an honor student in high school, and she has never called anyplace but Nevada her home.

So, of course, I thought of this brave young woman when President Obama announced last Friday he would suspend the deportation of young people

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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like Astrid who were brought to this country illegally when they were only children.

I had a difficult campaign, as everyone knows. During that campaign, on occasion I would be given a little handwritten note. I would look at it later. One was from Astrid telling me of her dreams—her dreams that she wanted fulfilled, that could not be because she was not a citizen even though this is her country.

She has been looking over her shoulder for many years now—since the time she was old enough to understand—afraid of deportation. She decided she was going to step out of the shadows and be no longer afraid and become an advocate for the DREAM Act. She is truly a DREAMer.

As we know, the DREAM Act would create a pathway to citizenship for outstanding young people who were brought to this country through no fault of their own and want to attend college or serve our Nation in the Armed Services.

The DREAM Act is not amnesty. It rewards responsibility with opportunity.

Astrid's handwritten letters convinced me years ago of the importance of this issue. Unfortunately, Republican opposition has stalled this legislation.

I was stunned listening to the Republican nominee for President say: Why doesn't Congress do this?

Mr. President, we have tried. We cannot get Republican votes. We have tried.

Thanks to President Obama, Astrid and 800,000 other young people just like her who are American in all but paperwork no longer need to live in fear of deportation. President Obama's directive to suspend deportation of the DREAMers comes after a yearlong review. It will be applied on a case-by-case basis. It frees up law enforcement resources to focus on people who actually threaten public safety and national security, and it removes the specter of deportation that has hovered over deserving young men and women.

For a long time the Presiding Officer was the chief attorney, the chief enforcer of the law in the State of Connecticut, and he had to direct his resources where they could best be used. He wanted to focus on people who were threatening public safety and national security.

What good would it do for us as a country to say to people such as Astrid: You cannot go to school. What you can do is go ahead and be part of a gang. Women become gang members too. Some of those violent gang members we have in America today are now women. Are we better off preventing these young men and women from going to school, from going into the military, even though this is the only country they have ever known as home?

Are we better off saying stay in the shadows or are we better off letting them get an education and serving our country in the military? The answer to that is so easy.

It removes the specter of deportation that has hovered over deserving young men and women. That is what President Obama did. So I congratulate him for this courageous decision—a decision that benefits both the DREAMers and our Nation as a whole.

Like Astrid, these young people share our language, share our culture, share our love for America—the only country they know. They are talented, patriotic men and women who want to defend our Nation in the military, get a college education, work hard, and contribute to their communities and this country.

When they pledge allegiance, it is to the United States of America. Unfortunately, President Obama's directive is temporary. The onus is now on Congress to protect the DREAMers and fix our broken immigration system once and for all.

For all of these people who are saying: Why didn't you do it in Congress, we tried. We invite them here. If they want to make it permanent, it could be done very easily.

Comprehensive immigration reform should be tough, fair, and practical. It should continue efforts to secure our borders, hold unscrupulous employers accountable, and reform our Nation's legal immigration system. It should require 11 million undocumented people to register with the government, pay taxes and fines, work, and learn English. Then they do not go to the front of the line, they go to the back of the line and work their way up.

Some Republicans have suggested a solution to the DREAMers' terrible dilemma should have come from Congress, not the President. I have talked about that today already.

I repeat, it is Republican opposition that has prevented Congress from acting. In fact, Senate Republicans have blocked the DREAM Act twice. Many Republicans who once said they favored a long-term fix for America's broken immigration system are now abandoning efforts to find common ground.

It was interesting to note that on one of the Sunday shows yesterday, the former Governor of Massachusetts refused to answer the question when asked four times by Bob Schieffer: What is your proposal? He would not answer four times. We all know he said if the DREAM Act passed he would veto it. But he is saying: Why don't you work it out in Congress? But he is saying: If you do, I am going to veto it.

Obviously, efforts to find common ground have been abandoned. So the President took decisive action in offering this directive. But he can only do so much by himself. So for Astrid's sake and for the sake of every American, it is time for Congress to become part of the solution.

I hope my Republican colleagues will finally join Democrats to find a bipartisan way to mend this Nation's flawed immigration system instead of just complaining about the system being broken. The pathway is there. We know what needs to be done. We just need a little help from our Republican colleagues.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESPONDING TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I want to respond today to some statements President Obama has been making on the campaign trail regarding debt, spending, and taxes during his administration.

Last week, the President said he should not be blamed for the massive debt and spending in recent years because, in his words, it was all ''baked into the cake'' when he took office. He also contended that his administration has done the responsible thing in taking steps to fix our Nation's fiscal problems. Here is the totality of what the President said:

> I love it when these guys talk about debt and deficits. I inherited a trillion dollar deficit. We signed $2 trillion of spending cuts into law. Spending under my administration has grown more slowly than under any President in the last 60 years. They baked all this stuff into the cake with the tax cuts and the war.

I would like to respond to each of the President's comments. First, on deficits and debt, President Obama is not the reformer he makes himself out to be. Since he took office, the national debt has climbed by $5 trillion. It is now larger than the entire economy. If we take his entire 4 years and all of the Presidents before him, he has incurred as much debt as all of the Presidents, from George Washington through George W. Bush, just in his time as President.

Yearly deficits, which is the gap between revenues and spending, have grown substantially as well. Despite a promise to cut the deficit in half by the end of his first term, the President has run annual deficits in excess of $1 trillion for 4 years in a row. None of this has anything to do with what happened before he became President. So how about after he became President?

According to the President's own budget numbers, in 2009, the first year of his Presidency, the deficit was $1.4 trillion. In 2010 the deficit was $1.3 trillion. In 2011 it, again, was $1.3 trillion.

If the President's policies are followed, the deficit this year is expected to top $1.3 trillion. Those are all in the years when he was President.

The highest deficit under President Bush, his predecessor, was $458 billion, and that was in 2008. Every deficit under President Obama has been more than double that figure. But President Obama says he is blameless when it comes to the debt problem? Not hardly. He never even submitted a plan to come close to balancing the budget, even with the massive tax hike he supports.

As Washington Post columnist Dana Milbank wrote last week:

> Despite [the President's] claim that ''both parties have laid out their policies on the table,'' President Obama has made no serious proposal to fix the runaway entitlement programs that threaten to swamp the government's finances.

Dana Milbank is not a conservative Republican.

Second, let's take a look at the President's claim that spending during his Presidency has grown more slowly than during any Presidency in the last 60 years. That claim does not pass the smell test.

Keith Hennessey, former Director of the National Economic Council, is one of many observers who has debunked this claim.

First, as Hennessey notes, the President's claim is based on a discredited article that suggests he isn't actually accountable for anything that happened before October 1, 2009. That is the start of the fiscal year. But, of course, he took office almost 9 months before that time.

In other words, that timetable excludes the auto bailouts, the first year of the stimulus bill—which, of course, was President Obama's legislation—the bailouts of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and a lot of other things. As Hennessey writes, this date was ''cherry-picked . . . to make President Obama's record look good.''

I would ask: Does President Obama also disclaim anything to do with the auto bailouts that occurred during that same period of time? No, last time I heard, he was bragging about that. That is the height of cherry picking. The things that make you look good, you take; the things that make you look bad, you reject. You can't have it both ways.

Second, the President actually proposed spending far higher than was enacted into law. For example, his latest budget request proposed spending of $3.72 trillion in fiscal year 2013. But the President is taking credit for spending in the CBO baseline which is $3.58 trillion, which is somewhat less than the $3.72 trillion he proposed. So the President wanted to spend more but was restrained by the Republicans in the House of Representatives in Congress.

Mr. Hennessey also explains how the President's spending claim collapses once you take three basic errors into account. He writes:

> If you instead do this calculation the right way and measure the average annual growth rate from fiscal year 2008 to CBO scoring of the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2013, you get an average annual growth rate of Federal spending of 4.5 percent. That is a nominal growth rate, so the real growth rate will be in the 2s.

Finally, on spending, it is inaccurate to measure a President's record without looking at the overall size and scope of government. President Obama's preference for big government is obvious to everyone. He usually argues for it. He doesn't argue he is for a smaller or less active government. Well, the historical average of spending to gross domestic product before President Obama took office was roughly 20.6 percent.

So how does President Obama's record stack up? Here is the breakdown of spending to gross domestic product. These are the ratios during the Obama years. Remember now, this is compared to the historical average of 20.6 percent. In 2009, his first year, 25.2 percent; next, 2010, 24.1 percent; in 2011, 24.1 percent again; and an estimate for this year, 2012, is 24.3 percent.

All of these figures are substantially higher than the historical average of spending at 20 percent. So his spending every year he has been in office, including the projected spending this year, will be far greater than the historical average.

And lastly, in the President's budget request for fiscal year 2013, which would be next year, the spending averages 22.5 percent—still above the 20-percent historical figure.

So it is no wonder President Obama doesn't want to run on his real spending record, because it is not one of fiscal constraint.

Third, I want to address the President's claim that the tax relief Congress enacted in 2001 and 2003 somehow played an outsized role in driving up the debt. We have heard him talk about this—if it weren't for the Bush tax cuts, he said we would be closer to having a balanced budget. Not true. The records for this come from the nonpartisan referees at the Congressional Budget Office. These are not partisan people—not on one side or the other—and they have shown what we have is a spending problem, not a revenue problem.

In May of 2011, CBO released an analysis showing that nearly 50 percent of the cumulative budget deficit since 2001 is due to increased government spending, 28 percent of it is due to economic and technical corrections, and 11 percent is due to temporary stimulus-like tax provisions. The 2001 and 2003 tax relief to which President Obama refers—which, by the way, is the same tax relief he extended for 2 years about a year and a half ago—accounts for how much? Just 14 percent of the deficit since 2001 and 2003.

So, far from being the cause of the deficit, it only accounts for 14 percent of the deficit. It is inaccurate for the President to place the blame for his spending records on broad-based progrowth tax relief that has helped to create jobs and economic growth in this country prior to the last downturn—and that he himself supported extending.

Additionally, the recently released ''Long-Term Budget Outlook'' estimates that tax revenues will exceed the historical average in the next 10 years if this same tax policy—the 2001 and 2003 tax relief—is extended, and if Congress prevents the alternative minimum tax from hitting millions of additional middle-class families. And that is what Republicans have been supporting all along. So we will get back to the historical average of revenues raised.

We all know robust economic growth is the most effective way to reduce our debt and that raising taxes will not achieve that goal. Failure to stop this tax-driven fiscal cliff could push us into another recession next year, again according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. It would result in a $4.59 trillion tax hike on individuals, families, businesses, and investors over the next decade. We have said that is the largest tax increase in the history of our country—over $4.5 trillion. If we are serious about increasing tax revenues through economic growth, avoiding a recession is a good place to start.

Republicans are happy to debate President Obama on the best way to create jobs and to get our country back on sound fiscal footing. But in order to do so, we need to get the facts straight first. President Obama has not lived up to his promise to cut the deficit. He has not reduced spending in any meaningful way. And tax relief is not the main reason why we are in the red today.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AGRICULTURE REFORM

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the critically important piece of legislation currently before the Senate, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act. But first I would like to thank Senators STABENOW and ROBERTS for the great work they have done to get us to this point in the reauthorization process.

The bill as reported out of the Agriculture Committee saves taxpayers more than $23 billion over the next 10 years and will support millions of jobs. With this bill, we are taking several important steps in making our farm support system more responsive to actual need rather than sending payments to producers no matter what

they grow. We are long past due in eliminating direct payments. At the same time, we are maintaining a strong crop insurance program and creating a new system that makes assistance available to producers when they actually experience a loss.

Another important area of reform in this bill is payment limitations and ensuring that actual farmers receive payments. Senator GRASSLEY and I have worked for years to lower the caps on our farm program payments and to direct payments to family farmers. The new Agriculture Risk Coverage Program contains a cap of $50,000 and requires that program payment recipients contribute labor to the farm operation. Current law has enabled multiple farm managers in an operation to qualify for separate farm program payments with as little participation as one conference call a year. Not anymore under this bill. I am disappointed that there have been amendments filed to weaken this language. I don't understand how anyone can stand before this body and justify sending Federal farm program payments to people who aren't engaged in agriculture. Our country faces serious fiscal challenges, and it seems to me that limiting farm payments to real farmers is a reasonable concept. I urge my colleagues to oppose efforts to weaken this language.

With this bill we are also taking important steps to combine and streamline our conservation programs, while still allowing us to continue meeting the same land, water, and wildlife goals. Additionally, this bill contains a sodsaver provision that will discourage the breaking of native sod for crop production.

One area of the bill with which I am disappointed is that it does not contain a livestock title. However, I have joined with some of my colleagues in filing amendments to give our independent livestock producers a fair shake in the marketplace. Along with Senator GRASSLEY and others, I have worked for more than a decade to prohibit the ownership of livestock by the big meatpackers for more than 14 days prior to slaughter. Additionally, I have joined with Senator ENZI in filing an amendment to require more transparency in the use of forward contracts in the livestock markets. These are important provisions that I hope my colleagues will support.

I also applaud the committee's work on the energy and rural development titles, which strengthen our rural economies. The Rural Development water and wastewater program has been a critical funding source to help alleviate a severe water infrastructure need on the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation. I hope my colleagues will act favorably on Senator BROWN's amendment that I have cosponsored to bolster this and other Rural Development programs.

Finally, I would like to commend efforts to address the pine beetle epidemic in the forestry title of this bill. The underlying bill does good work to increase flexibility, and I support the efforts of Senator MARK UDALL and others to increase the resources we are providing to the Forest Service to address this threat to our forest health and public safety.

I understand that the Agriculture Committee leaders and Senate leadership have been making progress in their negotiations toward an agreement on a path forward. I hope we can avoid letting a small minority of Senators hold up progress on this bill. It is time that we act and that we give our producers certainty.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

(The remarks of Mr. MCCAIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3306 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield to the Chairman.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARY GEIGER LEWIS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, Senate Republicans announced they are going to shut down and block the confirmation process for qualified and consensus circuit nominees for the rest of the year. That is unfortunate, and it does nothing to help the American people or our courts. The courts continue to be overburdened while consensus nominees for vacancies that could be filled are being stalled. In some cases for nominees, we have two Republican Senators from the State supporting them and others where we have a Democratic and Republican Senator supporting them. They have gone through our committee—usually by voice vote—and they are noncontroversial. I have often spoken during the last three years of the foot dragging and obstruction by Senate Republicans with respect to this President's judicial nominations.

Just last week we saw the Majority Leader file the 28th cloture petition to end another filibuster against another qualified judicial nominee. Last week it was a nominee from Arizona supported by Senator KYL and Senator MCCAIN. By their announcement, the Senate Republican leadership is saying that it will not agree to proceeding with debate and a vote on any of the four circuit court nominees voted on by the Senate Judiciary Committee. They include a nominee from Maine strongly supported by both Republican Senators from Maine, and a nominee from Oklahoma supported by the Republican Senators from that state, as well as a nominee from New Jersey and one for the Federal Circuit who was approved by all of the Republican Senators on the Judiciary Committee, except for an unrelated protest vote. This plan to shut down the confirmation process is consistent with what the partisan Senate Republican leadership did in 1996, when it would not allow any circuit nominees to be confirmed, and again at the end of President Clinton's presidency, and can be contrasted with how Democrats acted in 1992, 2004 and 2008. This is really a challenge to the Senators who have said that they will not support these filibusters and this kind of obstruction.

It is hard to see how this new application of the Thurmond rule is anything more than another name for the stalling tactics we have already seen for months and years. I have yet to hear any good reason why we should not continue to vote on well-qualified consensus nominees, as we did up until September of the last two Presidential election years when we had a Republican President. That was supported by both Democrats and Republicans—to vote up through September. I have yet to hear a good explanation why we can't work to solve the problems of high vacancies for the American people. I will continue to work with the Senate leadership to try to confirm as many of President Obama's qualified judicial nominees as possible because I hear from judges all over the country

how these judicial vacancies are burdening our courts, and American taxpayers are unable to get a court to hear their cases.

I was heartened to see the senior Senator from Maine has said she will continue to work with the bipartisan Senate leadership in an effort to bring the Maine nominee to the First Circuit before the Senate for a confirmation vote. I trust that many Republican Senators who joined Senator KYL and Senator MCCAIN in opposing the filibuster of Justice Hurwitz will now join to oppose the filibusters of William Kayatta of Maine, Judge Robert Bacharach of Oklahoma, Judge Shwartz of New Jersey, and Richard Taranto for the Federal Circuit. I hope the Senators from South Carolina, whose State's nominee we consider today, will aid this effort just as we worked with them throughout the process to ensure they were consulted by the President. In fact, I personally requested the President consult with Republican Senators when they were going to have a nominee from their home State. I hope they are going to show that same courtesy to other Senators.

Senate Republicans were talking about shutting down the confirmation process from the beginning of this year, as I chronicled in my statement on February 7 on their obstruction and delay. They slow walked nominees who should have been confirmed last year into May of this year. And now, one month later, they announce that they are closing the gates on progress. The article by John Stanton in Roll Call on June 14 blew the whistle on their plan. The banner headline notes the ''GOP . . . Judge Blockade'' but it is not just beginning. It began from the moment the President was elected.

I think this pattern of obstruction—and I say this more out of sadness than anything else—has been as transparent as the Senate Republican leader's statement that ''the single most important thing [Senate Republicans] want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term President.'' Just as they obstruct his qualified judicial nominees, they have also rejected virtually every effort this President has made to improve the economy and create jobs. They have become the party of no—no help for the American people, no to jobs, no to economic recovery, no to police, firefighters, and teachers, no to those students who are seeking help to pay for education, no to consumer protection, no to assisting State and local governments, no to the highway bill, and no to any more judges.

Never mind that the American people rely on our courts for justice and that the courts are overburdened with vacancies and that we have 17 judicial nominees voted out of the Judiciary Committee waiting for Senate confirmation.

The idea that Senate Republicans would oppose a proposal, bill or nomination simply because it comes from this President is sadly no surprise. Republicans objected to extending the payroll tax cut even though they ultimately supported it. Republicans have also come to reject ideas and proposals that originated from their own party simply because this President supports them. This was the case with the individual mandate for healthcare, which was a Republican idea. So it should come as no surprise that Republicans have been obstructing President Obama's judicial nominees since the President first took office.

Regrettably, the obstruction of judicial nominations is just one more example of Republicans saying no or simply going slow. They are saying no to the police, firefighters, teachers, students, consumer protection, and to those 50 States that want to go forward with highway bills.

I hear from Vermonters—Republicans and Democrats alike—and they cannot wait while politics trump sound policy efforts in Washington. It is time for a reality check.

While our economy is showing some signs of progress since the economic collapse four years ago, there is no doubt domestic job growth has not been as strong as we had hoped. Even though we have under 5 percent unemployment in Vermont, we still have too many Vermonters looking for work. We have to continue looking for ways to spur job growth and economic investment in this country. Unfortunately, efforts in Congress to increase jobs, reduce unemployment, and support hardworking American families struggling to keep food on their tables and roofs over their heads meet with partisan obstruction too.

While Congress delays, the clock is ticking down for the millions of Americans struggling to afford college and those struggling to pay back student loans once they have graduated. In less than two weeks, student loan interest rates will double, threatening to make student loan debt an almost insurmountable obstacle to accessing a college education. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans continue to filibuster commonsense legislation to address this looming deadline.

In less than 2 weeks, millions of jobs will be put on hold when critical transportation programs, including funding for the highway trust fund, expire. Failing to pass a long-term transportation bill jeopardizes thousands of construction and development projects, impacting millions of jobs in every single State in this country. These programs impact every one of our states—which means more jobs lost in an already weak economy. The Senate has passed a bill to bring certainty to this fund for two years. We are still waiting for the House Republican leadership to act on that legislation.

In a little over 1 month, important legislation to extend the National Flood Insurance Program will expire. The failure to reauthorize this important program puts at risk the sale of thousands of homes at a time when our housing market is still trying to recover. The program expired in 2008, and subsists now on a series of short term extensions. A five-year extension is pending before Congress; Senate Republicans have delayed consideration of that important legislation, too.

Meanwhile, in this election year, Republicans in Congress are more intent on extending the Bush-era tax cuts that contributed to the financial crisis facing us today than in working together to move forward with reasonable policies to bolster economic growth and development. Extending to the wealthiest Americans a lower tax rate will not lead to job creation. These tax cuts have not led to job creation. Meanwhile, businesses continue to shutter their doors, costing communities jobs and economic development.

I know I raised the question at the time when Congress voted to go to war in Iraq—a war I voted against—that they were going to do it by borrowing the money, the same in Afghanistan. Never before in this Nation have we gone to war and borrowed the money. We have had a tax to pay for it. So we lose $1 trillion in Iraq and at least $½ trillion so far in Afghanistan.

If we want to cast partisan politics aside and have a consensus on meaningful jobs and job preservation legislation, we can do so. We have shown how to do it. The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act is one of the best examples of laws enacted in this Congress to promote our American economy and create American jobs. The Republican chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and I in the Senate brought together Republicans and Democrats in both bodies, and we passed the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act. Unfortunately, it was only one of the few job-creating bills enacted in this Congress.

The outlook this Congress need not be gloom and doom. Working together, we can enact meaningful legislation to close the loopholes that incentivize companies to ship jobs overseas. We can bolster the middle class, rather than the wealthiest one percent of Americans, by promoting job creation through small business development. We can ensure that students graduating from school are not saddled with student loans, the interest rates on which are simply too high to afford. We can do all this, today.

I am disheartened that the Republican leaders in Congress have said they are simply done legislating for the year. The reality check is that Vermonters and other Americans of all States cannot wait. President Obama has signaled his commitment to moving forward with job-creating legislation to get Americans back to work and to protect America's leadership in the global marketplace. We should move on that. Let the two candidates for President argue, let them state their positions, and let the voters decide which one they want to vote for. In the meantime, when we have legislation to put Americans to work, let's

put politics aside and focus on the right policies, on the needs of the American people. All of us—Republicans and Democrats alike—should act on behalf of the people who sent us. It is past time for that work to begin.

Shutting down judicial confirmations makes no sense when the judicial vacancy rate remains almost twice what it was at this point in the first term of President Bush. Senate Republicans were successful in keeping it near or above 80 for three years. Nearly one out of every 11 Federal courts is currently vacant. As a current report from the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service confirms, not a single one of the last three presidents has had judicial vacancies increase after their first term. President Obama will likely be the first given partisan obstruction. The same recent CRS report notes that the median time circuit nominees have had to wait before a Senate vote has skyrocketed from 18 days for President Bush's nominees to 132 days for President Obama's. This is the result of Republican foot dragging and obstruction. Last year Senate Republicans again refused to act on 19 judicial nominees and delayed consideration of those nominations an extra year.

Three of the five circuit court judges finally confirmed this year after months of unnecessary delays and a filibuster should have been confirmed last year. The other two circuit court nominees confirmed this year were both subjected to stalling and a partisan filibuster by Senate Republicans. So when I hear some Senate Republicans say they are invoking the Thurmond Rule and have decided they are not going to allow President Obama's judicial nominees to be considered, I wonder how the American people can tell the difference. There are longstanding vacancies with nominees ready to fill them that Republicans are delaying unnecessarily for months. How do we tell the difference between the Republican obstruction—that was signaled when they filibustered President Obama's very first circuit court nominee, a nomination supported by the longest-serving Republican in the Senate and the nominee's home state Senator—and this new application of the Thurmond Rule?

Last week we needed to overcome a filibuster to confirm Justice Andrew Hurwitz of Arizona to the Ninth Circuit despite the strong support of his home state Senators, Republicans JON KYL and JOHN MCCAIN. Last month the Majority Leader had to file cloture to secure an up-or-down vote on Paul Watford of California to the Ninth Circuit despite his sterling credentials and bipartisan support. The year started with the Majority Leader having to file for cloture to get an up-or-down vote on Judge Adalberto Jordan of Florida to the Eleventh Circuit even though he was strongly supported by his Republican home state Senator. Every single one of these nominees for whom the Majority Leader was forced to file cloture was rated unanimously well qualified by the nonpartisan ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the highest possible rating. And every one of them was nominated to fill a judicial emergency vacancy.

Did Republicans secretly invoke the Thurmond Rule before this year even started, when they departed from the Senate's traditional practice and would not consent to confirm 19 judicial nominees that were on the calendar at the end of last year? Up until last month, we were considering nominees that could and should have been confirmed last year. Given that we have only confirmed eight judicial nominees that were reported by the Committee this year and only two of them circuit court nominees it seems oddly premature to declare an artificial cut-off of confirmations when our work this year has only just begun. Among those now being blockaded are nominees waiting since March of this year. So by delaying last year's nominees until May, Senate Republicans effectively prevented consideration of the Shwartz, Taranto and Kayatta nominations for months after being voted out of the Judiciary Committee. The Senate Republican leadership is not shutting off circuit nominees just after June 12, they are blocking nominees ready for consideration since early March of this year.

In 2004, a Presidential election year, the Senate confirmed five circuit court nominees of a Republican President that had been reported by the Committee that year. This year we have confirmed only two circuit court nominees that have been reported by the Committee this year, and both were filibustered. By this date in 2004 the Senate had already confirmed 32 of President Bush's circuit court nominees, and we confirmed another three that year for a total of 35 circuit court nominees in his first term. So far, the Senate has only been allowed to consider and confirm 30 of President Obama's circuit court nominees five fewer, 17 percent fewer while higher numbers of vacancies remain, and yet the Senate Republican leadership wants to artificially shut off nominations with no good reason.

There is no reason that the Senate could not vote on consensus circuit court nominees thoroughly vetted, considered and voted on by the Judiciary Committee. There is no reason the Senate cannot vote on the nomination of William Kayatta of Maine to the First Circuit, a nominee strongly supported by both of Maine's Republican Senators and reported nearly unanimously by the Committee two months ago. There is no reason the Senate cannot vote on the nomination of Judge Robert Bacharach of Oklahoma to the Tenth Circuit, who was supported by Senator COBURN during Committee consideration. Senator COBURN said that Judge Bacharach would make a great nominee for a Republican president. So why is the Republican leadership playing politics with his nomination?

There is also no reason the Senate cannot vote on Richard Taranto's nomination to the Federal Circuit. He was reported almost unanimously by voice vote nearly three months ago, and was supported by conservatives such as Robert Bork and Paul Clement. The Federal Circuit has never been controversial before. The one circuit court nominee who was reported out of Committee with a split roll call vote Judge Shwartz of New Jersey should not have been controversial, as seen by the bipartisan support she has received from New Jersey's Republican Governor Chris Christie.

Every circuit court nominee that Senate Republicans currently refuse to consent to vote on have been rated unanimously ''well qualified'' by the nonpartisan ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the highest possible rating. These are not controversial nominees. They are qualified and should be considered as consensus nominees and confirmed. By invoking the Thurmond Rule, Senate Republicans are blocking consent to vote on superbly qualified circuit court nominees with strong bipartisan support. This is a new and damaging application of the Thurmond Rule.

Senate tradition has been that in Presidential election years, nominees receive a vote unless they do not have bipartisan support. In the past five presidential election years, Senate Democrats have never denied an up or down vote to any circuit court nominee of a Republican president who received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee. In fact, during the last 20 years, only four circuit nominees reported with bipartisan support have been denied an up-or-down vote by the Senate and all four were nominated by President Clinton and blocked by Senate Republicans. While Senate Democrats have been willing to work with Republican presidents to confirm circuit court nominees with bipartisan support, Senate Republicans have repeatedly obstructed the nominees of Democratic presidents. In the previous five presidential election years, a total of 13 circuit court nominees have been confirmed after June 1. Not surprisingly, 12 of the 13 were Republican nominees. Clearly, this is not tit-for-tat as some contend but, rather, a one way street in favor of Republican presidents' nominees.

The precedent for this decision by Senate Republican Leadership to shutdown the confirmation process for well-qualified consensus nominees is their prior actions obstructing President Clinton's nominees. Senator SCHUMER held a Judiciary Committee hearing in May 2002 to shed light on the harmful and damaging practice of stalling and obstructing qualified, consensus nominees that had occurred during the last years of the Clinton administration. Of course, there was the nomination of Bonnie Campbell of Iowa to the Eighth

Circuit. Ms. Campbell was the first woman ever elected to be Attorney General of Iowa. She was also once named by Time Magazine as one of the 25 most influential people in America. She served as President Clinton's head of the Office on Violence Against Women. Despite having the support of her home state Senators, Senator GRASSLEY and Senator HARKIN, she never received a Committee vote after her hearing.

How ironic that last week the junior Senator from Utah tried to claim credit for progress this year by comparing confirmations to the 1996 session. The Senate Republican majority that year stalled most of President Clinton's nominees and would not allow the confirmation of any circuit court nominees. That is not a record to be proud of but a record that led to Chief Justice Rehnquist criticizing the Senate Republicans for their obstruction. This should not be a race to the bottom but that seems to be the intent of Senate Republicans.

By contrast, if we look at the last two presidential election years, we will see we were able to bring the number of judicial vacancies down to the lowest levels in the past 20 years. In 2004 at end of President Bush's first term, vacancies were reduced to 28 not the 75 at which they are today. In 2008, in the last year of President Bush's second term, we again worked to fill vacancies and got them down to 34, less than half of what they are today. In 2004, 25 nominees were confirmed between June and the presidential election, and in 2008, 22 nominees were confirmed between June and the presidential election.

The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service recently released a report confirming that judicial nominees continue to be confirmed in presidential election years, except it seems when there is a Democratic President. In five of the last eight presidential election years, the Senate has confirmed at least 22 circuit and district court nominees after May 31. The notable exceptions were during the last years of President Clinton's two terms in 1996 and 2000 when Senate Republicans would not allow confirmations to continue. Otherwise, it has been the rule rather than the exception. So, for example, the Senate confirmed 32 in 1980; 28 in 1984; 31 in 1992; 28 in 2004 at the end of President George W. Bush's first term; and 22 after May 31 in 2008 at the end of President Bush's second term.

We have heard lots of excuses from Senate Republicans, who have tried to shift the blame for the judicial vacancy crisis to the President—much as they try to blame him for the debt of European countries and other matters. They claim that the President has not made enough nominations. With last week's announcement that Senate Republicans refuse to confirm any more circuit court nominees, that excuse melts away. There are nominees ready to be confirmed and the reason they are not being considered is Republican obstruction. This is wrong. I wish they would not put politics ahead of the needs of the American people.

The across-the-board obstruction of President Obama's nominees is not the product of a Thurmond Rule to limit confirmations at the end of presidential election years to nominees with bipartisan support. Rather this is a continuation of obstruction that began as soon as this President was elected. Senate Republicans insisted that filibusters of President Bush's judicial nominees were unconstitutional, yet they reversed course and filibustered President Obama's very first judicial nomination, that of Judge David Hamilton of Indiana, a widely-respected 15-year veteran of the Federal bench nominated to the Seventh Circuit and who had the support of his home state Senator, the longest-serving Republican in the Senate. Senate Republicans filibustered the nomination of Judge Barbara Keenan of Virginia to the Fourth Circuit before she was confirmed 99–0, and the nomination of Judge Denny Chin of New York to the Second Circuit was filibustered before he was confirmed 98–0 after four months of needless delays.

At a time when judicial vacancies remained historically high for three years, with 30 more vacancies and 30 fewer confirmations than at this point in President Bush's first term, I would hope the Senate Republican leadership would reconsider and work with us on filling these longstanding judicial vacancies to help the American people. We have well-qualified, consensus nominees with bipartisan support who can fill these vacancies. It is only partisan politics and continued tactics of obstruction that stand in the way.

Is it any wonder why Congress is so unpopular? I take no comfort in the rise in the congressional approval rating—it is from 9 percent to 17 percent. This is this kind of obstruction that turns off the American people. Stop the senseless obstruction—whether you call it the Thurmond Rule or not—and start helping the American people by easing the burden on them and the courts around the country.

Today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Mary Geiger Lewis to fill a judicial vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina. Ms. Lewis has the support of her Republican home state Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. Her nomination was voted on and received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee over three months ago. I thank the Majority Leader for his work in securing a vote on this nomination.

Mary Lewis has worked in private practice for over 25 years at the law firm Lewis & Babcock LLP, and has tried approximately 15 cases to verdict or final judgment. Born in Columbia, South Carolina, she earned her J.D. from the University of South Carolina and served as a law clerk to Judge Owens Taylor Cobb in the South Carolina Judicial Department. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Ms. Lewis ''qualified'' to serve on the district court. I support Ms. Lewis and hope she will be confirmed.

I also hope that Senate Republicans will reconsider their wrongheaded move to shut down the confirmation of consensus, well-qualified circuit court nominees. Given our overburdened Federal courts and the need to provide all Americans with prompt justice, we should all be working in a bipartisan fashion to confirm these nominees.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today the Senate turns to another judicial nomination, that of Mary Geiger Lewis, to be U.S. district judge for the District of South Carolina. Once again, for the third time this month, we have a nonconsensus nominee brought before the Senate. I oppose this nomination and urge all Senators to do likewise.

We continue to confirm the President's nominees at a brisk pace. We already confirmed 149 nominees of this President to the district and circuit courts. We also have confirmed two Supreme Court nominees during President Obama's term.

For those who claim this President is being treated differently, let me put that in perspective for my colleagues, with an apples-to-apples comparison. The last time the Senate confirmed two Supreme Court nominees was during President Bush's second term. During President Bush's entire second term, the Senate confirmed a total of only 119 district and circuit court nominees. If Ms. Lewis is confirmed today, we will have confirmed 31 more district and circuit nominees for President Obama than we did for President Bush, in similar circumstances.

During the last Presidential election year, 2008, the Senate confirmed a total of 28 judges—24 district and 4 circuit. With a confirmation today, we will match that number. We have already confirmed five circuit nominees, and this will be the 23rd district judge confirmed this year.

Some have complained about the length of time to confirm these judges, focusing only on one phase of the confirmation process.

In reality, the timeframes are comparable for nomination to confirmation. For President Bush, that time frame was around 211 days; for President Obama, it is 222 days.

We take this time for review because our inquiry of the qualifications of nominees must be rigorous. At the beginning of this Congress, I articulated my standards for judicial nominees. I want to ensure that the men and women who are appointed to a lifetime position in the Federal judiciary are qualified to serve. Factors I consider important include intellectual ability, respect for the Constitution, fidelity to the law, personal integrity, appropriate judicial temperament, and professional competence.

Last year, I became increasingly concerned about some of the judicial nominations being sent to the Senate. In a few individual cases, it was very troublesome. The nomination of Ms. Lewis was one of those that gave me concern. When applying the standards I have articulated, it is my judgment that Ms. Lewis falls short and should not be confirmed.

The Senate process for reviewing the professional qualifications, temperament, background, and character is a long and thorough process. These issues need to be fully examined; nominations are not just rubberstamped.

At the conclusion of that lengthy process, a substantial majority of Republicans on the Judiciary Committee determined that this nomination should not be reported to the Senate.

Nevertheless, we now have the nomination before us. Even so, there are reasons sufficient to oppose this nominee. Ms. Lewis has limited courtroom experience and little criminal law experience. Her responses in her questionnaire and hearing regarding her legal experience indicated her significant cases were handled more than 10 years ago and was more of a team effort than individual experience. At her hearing she was not prepared to discuss the legal principles involved in a case her firm took to the Supreme Court. For these reasons and others, I will vote nay on this nomination and urge my colleagues to do likewise.

I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. I ask that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina?

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Akaka	Gillibrand	Murray
Alexander	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Ayotte	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Hoeven	Pryor
Begich	Hutchison	Reed
Bennet	Inouye	Reid
Bingaman	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Kerry	Sanders
Boxer	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown (MA)	Kohl	Shaheen
Brown (OH)	Landrieu	Snowe
Cantwell	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Collins	Lugar	Warner
Conrad	Manchin	Webb
Coons	McCain	Whitehouse
Corker	Menendez	Wicker
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Franken	Murkowski	

NAYS—27

Barrasso	DeMint	Lee
Blunt	Enzi	McConnell
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Burr	Hatch	Portman
Chambliss	Heller	Risch
Coats	Inhofe	Roberts
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Cornyn	Johanns	Shelby
Crapo	Kyl	Thune

NOT VOTING—9

Casey	Kirk	Rubio
Harkin	McCaskill	Toomey
Johnson (WI)	Moran	Vitter

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER.

HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Force Base in Massachusetts and its role in our Nation's cybersecurity.

I want to clarify a situation we face as a nation. First, the Secretary of Defense has said loudly and clearly that the threat of cyber attacks on our country and the need for America to develop strong military capabilities keeps him up at night, and it keeps me and many other people up as well. We read about the cyber attacks by the Chinese, and we read about Iran. The Secretary has described it as an evolving and urgent threat in our future. Our Nation's security depends on winning the battle in cyberspace.

Unfortunately, the Air Force is in the midst of a four-structure change that ignores the crucial facts I have just stated. At a time when cyber threats are growing more important each day, the Air Force is making questionable decisions that, in my opinion, create an unnecessary risk to our Nation's cyber defenses and our ability to deal with those very threats. It makes absolutely no sense at this point in time.

That is why just a few weeks ago the House and Senate Armed Services Committee took strong action to prevent what the entire Massachusetts delegation believed was a premature proposal by the Air Force to reduce Hanscom's leadership from a three-star general to a two-star general.

The elimination of the ESC commander position at Hanscom will diminish our cyber capabilities and focus across the entire force, and that is not good at this point in time. That is the last thing we need in the midst of a cyber attack.

In response, Representative TSONGAS of Massachusetts inserted a provision in this year's National Defense Authorization Act that was passed by the full House of Representatives which required the Secretary of the Air Force to remain and retain core functions at Hanscom as they existed on November 1, 2011. Her language was aimed at retaining Hanscom's three-star leadership.

Similarly, I worked with Senator LIEBERMAN and our Senate Armed Services Committee to include language in the Senate Armed Services markup reported version of the Defense authorization bill that directs the Air Force to keep in place the current leadership rank structure until the two defense committees have had an opportunity to review the recommendations of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force.

Given Secretary Panetta's warning, I believe we must pay particular attention to any changes that relate to cybersecurity. The Massachusetts delegation has been united in declaring that both Hanscom's mission and the senior leadership should be preserved in order to bring forth the best cyber capabilities our country has to offer.

Both defense committees have spoken with one voice to the Air Force: Stand down with this change until both committees receive more information about how the proposed force structure changes will impact our cybersecurity.

I also wish to explain why the delegation feels so strongly about this. Massachusetts has been a national security and information technology leader for many decades. Groundbreaking innovation in cybersecurity is taking place in

Massachusetts as we speak—perhaps more than any other State in our entire Nation. That innovation is happening at Hanscom, at universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and in our defense sector. Our capabilities are second to none.

The Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom has unlimited potential to take on future missions and future threats in the realm of cybersecurity. The Air Force and the MIT Lincoln Lab are now upgrading their partnership to enhance our Nation's ability to meet key and growing cyber requirements. The Department of Defense and the Air Force continue to depend on Hanscom's unmatched cyber expertise.

To ensure our Nation's crucial cyber defense, I say again very firmly today that the Air Force must preserve the senior three-star leadership in Massachusetts. Doesn't it make sense for our military's cyber leadership, expertise, and talent to be based in a location where some of the world's most leading research and technological development is actually taking place? Placing Hanscom's cyber team under a chain of command with a 3-star general in another State with a number of other Air Force responsibilities diminishes our Nation's ability to deliver critical cyber tools and resources and impacts our ability to respond to the ever-growing cyber threat.

Congress has spoken in a bipartisan and bicameral way. We have stated our position clearly. The Air Force should not move forward with any force structure changes at Hanscom until Congress has had an opportunity to review what our appropriate force structure mix should be, particularly as it relates to cybersecurity. We absolutely, positively must be ready to meet this next-generation threat—the one that keeps Secretary Panetta up at night. I will continue to fight to make sure we are prepared.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise today in support of a resolution I am cosponsoring to commemorate Juneteenth Independence Day.

In just 2 weeks, Americans will gather, of course, as we know, to celebrate the Fourth of July, but it is important to remember that when our Nation gained its independence, there were some 450,000 enslaved people in the 13 States. It wasn't until June 19, 1865, more than 2 years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which liberated a limited number of people, that enslaved people in the Southwestern States finally learned of their freedom.

Months after the 13th amendment was ratified, Army MG Gordon Granger and Federal troops arrived in Galveston, TX, to enforce emancipation. Since then, Americans in Texas and throughout the United States have celebrated Juneteenth, which is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in our country.

To celebrate that day, people from all backgrounds—not only African Americans and not only descendants of slaves but people of all backgrounds and ethnicities—will gather in special places all over Ohio. They will gather at Franklin Park in Columbus, our State capital. They will gather at ''The Coming of Emancipation'' memorial service in Oberlin, just a few miles from my house, the site of visits from Martin Luther King and the site of the Underground Railroad where those escaping slavery were housed on their way to Canada. Ohioans will reflect in Westwood Cemetery in Oberlin, where former slaves and famous abolitionists are buried. At Cincinnati's Juneteenth Festival in Eden Park, families and visitors will gather on one of the hilltops overlooking the Ohio River, which slaves saw while coming from Kentucky into freedom as they crossed the river into the North. They will remember the perilous journey to freedom that many made at the banks of that river. In Wilberforce, an African-American school—a university in southwest Ohio—and Zanesville, in Newcomerstown and Cleveland, Ohioans will hold ceremonies of remembrance and celebration.

On Juneteenth Independence Day, especially, we have yet another opportunity to celebrate our great Democratic traditions—our American ingenuity, innovation, and imagination. We celebrate the rich heritage and vibrant culture of all Americans who are descendants of enslaved people on American soil. We celebrate the ingenuity of Ohioans such as Columbus native Granville T. Woods, who invented the telegraph device that sent messages from moving trains and train stations. We celebrate the innovation of Ohioans such as Garrett Morgan, a Clevelander who invented the traffic light. We celebrate the imagination and wisdom of Ohioans such as Nobel Prize-winning and recent Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree Toni Morrison of Lorain, OH.

In America, progress is never promised, but through the work of dedicated citizens, we move closer to being the Nation our Framers envisioned. We can work together toward achieving a more perfect union, where justice isn't limited to the powerful but is also accessible to the people.

Today I am proud to commemorate Juneteenth Independence Day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UTILITY MACT

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, as we know, the Senate will take a vote this week on the CRA that I have offered concerning Utility MACT. Utility MACT is a requirement. MACT, of course—M–A–C–T—means maximum achievable controlled technology. One of the problems with the overregulation we have with a lot of these emissions is that there is no technology to accommodate this. In the case of Utility MACT, I think everyone understands now that this is an effort to kill coal. I know there are a lot of reasons people have, but recently some things have happened, and I thought I would mention them as we look toward this bill. It looks as though it is going to be on Wednesday. It looks as if there will be some speaking time on Tuesday, and on Wednesday we will actually have the vote.

As we all know, a CRA is an effort for elected officials to reflect upon overregulation and to stop a regulation. After all, we are the ones who are accountable to the people and not the Environmental Protection Agency.

The breaking news is that President Obama just issued a statement this afternoon that he will veto my resolution if it passes. Just before that announcement from the White House this afternoon, Representatives ED MARKEY and HENRY WAXMAN came out fighting with a new report detailing what Representative WAXMAN has called the most anti-environmental House of Representatives in history. I wish to remind my Democratic friends that 19 House Democrats supported the companion legislation in the House—the same thing we will be voting on here. Democrats and many of the labor unions have sent letters in support of my resolution, so it is not just Republicans whose constituents are feeling the pain of the EPA's regulations.

To my Democratic friends in the House, I beg to differ—it is not that this Congress is anti-environmental; it is that the EPA is the most radical EPA in history, aggressive to the point that even the left-leaning Washington Post has called out the Agency for ''earning a reputation for abuse.'' Of course, this is the same EPA whose top officials have told us they are out to crucify the American energy producers.

We all remember the sixth area of the EPA, when Mr. Armendariz came out and made this statement to some of his supporters: We need to do the same thing the Romans did. We remember back in the old days when they were going around the Mediterranean and they would go into the towns in Turkey and they would crucify the first five people they would see. That gets them under their control.

He said: That is what we have to do.

He said: That is going to be our operation.

Well, we went through that, and of course he is no longer there.

Over the course of President Obama's Presidency, whatever they could not

achieve through legislation they have tried to achieve through aggressive, onerous EPA regulations. They tried first of all to do it through legislation. Remember the cap-and-trade legislation—they tried for 10 years to get that done. Finally, each year they brought it up, more and more people in this body, the U.S. Senate, were opposed to a cap-and-trade system to do away with greenhouse gases and to put regulations on them. Well, every time a vote comes up, there is a larger majority opposed to it because the people of this country are concerned about the economy and the fact that this would be very costly. It was President Obama who said that with the cap-and-trade regulations, it would be very expensive.

Now, when they couldn't pass the Clean Water Restoration Act, the same thing happened. Remember, that was introduced by Senator Feingold from Wisconsin and by Representative Oberstar in the House. And not only did they defeat overwhelmingly the Clean Water Restoration Act, but the two individuals who were the sponsors in the House and the Senate were both defeated in the next election.

So just how radical is President Obama on environmental issues? By imposing these backdoor global warming cap-and-trade regulations through the EPA, President Obama is fulfilling his campaign promise that energy prices would necessarily skyrocket—his words. By vetoing the Keystone Pipeline, he gave the far left what one of his supporters called the biggest global warming victory in years. By finalizing the most expensive EPA rule in history, he is making good on his campaign promise that if anybody wants to build a coal-fired powerplant, they can; it is just that it will bankrupt them. And he succeeded in throwing hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars out the window on companies such as Solyndra, which he said would lead us to a brighter and more prosperous future.

But President Obama is not running on this record of accomplishments. Why? Because Americans are worse off, not better off, for it. They are out of work, and they are struggling to make ends meet under the pain of regulations that cause their energy prices to skyrocket. So he is running as far away from that radical record as possible.

So what are we trying to do in the Senate by stopping Utility MACT? We are trying to prevent the President from achieving another aspect of his radical global warming agenda and hopefully restore some sanity and balance to this out-of-control regulatory regime.

I think everyone in this body can agree that we all share a commitment to improving air quality, that it should be done in a way that doesn't harm jobs and the economy and cause electricity prices to skyrocket on every American or do away with one of the most reliable, abundant, affordable energy resources—coal. We have to keep in mind that right now, in order to run this machine called America, 50 percent of it is actually being done on coal.

I wish to address the public health debate which has long been the excuse for those in this administration who simply want to kill coal. It was certainly the excuse President Obama used today to defend his decision to veto my resolution. Let's be clear about one thing from the outset: If the effort behind Utility MACT were really about public health, then my Democratic colleagues would have joined our efforts way back in 2005 and passed the Clear Skies bill—a bill that would have put a plan in place to achieve a 70-percent reduction in mercury emissions—but they didn't. We all remember why. We wanted to include in this bill So_X, No_X, and mercury—the real pollutants—a mandatory 70-percent reduction, and they said we can't do it because we don't also have CO_2 anthropogenic gases that are covered by this bill. So it was held hostage, and consequently we weren't able to get it passed.

I can remember President Obama said:

> I voted against the Clear Skies bill. In fact, I was the deciding vote despite the fact that I'm a coal State and that half of my State thought I'd thoroughly betrayed them because I thought clean air was critical and global warming was critical.

At an Environment and Public Works hearing in April of this year, Senator BARRASSO asked Brenda Archambo from the National Wildlife Federation if the American people would have been better off if the Senate had passed the Clear Skies bill back in 2005, and her answer was ''absolutely.'' Of course, the National Wildlife Federation was not happy that we were calling attention to Ms. Archambo's admission, so over the weekend they accused my staff of twisting her words. My staff did nothing of the sort. Not only did Ms. Archambo say that mercury reductions in 2005 would absolutely have made Americans better off, she reiterated that same point later when Senator BARRASSO asked her again, ''It would have been better if they had done it in 2005?'' Ms. Archambo replied, ''Sure.'' The entire exchange from the hearing has been posted on our EPW Web site for anyone who wants to see exactly what was said.

I do not think it gets any clearer than that. Commonsense reductions earlier would have made us better off. That was 2005 when we would have had these reductions, mandatory reductions, in a very short period of time; and that time is more than 50 percent expired at this time.

In a National Wildlife Federation blog accusing me of twisting Ms. Archambo's words, the author says:

> An odd part of Sen. Inhofe's attack: He's essentially saying a 70% reduction in mercury emissions would've been just dandy, but the 91% reduction proposed by the EPA would destroy the economy. Is that really such a huge difference? Or is he just playing politics with public health?

That is a good question: What is the difference between Clear Skies and Utility MACT? It is very simple. Clear Skies would have reduced emissions dramatically—by 70 percent—now we are talking about reducing emissions on SO_X, NO_X, and mercury—but it would have done it without threatening to kill coal and the millions of jobs that coal sustains.

On the other hand, Utility MACT is specifically designed to kill coal. It makes no effort whatsoever to balance environmental protection and economic growth.

Now who is playing politics with public health? If public health were the priority, why did President Obama and his fellow Democrats vote against a 70-percent reduction way back in 2005?

What is this effort about? It is about one thing: killing coal. And killing coal is the centerpiece of their radical global warming agenda. Remember then-Senator Obama said that he voted against the health benefits in Clear Skies because he thought ''global warming was critical.'' In other words, global warming was more important than any of the considerations regarding health. And these are real pollutants: SO_X, NO_X, and mercury.

Importantly, the Senate will take this vote on my resolution just as the world leaders are gathering in Rio de Janeiro. Right now they are down there gathering at the Rio + 20 Sustainable Development Conference.

Let's remember what happened 20 years ago. In 1992, that was the conference in Rio where they all got together, and they were going to be doing all these things on anthropogenic gases and all of that. President Obama, who is now busy pretending to be a fossil fuel President to garner votes, will not be attending. But he is sending his ''green team'' to negotiate on his behalf.

What is this conference about? As Fox News reported back in April:

> The main goal of the much-touted, Rio + 20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development . . . is to make dramatic and enormously expensive changes in the way that the world does nearly everything—or, as one of the documents puts it, ''a fundamental shift in the way we think and act.''

Utility MACT is a huge part of this effort to change the way we live and to spread the wealth around, and that is what they are talking about down there. We have started invoking a new tax system.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon proposes how sustainable development challenges ''can and must be addressed.'' He included—now I am quoting him—more than $2.1 trillion a year in wealth transfers from rich countries to poorer countries, in the name of fostering ''green infrastructure,'' ''climate adaptation,'' and other ''green economy'' measures.

He is advocating for new carbon taxes—that is on us—for industrialized

countries that could cost about $250 billion a year or 0.6 percent of gross domestic product by 2020. Other environmental taxes are mentioned but not specified.

Also included are further unspecified price hikes that extend beyond fossil fuels to anything derived from agriculture, fisheries, forestry, or other kinds of land and water use, all of which would be radically reorganized. These cost changes would ''contribute to a more level playing field between the established, 'brown' technologies and newer, greener ones.''

He has advocated for major global social spending programs, including a ''social protection floor'' and ''social safety nets'' for the world's most vulnerable social groups for reasons of ''equity.''

It is all talking about more higher taxes on the developed world to go to the benefit of the underdeveloped world. This is the same thing they were talking about 20 years ago.

I think it is very timely that this is happening today. It is happening at the very moment we will be voting on Wednesday as to whether to kill coal. By the way, this is the only vote that will be taken this year or probably ever to ultimately kill coal. Once this is passed, then, of course, the contracts are all broken and we have to figure out: What are we going to do in this country? If you kill coal, how do we run this machine called America? The answer to that question is, you cannot do it.

So it is very important, and I do not think there is any doubt in anyone's mind that the real purpose of the vote that will take place on Wednesday is to kill coal in America. And America cannot provide the necessary energy to run its machine and be competitive without coal. So it is a critical vote, and it is one that I think people are aware of that is going to be taking place.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, more than two centuries ago, in the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers wrote that ''all men are created equal.'' America has sometimes fallen short of that ideal, but the history of our country has been a slow march toward equality for all.

We have seen Presidents play a key role in expanding freedom and equality. Who can forget Harry Truman's desegregation of the military, which set the stage for a Supreme Court decision and a civil rights era that has literally changed the face of America?

Last Friday was another case in point. President Barack Obama declared that his administration will no longer deport immigrant students who grew up in America. This action will give these young immigrants the chance to come out of the shadows and be part of the only country they have ever called home. With that decisive executive decision, America took another step toward fulfilling the Founders' promise of justice for all.

It has been 11 years—11 years—since I first introduced the DREAM Act—legislation that would allow a select group of immigrant students with real potential to contribute more fully to America.

The DREAM Act would give these students a chance to earn citizenship if they came to the United States as children, they have been long-term U.S. residents, they have good moral character, graduate from high school, and either complete 2 years of military service or 2 years of college.

The DREAM Act has a history of broad bipartisan support. When I first introduced it, Senator ORRIN HATCH, Republican from Utah, was my lead cosponsor. In fact, we had kind of a head to head—who was going to be the first name: HATCH or DURBIN? Since the Republicans were in the majority, I bowed toward Senator HATCH.

In 2006—when Republicans last controlled this Congress—the DREAM Act passed the Senate as part of comprehensive immigration reform on a 62-to-36 vote, with 23 Republicans voting for the DREAM Act. Unfortunately, the Republican leaders in the House refused to even consider the bill.

Republican support for the DREAM Act, unfortunately, has been diminishing over the years. The last time the DREAM Act was considered in Congress, the bill passed the House under the leadership of Congressman LUIS GUTIERREZ of Illinois and received a strong majority vote in the Senate. But only eight Republican House Members and three Republican Senators voted for the bill. What a change in such a short period of time.

Let's be clear: The only reason the DREAM Act is not the law of the land of America is because we consistently face a Republican filibuster whenever we bring up this bill.

The vast majority of Democrats continue to support the DREAM Act, but the reality is it cannot pass without support from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. That is why I have always said I am open to sitting down with anyone, Republican or Democrat, who is interested in working in good faith to solve this problem.

I am personally committed to passing the DREAM Act, no matter how long it takes. But the young people who would be eligible for the DREAM Act cannot wait any longer for Congress to act. Many have been deported from the only country they have ever known: America. They have been sent off to countries they do not remember with languages they do not speak.

Those who are still here are growing older. And when they graduate from college, they are stuck, unable to work, unable to contribute to the only country they know.

That is why President Obama, using his Presidential authority, did such an important thing to help these immigrant students. The President granted them a form of relief known as ''deferred action,'' which puts a hold on their deportation and allows them, on a temporary, renewable basis, to live and work legally in America.

That was the right thing to do. These students grew up here pledging allegiance to our flag and singing the only national anthem they know. They are Americans in their heart and in their mind. They did not make the decision to come to this country; their parents did.

As Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said last Friday, immigrants who were brought here illegally as children ''lacked [any] intent to violate the law.'' And it is not the American way to punish children for their parents' actions. We do not do that in any aspect of the law in this country. Why would we do it here?

There will always be critics when the President uses his power, as he did last Friday. In fact, some Members of Congress attacked President Truman when he ordered the desegregation of America's military. They said Truman's order would hurt the military. Many even claimed Truman had performed an illegal act as President.

Today, many of the naysayers in this generation claim that halting the deportation of DREAM Act students will hurt the economy and that it too may be illegal. President Truman's critics were wrong, and so are President Obama's.

President Obama's new deportation policy will make America a stronger nation by giving these talented immigrants the chance to contribute more fully to our economy.

Studies show these young people could contribute literally trillions of dollars to the American economy during their working lives. They are the doctors, engineers, teachers, and soldiers who will make us a stronger nation. Why would we waste that talent? They have been educated and trained in the United States. We have invested in these people. Let us at least see the fruits of this investment, the benefits that can come to America.

Let's be clear. What the Obama administration has done in establishing this new process for prioritizing deportations is perfectly appropriate and legal. Throughout our history, the government has decided whom to prosecute, and whom not to prosecute based on law enforcement priorities and available resources.

The Supreme Court has held this:

> An agency's decision not to prosecute . . . is a decision generally committed to an agency's absolute discretion.

President Obama granted deferred action—to use the technical term—to

DREAM Act students. Past administrations, both Democratic and Republican, have used deferred action to stop deportation of low-priority cases.

Last month, 90 immigration law professors sent a letter to the President arguing that the executive branch has ''clear executive authority'' to grant deferred action to DREAM Act students. The letter explains that the executive branch has granted deferred action since at least 1971 and that Federal courts have recognized this authority since at least the mid-1970s. These immigration experts have also noted there are a number of precedents for granting deferred action to groups of individuals such as DREAM Act students.

The President's action is not just legal, it is also a smart and realistic approach to enforcing our immigration laws. Today, there are millions of undocumented immigrants in the United States, and it would literally take billions of dollars to deport them.

The Department of Homeland Security has to set priorities about which people to deport and which not to deport.

The Obama administration has established a deportation policy that makes it a high priority to deport those who have committed serious crimes or are a threat to public safety. I totally support that approach. President Obama has said we will not use our limited resources to deport DREAM Act students.

Some of my Republican colleagues have claimed this is a sort of backdoor amnesty. That isn't even close to being true. This is simply a decision to focus limited government resources on serious criminals and other public safety threats. DREAM Act students will not receive permanent legal status or citizenship under the President's order.

This policy has strong bipartisan support in Congress. I wish to say a special word about a colleague. Two years ago, Indiana Republican Senator RICHARD LUGAR joined me—crossing the aisle—to ask the Department of Homeland Security to grant this deferred action. I called him on Friday and said: Dick, I just want to tell you how much I respect you. It took us 2 years, but we got it done.

He was the only Senator from the other side of the aisle with the courage to step up and join me in that letter. He may have paid a price for it, though he denied it in the phone conversation. I cannot tell you how much I respect that man for his courage in asking for this.

It took 2 years, but those students who are appreciative of the President's action should not forget the singular courage of the Senator from Indiana.

Last year, when Senator LUGAR and I sent a renewed request, 21 Senators joined us, including majority leader HARRY REID, Judiciary Committee chairman PATRICK LEAHY, and, of course, Senator BOB MENENDEZ, who heads up the Hispanic Caucus in the Senate.

It is easy to criticize the President's new deportation policy when it is an abstract debate and we are talking about constitutional legal authority and deferred action and so forth.

I think what has brought this debate to where it stands today are the real stories, the stories of these young people. I have tried almost every week to come to the floor to tell a DREAM Act story. Today, I wish to tell one more.

This is a photo of Manny Bartsch, who was born in Germany. He was abused and neglected by his parents, so his grandmother became his guardian. After Manny's grandfather passed away, his grandmother married an American soldier. When Manny was 7 years old, sadly, his grandmother was tragically killed by a drunk driver. His step-grandfather decided to return to America, and he brought Manny with him. They moved to Gilboa, a small town in northwestern Ohio.

Unfortunately, Manny's step-grandfather, wanting to protect him, failed to file any papers for Manny to become a U.S. citizen. But Manny grew up in Ohio, where he went to elementary school and high school. When Manny was preparing to apply for college, he learned he didn't have any legal status in America.

Manny wanted to do the right thing, so he made an appointment with Immigration Services to clear up things. When he showed up for his appointment, Manny was arrested and detained. He was 17 years old.

Here is what Manny said about the prospect of being deported to Germany, a country he left as a little boy:

> I don't know anybody over there. This is my home. This is where everybody I know lives, and to have to think about leaving, I just wouldn't be able to imagine it.

Manny's friends and family rallied behind him, asking for his deportation to be at least temporarily suspended. Thanks to the community support, he was ultimately allowed to stay. He went on to college at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, OH.

Last month, Manny graduated with a major in political science and a minor in history. He was president of his fraternity and has been active in community service. For instance, for the last 4 years, he has organized a fundraiser to purchase Christmas presents for children with cancer at the Cleveland Clinic.

Here is what Manny says about his future:

> I would go through any channel I have to to correct this situation. I'm not asking for citizenship [but] I would love to earn it if that possibility would arise. . . . I would love to contribute to this country, give back to it. I just don't understand why they would educate people in my situation and deport them back and let countries reap the benefits of the education system here.

David Hogan is the chairman of the History Department at Heidelberg University. He says this about Manny:

> We want good people in this country. We want honest, hard-working people, and that's Manny pure and simple. [He is] in the top two percent [of students] in terms of brilliance, work ethic, personal qualities.

Thanks to President Obama's executive order last Friday, Manny Bartsch and other DREAM Act students will continue to be able to live and work legally in America.

I ask the critics of that policy this: Would we be better off if we deported Manny back to Germany, a country he left when he was a little boy? Of course not.

Manny grew up in America. He doesn't have any criminal background. He is no threat to our country. He will make America stronger if we just give him a chance.

Manny isn't just one example. There are a lot more—literally hundreds, if not thousands, of others just like him.

When the history of civil rights in this century—the 21st century—is written, President Obama's decision to grant deferred action to DREAM Act students will be a key chapter.

But It is also clear this is only a temporary solution. It doesn't absolve Congress—the Senate and the House—from tackling this difficult but critically important issue. It is a matter of justice as well as for the future of our economy. This is still our burden and responsibility. It was 2 years ago when I sent this letter with Senator LUGAR. I am grateful there was a President who read it and listened and had the courage to act. His courage in standing for these young people will make us a better nation, and, equally important, it will bend that arc toward justice again.

At the end of the day, these young people will make the case for why this was the right thing to do. I have no doubt in my mind that when the balance sheet comes in on these DREAM Act students, we are going to say thank goodness we did this. I personally salute the President for his leadership. This was a historic and humanitarian moment. It has changed the debate in America about immigration and has given these young people a chance.

I called one of those students on Friday, Gabby Pacheco. She is the best. She walked from Florida to Washington to dramatize the DREAM Act. She came out publicly and said: I am undocumented, and I will stand for those in a similar situation. She was crying on the phone. She just heard about it. She said: I am afraid these students will come forward and admit they are undocumented and someday some Congress and some President will use it against them and deport them. I said: Gabby, I don't think so. Once they stand and say we are going to follow the law and do what we are told to do and put our names down and tell you who we are, anybody who tries to use that against them is going to cause a terrific backlash across America. People in America will respect these young people and realize we will be a better nation because of it.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3240

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is a day I did not think would ever arrive. But we are here, I think. I so admire, having managed a few bills in my day, the work done by Senator STABENOW and Senator ROBERTS. I will say more about that later. This is not a great agreement, but it is a good agreement, and they worked so hard to get where we are. I so appreciate what they have done. As I said before, I did not think we would be here.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 3240, the pending motion to recommit be withdrawn; that amendment No. 2390 be withdrawn; that the Stabenow-Roberts amendment No. 2389 be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered original text for the purposes of further amendment; that the following amendments and motions be the only first-degree amendments and motions in order to the bill: Akaka No. 2440, Akaka No. 2396, Baucus No. 2429, Bingaman No. 2364, Brown of Ohio No. 2445, Cantwell No. 2370, Casey No. 2238, Coons No. 2426, Feinstein No. 2422, Feinstein No. 2309, Gillibrand No. 2156, Hagan No. 2366, Kerry No. 2187, Landrieu No. 2321, Manchin No. 2345, Merkley No. 2382, Schumer No. 2427, Stabenow No. 2453, Udall of Colorado No. 2295, Warner No. 2457, Wyden No. 2442, Wyden No. 2388, Leahy No. 2204, Nelson of Nebraska No. 2242, Klobuchar No. 2299, Carper No. 2287, Sanders No. 2254, Thune No. 2437, Durbin-Coburn No. 2439, Snowe No. 2190, Ayotte No. 2192, Collins No. 2444, Grassley No. 2167, Sessions No. 2174, Nelson of Nebraska No. 2243, Sessions No. 2172, Paul No. 2181, Alexander No. 2191, McCain No. 2199, Toomey No. 2217, DeMint No. 2263, DeMint No. 2262, DeMint No. 2268, DeMint No. 2276, DeMint No. 2273, Coburn No. 2289, Coburn No. 2293, Kerry No. 2454, Kyl No. 2354, Lee No. 2313, Lee No. 2314, Boozman No. 2355, Boozman No. 2360, Toomey No. 2226, Toomey No. 2433, Lee motion to recommit, Johnson of Wisconsin motion to recommit, Chambliss No. 2438, Chambliss No. 2340, Chambliss No. 2432, Ayotte No. 2195, Blunt No. 2246, Moran No. 2403, Moran No. 2443, Vitter No. 2363, Toomey No. 2247, Sanders No. 2310, Coburn No. 2214, Boxer No. 2456, Johanns No. 2372, Murray No. 2455, McCain No. 2162, Rubio No. 2166; that at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, June 19, the Senate proceed to votes in relation to the amendments in the order listed, alternating between Republican- and Democratic-sponsored amendments; that there be no amendments or motions in order to the amendments prior to the votes other than motions to waive points of order and motions to table; that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form between the votes, and all after the first vote be 10-minute votes; that the Toomey No. 2247, Sanders No. 2310, Coburn No. 2214, Boxer No. 2456, Johanns No. 2372, Murray No. 2455, McCain No. 2162, and Rubio No. 2166 be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold; that the clerks be authorized to modify the instruction lines on amendments so the page and line numbers match up correctly; that upon disposition of the amendments, the bill, as amended, be read a third time; that there be up to 10 minutes equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; finally, that the vote on passage of the bill be subject to a 60-affirmative-vote threshold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, as we are waiting for wrap-up this evening, I wish to take a moment to thank all our colleagues for the extraordinary effort to get to this point where we are going to be able to come together, debate a number of different issues related to the farm bill and other issues as well, and be able to come to a final vote and passage of the farm bill.

I wish to thank, first of all, Senator REID for his extraordinary patience and talent in working with Senator ROBERTS and me and all the staff, all the leadership staff, who have worked with us on this.

I also wish to thank Senator ROBERTS for being a tremendous partner with me, and both our staffs who are doing yeoman's work.

There is a lot more work to do. We have a lot of amendments we will begin tomorrow, I believe tomorrow afternoon, and then we will work on through the week to get this done.

But this really is an example of the Senate coming together to agree to get things done—people of different backgrounds, ideas, and different regions of the country. This is an opportunity for us to show that the Senate can work together—which is what we are doing right now, on a bipartisan basis—and be able to move forward on a very important piece of legislation.

This bill is a jobs bill. This bill represents 16 million people in the country who work because of agriculture in some way. We have had a lot of jobs bills in front of us. I am not sure there has been one that has directly affected 16 million jobs like this does.

We also have an opportunity in this bill to come together and clearly state that we are serious about deficit reduction. We are the only authorizing committee that has come forward in a bipartisan way with a bill that cuts the spending within our jurisdiction—$23 billion in deficit reduction. We have gone through every part of this bill, and we have literally analyzed every page and determined that there were some programs that were duplications or not effective or didn't make any sense anymore, and we ended up with about 100 different programs and authorizations that we eliminated from those items under USDA's jurisdiction. So this really is a reform bill.

I know the Presiding Officer is a real champion of reform and of agriculture. We have worked together, certainly, on fruits and vegetables and organic farming and local food systems and a whole range of things that we have improved upon in this bill. I thank the Chair for his continued leadership on those issues.

This really is an opportunity to come together around deficit reduction, around reform, to focus on jobs and give our farmers and ranchers predictability in terms of knowing what will happen going forward as they make business decisions for themselves.

It is a huge opportunity around conservation. I think most people wouldn't realize at first blush that the farm bill is actually the largest investment we as Americans make in land and water conservation, air quality, related to working lands. Seventy percent of our lands are privately held lands in some way—farmers and others, landholders—and the conservation title affects how we work with them to be able to conserve our land and water and address the air quality issues. We have had two successes there. So this is a real opportunity to build on that certainly for many regions in the country, such as my own Great Lakes region. It is critical in working with our farmers who have a number of different environmental issues to address. On behalf of all of us, this gives us an opportunity to partner with them and deal with soil erosion and water quality issues and runoff into our lakes and streams and Great Lakes and deal with open spaces, protecting wildlife habitat and wetlands, and creating a new easement program that will address urban sprawl so that we are protecting our lands.

I am very proud of what we have done in conservation. We have taken it from 23 programs down to 13 and divided it into 4 topics—a lot of flexibility, locally led, with farmers and ranchers working with local communities. We have saved money, but at the same time we are actually strengthening conservation, which is why we have I think 643 different conservation and environmental groups

supporting what we are doing in terms of our approach on conservation. I am pleased with that.

The rural development provisions of this bill affect every community outside of our urban areas. The majority of Michigan—we see support through financing for water and sewer projects, small businesses, housing, working with local law enforcement, police and firefighters, local mayors and city council people, counties all across Michigan and the country, certainly in Oregon, where rural development funding and support for quality of life and jobs and rural communities is very much a part of the bill.

We think of the bill in terms of production agriculture. Obviously, it is critical. I don't know any business that has more risk than a farmer or rancher—nobody. So we all have a stake. We have the safest, most affordable, dependable food supply in the world. We wanted to make sure no farmer loses a farm because of a few days of bad weather. What we do in production agriculture is very important.

We also have a broad role, together with rural communities, with ranchers and farmers, to support our land and our water and our habitat and our air. We do that through conservation. We have rural development. We have an energy title that allows us to take what we do—the byproducts from agriculture, whether that be food or animal waste or biomass from forests or corn or wheat or soybean oil—whatever it is—to be able to create jobs through bio-based manufacturing, advanced biofuels, going beyond corn to other kinds of advanced cellulosic biofuels, which is very much a part of the bill, all of which creates jobs.

We are creating jobs in a multitude of ways in the bill. We are also supporting families who, because of no fault of their own in this recession, have been hit so hard and need temporary food help. That is also a very big and important part of the bill. For the people in my State who have been hit very hard in the last number of years, it is important that we be there. They have paid taxes all their lives and supported their neighbors. They have been there for other people. Now, if they need some temporary help, we need to make sure it is there for them as well. That is a very important part of the bill also.

In addition, we see a whole range of efforts around local food systems that also create jobs—farmers markets, children's schools being able to get fresh fruits and vegetables, schools being able to purchase locally, things that we can do to support families to put healthy food on the table for their children or make sure it is available in school—very important efforts going on there. We make sure that all of agriculture is included in our local food systems. That is a very important part of the bill.

This is a large effort. We do it every 5 years. It takes a tremendous amount of work. Every region of the country has a different view and different crops that they grow and different perspectives, so it is a lot of hard work to bring it all together.

This evening we have been able to come together on a path to final passage, agreeing to the list of amendments. This is a democracy. I don't agree or support all of those amendments. I know other colleagues don't as well. We will talk about them and debate, and we will vote. That is the Senate at its best. That is what we are doing here by agreeing to a process or list of amendments from every part of the country.

Members on both sides have very strongly held beliefs. We respect that. We respect their right to be able to debate those amendments, and I also thank those for the amendments that will not be brought up, which were not in the unanimous consent agreement. I think we had about 300 amendments when we started. We knew it was not possible to be able to vote on every one of those. So colleagues' willingness to work with us was important, and I am grateful to the people who worked with us on both sides of the aisle and those whom we will continue to work with.

This is another step in the process, as we have put together a bill that we reported out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote. Now we have brought it to the floor with a large majority. Ninety out of 100 colleagues came together to say: Yes, we should debate and discuss and work on this Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act.

Now, with the agreement we have, Members are saying: Yes, we should go forward and work on these amendments and have a final vote. In the democratic process, people of good will are willing to come together and have the opportunity to debate and vote. That is what it is about. I am grateful that colleagues were willing to work with us to be able to do that.

We are waiting for the final wrap-up comments. At this moment, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 37

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 19, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Republican leader or his designee be recognized to move to proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution disapproving a rule promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to emission standards for certain steam generating units; that there be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion to proceed, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that 2 hours of debate equally divided occur on Tuesday, June 19, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 20, for the remaining 2 hours of debate; that at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the Senate proceed to vote on the adoption of the motion to proceed; that if the motion is successful, then the time for debate with respect to the joint resolution be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the joint resolution; finally, all other provisions of the statute governing consideration of the joint resolution remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS BERN

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Chris Bern retires on July 14 as president of the Iowa State Education Association after completing his second two-year term in that position. Chris is a longtime advocate for quality education within ISEA and is an important voice for teachers at the local, State, and national levels. I have valued Chris's views on a variety of education issues.

I am especially grateful to Chris for his leadership on anti-harassment and anti-bullying issues within the Iowa State Education Association and the National Education Association. Chris understood the importance of anti-bullying efforts before recent events drew national attention to the topic. Chris is a certified trainer for the NEA's program on school safety and anti-harassment issues. One of his leadership priorities at ISEA has been to promote anti-bullying awareness in our schools, traveling to locals around the State to talk about how to protect students from mistreatment by their peers.

After graduation from Buena Vista College, Chris started his teaching career as a junior high school math teacher in Woodbine, IA and then moved to Knoxville, IA, where he taught high school math. He soon became involved in the Iowa State Education Association, serving in a variety of local, State and national roles. Chris spent 11 years on various committees, including the ISEA Resolutions and

New Business Committee. He was elected vice president of the ISEA in 2006 and, on the national level, was a member of the NEA Resolutions Committee.

As Chris retires from his presidency of the Iowa State Education Association, I wish him the very best. Chris' service to education as a teacher and ISEA leader remind me of the quote by American essayist Christopher Morley who said, ''Things of the spirit differ from things material in that the more you give the more you have.''

Indeed, Chris Bern has much. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.●

HOSMER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of Hosmer, SD. Located in Edmunds County, Hosmer is a close-knit community with a rich cultural heritage and a strong tradition of farming.

Named after Stella Hosmer, the railroad agent's wife, the town was founded in 1887 and officially incorporated in 1904. Early settlers arrived in Hosmer shortly after the town's founding. Most were German-Russians, who persevered despite drought, poor land, and grasshopper infestations. Thanks in part to its location along the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, by the 1920s Hosmer was a flourishing community. Local businesses popped up, including general stores, cream stations, churches, a drug store, meat market, and a hotel.

Today in Hosmer they still honor the traditions of their German-Russian ancestors. Kuchen, German-style noodles, and German-style sausage are just a few of their culinary specialties, available in local establishments. Many residents proudly make their own sausage, much like the intrepid settlers who founded Hosmer 125 years ago.

The people of Hosmer will be celebrating their quasquicentennial June 29 to July 1 with a complete schedule of events. There will be entertainment for children in the park, a free meal, car show, parade, dances, music, and performances. It promises to be a weekend full of family fun.

Mr. President, 125 years after its founding, Hosmer continues to be a small town that represents the best South Dakota has to offer. I am honored to congratulate the people of Hosmer on this memorable occasion.●

TRIBUTE TO ALECK SHILAOS

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the exemplary service of Chief Aleck Shilaos, who has served in law enforcement for 43 years and as the chief of police for the city of Price, UT for 25 years.

Shilaos began his career in 1969 as the first parking officer ever hired by the University of Utah. When the university's security force became an official police department, Aleck joined the police force. The school's biggest need for police stemmed from theft at the University Hospital, where felons from Utah's prison system would receive medical treatment. The crime wave was quickly stopped, saving the hospital untold long-term costs.

In 1972, Shilaos accepted a position with the Lakewood, CO Police Department, where he served for a decade and continued to improve his merits as a nationally ranked pistol shooter. Those skills helped him to gain immediate respect from fellow officers when he joined the police force in his hometown of Price a decade later. Five years later, he was named chief of police in Price, a position he would hold for the next quarter of a century.

Under Shilaos's leadership, the Price Police Department advanced into the information age. With Shilaos at the helm, Price began implementing technologies that increased efficiency and paved the way for the next generation of police officers.

Shilaos graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1995, created his department's first detective division, and a new field training program. Additionally, Shilaos looked beyond his own department and helped to found a regional drug strike force and SWAT team, and implemented the DARE anti-drug program in local schools.

Shilaos also fought a brave personal battle against non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Diagnosed in 2010, the disease is now in remission. Shilaos recently commented that the good days now outnumber the bad ones.

Aleck Shilaos has been an outstanding public servant for the city of Price, UT and will surely be missed. His career is an example of leadership, dedication, and commitment. I wish he and his wife Shirley a long and enjoyable retirement, and thank him for his dedicated service.●

RECOGNIZING INDIANA PRAIRIE FARMER MAGAZINE

● Mr. LUGAR, Mr. President, today I would like to recognize a publication in the State of Indiana that is not only making sure to supply useful information that will help Hoosier farm families thrive but is also taking the time to honor exceptional families through the Master Farmer award program.

As one of 18 State and regional subsidiaries of Farm Progress, Indiana Prairie Farmer is constantly striving to ensure that our farmers are equipped with the information and support necessary to handle the difficult tasks facing agriculturalists. At the helm of this initiative is editor Tom Bechman who not only brings experience from a small tenant dairy farm but is also nationally known for his coverage of Midwest agronomy, conservation, no-till farming, farm management, farm safety, high-tech farming and personal property tax relief.

Considered one of the top honors an Indiana farmer can receive, the first Master Farmer was presented in December 1925 in Chicago. The first 21 Indiana farmers to receive the award had an average farm size of 202 acres. The program was discontinued in 1935 due to the Great Depression and reinstated by James C. Thompson, then-managing editor of the Prairie Farmer, in 1968. More than 200 Indiana farmers have been recognized since the program was reborn. In addition, roughly a dozen people who are not farmers but who made great contributions to Indiana agriculture have been recognized as Honorary Master Farmers. In 2006, Purdue University's College of Agriculture joined Indiana Prairie Farmer as cosponsor of the award and has since been supported by two Glenn W. Sample dean's of the College of Agriculture, making sure that it maintained its reputation as a top award.

As a farmer myself, I am honored as both a Hoosier and member of the agriculture industry to have the great work of my fellow agriculturalists recognized by Mr. Bechman and the Indiana Prairie Farmer. Their tireless efforts to identify and reward Indiana farmers for their work to provide the safest, most abundant and least expensive food supply in the world is humbling and deserves the utmost recognition.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Indiana Prairie Farmer for their work on behalf of Indiana farmers and the Master Farmer award program. I am privileged to represent a State so dedicated to this vital industry and its participants.●

RECOGNIZING INNOVATIVE LIVESTOCK SERVICES

● Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, you have heard me recount numerous stories on the importance of agriculture in my home State of Kansas. Many of these stories center around the fact that cattle outnumber people by more than two to one, and I often joke that cattle are usually in a better mood. In recent years, the Kansas livestock industry has accounted for nearly 50 percent of all agricultural cash receipts within the State.

Mr. LEE Borck, chairman, and Mr. Andrew Murphy, president and chief executive officer, of Innovative Livestock Services have played a key role within the livestock industry. I want to take this opportunity to recognize part of the Innovative Livestock Services operation, Ward Feed Yard, on celebrating 50 years of feeding cattle. Great Bend Feeding and Ward Feed Yard, both part of the Innovative Livestock Services operation, have now been in business for more than 50 years. There is no doubt in the strong heritage, optimistic outlook and positive economic development this cattle feeding company has created in Kansas. Just as the beef industry is a leading segment of the agriculture industry in Kansas, with the leadership of Mr. Borck and Mr. MURPHY, Innovative

Livestock Services is a true champion within the beef industry.

Today I wish to say congratulations to all of those who have helped over the past 50 years and to wish Ward Feed Yard nothing but the best for the next 50 years. Congratulations to all of the partners, employees, customers, community leaders and industry representatives on a job well done.●

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13159 OF JUNE 21, 2000, WITH RESPECT TO THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CREATED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—PM 51

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2012.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 18, 2012*.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13466 OF JUNE 26, 2008, WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—PM 52

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2012.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to these threats and maintain in force the measures taken to deal with that national emergency.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 18, 2012*.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 3304. A bill to redesignate the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters located at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. in Washington, D.C., as the ''William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building'', to redesignate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 200 East Wall Street in Midland, Texas, as the ''George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush United States Courthouse and George Mahon Federal Building'', and to designate the Federal building housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Headquarters located at 99 New York Avenue N.E., Washington D.C., as the ''Eliot Ness ATF Building'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 3305. A bill to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled ''An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 3306. A bill to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3307. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the credit for increasing research activities, to increase such credit for amounts paid or incurred for qualified research occurring in the United States, and to increase the domestic production activities deduction for the manufacture of property substantially all of the research and development of which occurred in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 3308. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the furnishing of benefits for homeless veterans who are women or who have dependents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 3309. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 495. A resolution designating the period beginning on June 17, 2012, and ending on June 23, 2012, as ''Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week'', and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and the impact such disease has on patients; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 491

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Services for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 866

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the perfiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for nonregular service.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 1119

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1119, a bill to reauthorize and improve the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1454, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1613

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to improve and enhance research and programs on childhood cancer survivorship, and for other purposes.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1718, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims.

S. 2060

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2060, a bill to provide for the payment of a benefit to members eligible for participation in the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for days of nonparticipation due to Government error.

S. 2077

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2077, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize Federal assistance to State adult protective services programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2165

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2168

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2168, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 2234

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2234, a bill to prevent human trafficking in government contracting.

S. 2239

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2239, a bill to direct the head of each agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses.

S. 2342

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2342, a bill to reform the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2371, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 2620

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2620, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 3204

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3204, a bill to address fee disclosure requirements under the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3221

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3221, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3235, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require, as a condition on the receipt by a State of certain funds for veterans employment and training, that the State ensures that training received by a veteran while on active duty is taken into consideration in granting certain State certifications or licenses, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the protection and enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 3237

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3237, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 3257

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3257, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions, and to provide for the return of previously distributed funds for deficit reduction.

S. 3263

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3263, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify the final rule relating to flightcrew member duty and rest requirements for passenger operations of air carriers to apply to all-cargo operations of air carriers, and for other purposes.

S. 3287

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from South Carolina

(Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3287, a bill to protect individual privacy against unwarranted governmental intrusion through the use of the unmanned aerial vehicles commonly called drones, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution to disapprove a rule promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to emission standards for certain steam generating units.

S.J. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 42, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to parental rights.

S. RES. 448

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 448, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

S. RES. 473

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 473, a resolution commending Rotary International and others for their efforts to prevent and eradicate polio.

S. RES. 494

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 494, a resolution condemning the Government of the Russian Federation for providing weapons to the regime of President Bashar al-Assad of Syria.

AMENDMENT NO. 2156

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2156 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2190

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2190 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2219

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2219 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2382

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2382 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2399

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2399 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2426

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2426 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2435

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2435 intended to be proposed to S. 3240, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 3306. A bill to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to be joined by Senator REID of Nevada, our distinguished majority leader, to introduce the Professional Boxing Amendments Act of 2012. This legislation is virtually identical to a measure reported by the Commerce Committee during the 111th Congress, after being approved unanimously by the Senate in 2005. Simply put, this legislation would better protect professional boxing from the fraud, corruption, and ineffective regulation that has plagued the sport for too many years, and that has devastated physically and financially many of our Nation's professional boxers.

My involvement with boxing goes back a long way, first as a fan in my youth—in what many view as the golden age of boxing in America: in the days of Joe Louis and Billy Conn and Floyd Patterson and Sugar Ray Robinson—probably the greatest boxer in history—and Kid Gavilan and Joey Giardello, the names I still remember because of the incredible acts of sportsmanship and courage and tenacity in the ring that they displayed, which made boxing one of the most popular sports in all of the United States, then with my undistinguished record as a boxer at the U.S. Naval Academy, and then over my time here in Congress, where I have been involved in legislation related to boxing since the mid-1990s.

The 19th century sportswriter Pierce Egan called the sport of boxing the ''sweet science.'' Long-time boxing reporter Jimmy Cannon called it the ''red light district of sports.'' In truth, it is both. I have always believed that at its best, professional boxing is a riveting and honorable contest of courageous and highly skilled athletes. Unfortunately, the last few decades of boxing history have—through countless examples of conflicts of interest, improper financial arrangements, and inadequate or nonexistent oversight—led most to believe that Cannon's words—that boxing is the ''red light district of sports''—were more appropriate than that of Pierce Egan's words, who called it the ''sweet science.''

The most recent controversy surrounding the Pacquiao-Bradley fight is the latest example of the legitimate distrust boxing fans have for the integrity of the sport. After the Pacquiao-Bradley decision was announced, understandably fans were clearly apoplectic and many commentators found the decision astonishing.

Bob Arum, the promoter of the fight—and he represented both Pacquiao and Bradley—said:

> What the hell were these people watching?. . . . How can you watch a sport where you don't see any motive for any malfeasance and yet come up with a result like we came up with tonight? How do you explain it to anybody?. . . . Something like this is so outlandish, it's a death knell for the sport.

Those words came from the promoter of the fight, long-time promoter Bob Arum.

ESPN boxing analyst Dan Rafael—who scored the fight 119 to 109 for Pacquiao—called the decision an ''absolute absurdity.'' And he said:

> I could watch the fight 1,000 times and not find seven rounds to give to Timothy Bradley.

Additionally, following the fight, HBO's Max Kellerman—a guy I have always enjoyed—was ringside, where he said:

> This is baffling, punch stat had Pacquiao landing many more punches, landing at a higher connect percentage, landing more power punches. Ringside, virtually every reporter had Pacquiao winning by a wide margin. . . . I can't understand how Bradley gets this decision. There were times in that fight where I felt a little bit embarrassed for Bradley.

Clearly, the conspiracy theories and speculation surrounding the fight are given life because there are so many questions surrounding the integrity of the sport and how it is managed in multiple jurisdictions. Professional boxing remains the only major sport in the United States that does not have a strong centralized association, league, or other regulatory body to establish and enforce uniform rules and practices. Because a powerful few benefit

greatly from the current system of patchwork compliance and enforcement of Federal boxing law, a national self-regulating organization—though preferable to government oversight—is not a realistic option.

What has happened to the meaning of the word champion? There is an alphabet soup of organizations today, some of them—or many of them—based outside of the United States of America, that clearly manipulates the rankings in order to set up a fight which has a ''championship'' associated with it.

Ineffective oversight of professional boxing will continue to result in scandals, controversies, unethical practices, a lack of trust in the integrity of judged outcomes and, most tragic of all, unnecessary deaths in the sport. These problems have led many in professional boxing to conclude that the only solution is an effective and accountable Federal boxing commission.

The legislation that Senator REID and I are introducing would establish the United States Boxing Commission—the USBC or Commission—providing the much-needed oversight to ensure integrity within this profession through better reporting and disclosure, requiring that the sport avoid the conflicts of interest which cause fans to question the outcome of bouts, which hurts the sport.

If enacted, the commission would administer Federal boxing law and coordinate with other Federal regulatory agencies to ensure that this law is enforced, oversee all professional boxing matches in the United States, and work with the boxing industry and local commissions to improve the safety, integrity, and professionalism of professional boxing in the United States.

More specifically, this legislation would require that all referees and judges participating in a championship or a professional bout lasting 10 rounds or more be fully registered and licensed by the commission. Further, while a sanctioning organization could provide a list of judges and referees deemed qualified, only the boxing commission will appoint the judges and referees participating in these matches.

Additionally, the commission would license boxers, promoters, managers, and sanctioning organizations. The commission would have the authority to revoke such a license for violations of Federal boxing law, to stop unethical or illegal conduct, to protect the health and safety of a boxer or if the revocation is otherwise in the public interest.

The Professional Boxing Amendments Act would strengthen existing Federal boxing law by improving the basic health and safety standards for professional boxers, establishing a centralized medical registry to be used by local commissions to protect boxers, reducing the arbitrary practices of sanctioning organizations, and enhancing the uniformity and basic standards for professional boxing contracts. Most importantly, this legislation would establish a Federal regulatory entity to oversee professional boxing and set basic uniform standards for certain aspects of the sport.

Thankfully, current law—which we passed in the 1990s—has already improved some aspects of the state of professional boxing. However, like me, many others remain concerned the sport continues to be at serious risk. In 2003, the Government Accountability Office spent more than 6 months studying 10 of the country's busiest State and tribal boxing commissions. Government auditors found that many of these commissions do not comply with Federal boxing law, and that there is a disturbing lack of enforcement by both Federal and State officials.

It is important to state clearly and plainly for the record that the purpose of the commission created by this bill is not to interfere with the daily operations of State and tribal boxing commissions. Instead, it would work in consultation with local commissions, and it would only exercise its authority when reasonable grounds exist for such intervention. In fact, this bill states explicitly that it would not prohibit any boxing commission from exercising any of its powers, duties, or functions with respect to the regulation or supervision of professional boxing to the extent consistent with the provisions of Federal boxing law.

With respect to costs associated with this legislation, the pricetag for this legislation should not fall on the shoulders of the American taxpayer, especially during a time of crushing debt and deficits. As such, to recover the costs, the bill authorizes the commission to assess fees on promoters, sanctioning organizations, and boxers, ensuring that boxers pay the smallest portion of what is, in fact, collected.

Let there be no doubt, however, of the very basic and pressing need in professional boxing for a Federal boxing commission. The establishment of the USBC would address that need. The problems that have plagued the sport of professional boxing for many years continue to undermine the credibility of this sport in the eyes of the public and, more importantly, compromise the safety of boxers. This bill provides an effective approach to curbing these problems.

I take a back seat to no one in my desire for smaller government and less regulation. It is a crying need today, not only for the integrity of the sport but the health of boxers. We are finding more and more, especially in the sport of professional football lately, the effect of blows to the head. Anyone who has had the honor of knowing Muhammad Ali, as I have over the years, recognizes that this is a very brutal sport. There is no doubt that if in professional football blows to the head can be damaging to one's health, clearly it can be in the sport of boxing. I regret to tell my colleagues that there are not sufficient protections for the safety of the boxers engaged in the sport today.

The Pacquiao-Bradley fight is only the latest example, and its outrage is spread because of the size of the fight. Unfortunately, over the years, there have been a series of fights—some of them I will add for the RECORD at the appropriate time—where the wrong decision has been announced.

This is a great sport. It has given an opportunity, for young men particularly, to rise from the depths of poverty to pinnacles of greatness in the sport—and wealth beyond their imagining at the time they entered the sport. So we need to protect these people. We need to give them a fair and legitimate playing field in which to compete.

I urge the support of my colleagues and again thank my friend the majority leader, Senator HARRY REID, who was a boxer of great skill and ability himself in his younger days. Some of those traits he has displayed very prominently here on the floor of the Senate, and I respect him greatly.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 3309. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am pleased to introduce the Homeless Veterans Assistance Improvement Act of 2012. No one who has made sacrifices to serve our Nation should ever be homeless, and this problem should never be ignored. The bill I am introducing today would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to continue the important work of ending veteran homelessness.

The administration reported that on any given night in January 2011, an estimated 67,500 veterans were homeless. I want to commend the VA for its efforts to reduce the number of veterans sleeping in the streets. Between 2010 and 2011 the number of homeless veterans decreased by 12 percent, but the number of homeless women veterans has continued to increase. We are making great progress, in large part due to interagency collaborations, but there is still more work to be done.

In light of recent reports from VA's Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, VA must do more to make its homeless veterans programs more welcoming to women and veterans with families. The reports highlighted limitations in available housing options for women veterans with children. Additionally, infrastructure needs such as private and secure rooms and showering facilities are often lacking placing women veterans in uncomfortable and potentially unsafe situations. We can and should do better.

The Homeless Veterans Assistance Improvement Act of 2012 helps achieve this goal by allowing VA to provide

transitional housing services to the children of homeless veterans, where it is appropriate to do so. It also requires grantees who receive funding for transitional housing to meet the privacy, safety, and security needs of women veterans and veterans with families. No veteran should have to choose between housing and their safety or between housing and remaining with their family.

Other provisions in this legislation help VA to meet the self-identified, unmet needs of homeless veterans. VA conducts an annual assessment of homeless veterans, homeless programs staff, and grantees that ranks the top ten unmet needs of homeless veterans. The most recent report, which was from fiscal year 2010, highlights the fact that many homeless veterans ranked legal assistance among their top ten unmet needs for the last several years. Among the top-ranked needs for the last several years have been legal services and dental care. My legislation makes veterans in the HUD-VASH program eligible to participate in the Homeless Veterans Dental Program. It also ensures that a percentage of the funding available for homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing will be used for legal services to remove some of the barriers to obtaining or maintaining stable housing for homeless veterans.

This is not a full summary of all the provisions within this legislation. However, I hope that I have provided an appropriate overview of the major benefits this legislation would provide.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3309

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Homeless Veterans Assistance Improvement Act of 2012''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Requirement that recipients of grants from Department of Veterans Affairs for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans meet physical privacy, safety, and security needs of such veterans.
Sec. 3. Modification of authority of Department of Veteran Affairs to provide capital improvement grants for comprehensive service programs that assist homeless veterans.
Sec. 4. Funding for furnishing legal services to very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
Sec. 5. Modifications to requirements relating to per diem payments for services furnished to homeless veterans.
Sec. 6. Authorization of grants by Department of Veterans Affairs to centers that provide services to homeless veterans for operational expenses.
Sec. 7. Expansion of Department of Veterans Affairs authority to provide dental care to homeless veterans.
Sec. 8. Extensions of authorities and programs affecting homeless veterans.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS MEET PHYSICAL PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND SECURITY NEEDS OF SUCH VETERANS.

Section 2011(f) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) To meet the physical privacy, safety, and security needs of homeless veterans receiving services through the project.''.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2011(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the matter before paragraph (1), by inserting ''and maintaining'' after ''in establishing''.

SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR FURNISHING LEGAL SERVICES TO VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

Section 2044(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph (2):

''(2) Of amounts made available under paragraph (1), not less than one percent shall be available for the furnishing of services described in subsection (b)(1)(D)(vii).''.

SEC. 5. MODIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2012(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in paragraph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this subsection may include furnishing care for a dependent of a homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from the grant recipient (or entity).''.

(b) PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR NONCONFORMING ENTITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2012(d)(1) of such title is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''may make'' and inserting ''shall make''.

(2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to implement the amendment made by paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CENTERS THAT PROVIDE SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2012 the following new section:

''§ 2012A. Service center operational grants

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary may award to a recipient of a grant under section 2011 of this title for the establishment of a service center described in subsection (g) of such section a grant for the operational expenses of such service center not otherwise covered by the receipt of per diem payments under section 2012 of this section.

''(b) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of all grants awarded under subsection (a) in any fiscal year may not exceed $500,000.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2012 the following new item:

''2012A. Service center operational grants.''.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promulgate regulations to carry out section 2012A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

Subsection (b) of section 2062 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—(1) Subsection (a) applies to a veteran who—

''(A) is enrolled for care under section 1705(a) of this title; and

''(B) for a period of 60 consecutive days, is receiving—

''(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); or

''(ii) care (directly or by contract) in any of the following settings:

''(I) A domiciliary under section 1710 of this title.

''(II) A therapeutic residence under section 2032 of this title.

''(III) Community residential care coordinated by the Secretary under section 1730 of this title.

''(IV) A setting for which the Secretary provides funds for a grant and per diem provider.

''(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in determining whether a veteran has received assistance or care for a period of 60 consecutive days, the Secretary may disregard breaks in the continuity of assistance or care for which the veteran is not responsible.''.

SEC. 8. EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—Section 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(5) $250,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

''(6) $150,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and each subsequent fiscal year.''.

(b) HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013''.

(c) OUTREACH, CARE, TREATMENT, REHABILITATION, AND THERAPEUTIC TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR VETERANS SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(d) PROGRAM TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE PROVISION OF BENEFITS AND SERVICES BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

(e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2041(c) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''December 31, 2013''.

(f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN

FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.—Section 2044(e)(1) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) $300,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.''.

(g) GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.—Section 2061(c)(1) of such title is amended by striking ''through 2012'' and inserting ''through 2015''.

(h) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by striking ''December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''December 31, 2014''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—DESIGNATING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JUNE 17, 2012, AND ENDING ON JUNE 23, 2012, AS ''POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK'', AND RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AND THE IMPACT SUCH DISEASE HAS ON PATIENTS

Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 495

Whereas polycystic kidney disease, known as ''PKD'', is a life-threatening genetic disease, affecting newborns, children, and adults regardless of sex, age, race, geography, income, or ethnicity;

Whereas there are 2 forms of polycystic kidney disease, autosomal dominant (ADPKD), and autosomal recessive (ARPKD), a rare form frequently leading to early death;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease causes multiple cysts to form on both kidneys (ranging in size from a pinhead to a grapefruit), leading to an increase in kidney size and weight;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a systemic disease that causes damage to the kidneys and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal systems;

Whereas patients with polycystic kidney disease often experience no symptoms early in the disease, and many patients do not realize they have polycystic kidney disease until other organs are affected;

Whereas symptoms of polycystic kidney disease may include high blood pressure, chronic pain in the back, sides or abdomen, blood in the urine, urinary tract infection, heart disease, and kidney stones;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is the number 1 genetic cause of kidney failure in the United States;

Whereas more than half of polycystic kidney disease patients will reach kidney failure and require dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive, thus placing an extra strain on dialysis and kidney transplantation resources;

Whereas there is no treatment or cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

Whereas there are thousands of volunteers nationwide dedicated to expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding, educating patients and their families about polycystic kidney disease to improve treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on June 17, 2012, and ending on June 23, 2012, as ''Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research to find treatments and a cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to support Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to promote public awareness of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact of such disease on patients and their families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2439. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2440. Mr. AKAKA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2441. Mr. AKAKA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2442. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2443. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2444. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2445. Mr. BROWN of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2446. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2172 submitted by Mr. SESSIONS and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2447. Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2448. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2347 submitted by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2449. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2348 submitted by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2450. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2294 submitted by Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BENNET) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2451. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2452. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2453. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2454. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2455. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2456. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2457. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2458. Ms. STABENOW (for Ms. SNOWE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 488, commending the efforts of the firefighters and emergency response personnel of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, who came together to extinguish the May 23, 2012, fire at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2439. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. LIMITATION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY BASED ON AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.

Section 508(e) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(e)) (as amended by section 11023(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) LIMITATION ON PREMIUM SUBSIDY BASED ON AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—

''(A) DEFINITION OF AVERAGE ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—In this paragraph, the term 'average adjusted gross income' has the meaning given the term in section 1001D(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(a)).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle and beginning with the 2014 reinsurance year, in the case of any producer that is a person or legal entity that has an average adjusted gross income in excess of $750,000 based on the most recent data available from the Farm Service Agency as of the beginning of the reinsurance year, the total amount of premium subsidy provided with respect to additional coverage under subsection (c), section 508B, or section 508C issued on behalf of the producer for a reinsurance year shall be 15 percentage points less than the premium subsidy provided in accordance with this subsection that would otherwise be available for the applicable policy, plan of insurance, and coverage level selected by the producer.

''(C) APPLICATION.—

''(i) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Government Accountability Office, shall carry out a study to determine the effects of the limitation described in subparagraph (B) on—

''(I) the overall operations of the Federal crop insurance program;

''(II) the number of producers participating in the Federal crop insurance program;

''(III) the level of coverage purchased by participating producers;

''(IV) the amount of premiums paid by participating producers and the Federal Government;

''(V) any potential liability for participating producers, approved insurance providers, and the Federal Government;

''(VI) different crops or growing regions;

''(VII) program rating structures;

''(VIII) creation of schemes or devices to evade the impact of the limitation; and

''(IX) administrative and operating expenses paid to approved insurance providers and underwriting gains and loss for the Federal government and approved insurance providers.

''(ii) EFFECTIVENESS.—The limitation described in subparagraph (B) shall not take effect unless the Secretary determines, through the study described in clause (i), that the limitation would not—

''(I) significantly increase the premium amount paid by producers with an average adjusted gross income of less than $750,000;

''(II) result in a decline in the crop insurance coverage available to producers; and

''(III) increase the total cost of the Federal crop insurance program.''.

SA 2440. Mr. AKAKA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 5102 and insert the following:

SEC. 5102. LOANS TO PURCHASERS OF HIGHLY FRACTIONATED LAND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of Public Law 91–229 (25 U.S.C. 488) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking ''loans from'' and all that follows through ''1929)'' and inserting ''direct loans in a manner consistent with direct loans pursuant to chapter 4 of subtitle A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking ''pursuant to section 205(c) of the Indian Land Consolidation Act (25 U.S.C. 2204(c))''; and

(B) by inserting ''or to intermediaries in order to establish revolving loan funds for the purchase of highly fractionated land under that section'' before the period at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In determining regulations and procedures to define eligible purchasers of highly fractionated land under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior.''.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AMENDMENT.—Section 6002 is amended by striking subsection (bb).

SA 2441. Mr. AKAKA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3915 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (as added by section 6001) and all that follows through section 6002(c), and insert the following:

''SEC. 3915. SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERSERVED TRUST AREAS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE PROGRAM.—The term 'eligible program' means a program administered by the Secretary and authorized in—

''(A) this Act;

''(B) the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.); or

''(C) title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.).

''(2) SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERSERVED TRUST AREA.—The term 'substantially underserved trust area' means a community in 'trust land' (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code).

''(b) INITIATIVE.—The Secretary, in consultation with local governments and Federal agencies, may implement an initiative to identify and improve the availability of eligible programs in communities in substantially underserved trust areas.

''(c) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary—

''(1) may make available from loan or loan guarantee programs administered by the Secretary to qualified entities or applicants financing with an interest rate as low as 2 percent and with extended repayment terms;

''(2) may waive nonduplication restrictions, matching fund requirements, or credit support requirements from any loan or grant program administered by the Secretary to facilitate the construction, acquisition, or improvement of infrastructure, or for other purposes;

''(3) may give the highest funding priority to designated projects in substantially underserved trust areas; and

''(4) shall only make loans or loan guarantees that are found to be financially feasible and that provide eligible program benefits to substantially underserved trust areas.

''(d) ELIGIBILITY OF TRUST LAND FOR ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS.—For purposes of eligibility for eligible programs, trust land (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code) shall be considered by the Secretary to be a rural area.

''(e) REPORT.—Each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

''(1) the progress of the initiative implemented under subsection (b); and

''(2) recommendations for any regulatory or legislative changes that would be appropriate to improve services to substantially underserved trust areas.

''SEC. 3916. REGULATIONS.

''The Secretary may issue such regulations, prescribe such terms and conditions for making or guaranteeing loans, security instruments, and agreements, except as otherwise specified in this title, and make such delegations of authority as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out this title.''.

SEC. 6002. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 17(c) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 917(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) Subtitle B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.''.

(b) Section 305(c)(2)(B)(i)(I) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935(c)(2)(B)(i)(I)) is amended by striking ''section 307(a)(3)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1927(a)(3)(A))'' and inserting ''section 3701(b)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act''.

(c) Section 306F of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 936f) is repealed.

SA 2442. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 3201 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (as added by section 5001), add the following:

''(e) PILOT LOAN PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HEALTHY FOODS FOR THE HUNGRY.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF GLEANER.—In this subsection, the term 'gleaner' means an entity that—

''(A) collects edible, surplus food that would be thrown away and distributes the food to agencies or nonprofit organizations that feed the hungry; or

''(B) harvests for free distribution to the needy, or for donation to agencies or nonprofit organizations for ultimate distribution to the needy, an agricultural crop that has been donated by the owner of the crop.

''(2) PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall establish, within the operating loan program established under this chapter, a pilot program under which the Secretary makes loans available to eligible entities to assist the entities in providing food to the hungry.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—In addition to any other person eligible under the terms and conditions of the operating loan program established under this chapter, gleaners shall be eligible to receive loans under this subsection.

''(4) LOAN AMOUNT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each loan issued under the program shall be in an amount of not less than $500 and not more than $5,000.

''(B) REDISTRIBUTION.—If the eligible recipients in a State do not use the full allocation of loans that are available to eligible recipients in the State under this subsection, the Secretary may use any unused amounts to make loans available to eligible entities in other States in accordance with this subsection.

''(5) LOAN PROCESSING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall process any loan application submitted under the program not later than 30 days after the date on which the application was submitted.

''(B) EXPEDITING APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall take any measure the Secretary determines necessary to expedite any application submitted under the program.

''(6) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Secretary shall take measures to reduce any paperwork requirements for loans under the program.

''(7) PROGRAM INTEGRITY.—The Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure the integrity of the program established under this subsection.

''(8) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—Of funds that are made available to carry out this chapter, the Secretary shall use to carry out this subsection a total amount of not more than $500,000.

''(9) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the maximum amount of funds are used to carry out this subsection under paragraph (8), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the pilot program and the feasibility of expanding the program.

SA 2443. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 7408, strike ''(2) in subsection (h)—'' and insert the following:

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) STATE GRANTS.—

''(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) an agency of a State or political subdivision of a State;

''(B) a national, State, or regional organization of agricultural producers; and

''(C) any other entity determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall use such sums as are necessary of funds made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year under subsection (i) to make grants to States, on a competitive basis, which States shall use the grants to make grants to eligible entities to establish and improve farm safety programs at the local level.''; and

(4) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (2))—

SA 2444. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1463. STUDY ON FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the implications of the Federal milk marketing orders issued under the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include—

(1) an analysis of the impact of—

(A) end product pricing on milk price volatility; and

(B) classified pricing and pooling on processing investment, competition, and dairy product innovation; and

(2) the feasibility of replacing end product pricing and moving toward a competitive pricing or mandatory price reporting system.

(c) FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDER REVIEW COMMISSION.—The Secretary may use the Federal Milk Market Order Review Commission established under section 1509(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1726) or documents of the Commission, to conduct all or part of the study required by this section.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the results of the study required under this section, including any recommendations.

SA 2445. Mr. BROWN of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 574, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

''(C) MANDATORY FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this subsection $12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2017, to remain available until expended.

On page 606, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

''(E) MANDATORY FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2013 THROUGH 2017.—Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this paragraph $3,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2017, to remain available until expended.

On page 782, between lines 14 and 15 and insert the following:

SEC. 6203. FUNDING OF PENDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use funds made available under subsection (b) to provide funds for applications that are pending on the date of enactment of this Act in accordance with the terms and conditions of section 6029 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1955).

(b) FUNDING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year 2014, of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section $50,000,000, to remain available until expended.

On page 832, line 6, strike ''$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2013'' and insert ''$17,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017''.

SA 2446. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2172 submitted by Mr. SESSIONS and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 4011. PERFORMANCE BONUS PAYMENTS.

Section 16(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) USE OF PERFORMANCE BONUS PAYMENTS.—A State agency may use a performance bonus payment received under this subsection only to carry out the program established under this Act, including investments in—

''(A) technology;

''(B) improvements in administration and distribution; and

''(C) actions to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.''.

SA 2447. Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 11023, insert the following:

SEC. 11024. DISCLOSURE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

Section 502(c)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1502(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (C) and (D) respectively; and

(2) by inserting before subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(A) DISCLOSURE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or any other provision of law, except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall on an annual basis make available to the public—

''(i)(I) the name of each individual or entity who obtained a federally subsidized crop insurance, livestock, or forage policy or plan of insurance during the previous fiscal year;

''(II) the amount of premium subsidy received by the individual or entity from the Corporation; and

''(III) the amount of any Federal portion of indemnities paid in the event of a loss during that fiscal year for each policy associated with that individual or entity; and

''(ii) for each private insurance provider, by name—

''(I) the underwriting gains earned through participation in the federally subsidized crop insurance program; and

''(II) the amount paid under this subtitle for—

''(aa) administrative and operating expenses;

''(bb) any Federal portion of indemnities and reinsurance; and

''(cc) any other purpose.

''(B) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not disclose information pertaining to individuals and entities covered by a catastrophic risk protection plan offered under section 508(b).''.

SA 2448. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2347 submitted by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 122___. GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.

(a) TERMS OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.—Section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752) is amended—

(1) by striking ''ten years'' each place it appears and inserting ''20 years''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2);

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) the initial environmental analysis under National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) regarding a grazing allotment, permit, or lease has not been completed.''.

(b) RENEWAL, TRANSFER, AND REISSUANCE OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.—Title IV of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 405. RENEWAL, TRANSFER, REISSUANCE, AND PENDING PROCESSING OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CURRENT GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—The term 'current grazing management' means grazing in accordance with the terms and conditions of an existing permit or lease and includes any modifications that are consistent with an applicable Department of Interior resource management plan or Department of Agriculture land use plan.

''(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term 'Secretary concerned' means—

''(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

''(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

''(b) RENEWAL, TRANSFER, REISSUANCE, AND PENDING PROCESSING.—A grazing permit or lease issued by the Secretary of the Interior, or a grazing permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture regarding National Forest System land, that expires, is transferred, or is waived shall be renewed or reissued under, as appropriate—

''(1) section 402;

''(2) section 19 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the 'Granger-Thye Act'; 16 U.S.C. 5801);

''(3) title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

''(4) section 510 the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa–50).

''(c) TERMS; CONDITIONS.—The terms and conditions (except the termination date) contained in an expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease described in subsection (b) shall continue in effect under a renewed or reissued permit or lease until the date on which the Secretary concerned completes the processing of the renewed or reissued permit or lease that is the subject of the expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease, in compliance with each applicable law.

''(d) CANCELLATION; SUSPENSION; MODIFICATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), a permit or lease described in subsection (b) may be cancelled, suspended, or modified in accordance with applicable law.

''(e) RENEWAL, TRANSFER, OR REISSUANCE AFTER PROCESSING.—When the Secretary concerned has completed the processing of the renewed or reissued permit or lease that is the subject of the expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease, the Secretary concerned may renew or reissue the permit or lease for a term of 20 years after completion of processing.

''(f) COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The renewal, reissuance, or transfer of a grazing permit or lease by the Secretary concerned may, at the sole discretion of the Secretary concerned, be categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement if—

''(1) the decision to renew, reissue, or transfer continues the current grazing management of the allotment;

''(2) monitoring of the allotment has indicated that the current grazing management has met, or has satisfactorily progressed towards meeting, objectives contained in the land use and resource management plan of the allotment, as determined by the Secretary concerned; or

''(3) the decision is consistent with the policy of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, as appropriate, regarding extraordinary circumstances.

''(g) PRIORITY AND TIMING FOR COMPLETING ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES.—The Secretary concerned, in the sole discretion of the Secretary concerned, shall determine the priority and timing for completing each required environmental analysis regarding any grazing allotment, permit, or lease based on the environmental significance of the allotment, permit, or lease and available funding for that purpose.

''(h) NEPA EXEMPTIONS.—The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall not apply to the following:

''(1) Crossing and trailing authorizations of domestic livestock.

''(2) Transfer of grazing preference.''.

SA 2449. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2348 submitted by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 122___. GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.

(a) TERMS OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.—Section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752) is amended—

(1) by striking ''ten years'' each place it appears and inserting ''20 years''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of each of paragraphs (1) and (2);

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) the initial environmental analysis under National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) regarding a grazing allotment, permit, or lease has not been completed.''.

(b) RENEWAL, TRANSFER, AND REISSUANCE OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.—Title IV of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 405. RENEWAL, TRANSFER, REISSUANCE, AND PENDING PROCESSING OF GRAZING PERMITS AND LEASES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CURRENT GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—The term 'current grazing management' means grazing in accordance with the terms and conditions of an existing permit or lease and includes any modifications that are consistent with an applicable Department of Interior resource management plan or Department of Agriculture land use plan.

''(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term 'Secretary concerned' means—

''(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

''(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior.

''(b) RENEWAL, TRANSFER, REISSUANCE, AND PENDING PROCESSING.—A grazing permit or lease issued by the Secretary of the Interior, or a grazing permit issued by the Secretary of Agriculture regarding National Forest System land, that expires, is transferred, or is waived shall be renewed or reissued under, as appropriate—

''(1) section 402;

''(2) section 19 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the 'Granger-Thye Act'; 16 U.S.C. 5801);

''(3) title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); or

''(4) section 510 the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 410aaa–50).

''(c) TERMS; CONDITIONS.—The terms and conditions (except the termination date) contained in an expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease described in subsection (b) shall continue in effect under a renewed or reissued permit or lease until the date on which the Secretary concerned completes the processing of the renewed or reissued permit or lease that is the subject of the expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease, in compliance with each applicable law.

''(d) CANCELLATION; SUSPENSION; MODIFICATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), a permit or lease described in subsection (b) may be cancelled, suspended, or modified in accordance with applicable law.

''(e) RENEWAL, TRANSFER, OR REISSUANCE AFTER PROCESSING.—When the Secretary concerned has completed the processing of the renewed or reissued permit or lease that is the subject of the expired, transferred, or waived permit or lease, the Secretary concerned may renew or reissue the permit or lease for a term of 20 years after completion of processing.

''(f) COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969.—The renewal, reissuance, or transfer of a grazing permit or lease by the Secretary concerned may, at the sole discretion of the Secretary concerned, be categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement if—

''(1) the decision to renew, reissue, or transfer continues the current grazing management of the allotment;

''(2) monitoring of the allotment has indicated that the current grazing management has met, or has satisfactorily progressed towards meeting, objectives contained in the land use and resource management plan of the allotment, as determined by the Secretary concerned; or

''(3) the decision is consistent with the policy of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, as appropriate, regarding extraordinary circumstances.

''(g) PRIORITY AND TIMING FOR COMPLETING ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES.—The Secretary concerned, in the sole discretion of the Secretary concerned, shall determine the priority and timing for completing each required environmental analysis regarding any grazing allotment, permit, or lease based on the environmental significance of the allotment, permit, or lease and available funding for that purpose.

''(h) NEPA EXEMPTIONS.—The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) shall not apply to the following:

''(1) Crossing and trailing authorizations of domestic livestock.

''(2) Transfer of grazing preference.''.

SA 2450. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2294 submitted by Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. BENNET) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 8303. COOPERATIVE AGREEEMENTS FOR FOREST, RANGELAND, AND WATERSHED RESTORATION AND PROTECTION SERVICES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term ''eligible State'' means a State that contains National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land located west of the 100th meridian.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; or

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Bureau of Land Management land.

(3) STATE FORESTER.—The term ''State forester'' means the head of a State agency with jurisdiction over State forestry programs in an eligible State.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source contract) with a State forester to authorize the State forester to provide the forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services described in paragraph (2) on National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land, as applicable, in the eligible State.

(2) AUTHORIZED SERVICES.—The forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration and protection services referred to in paragraph (1) include the conduct of—

(A) activities to treat insect infected trees;

(B) activities to reduce hazardous fuels; and

(C) any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.

(3) STATE AS AGENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), a cooperative agreement or contract entered into under paragraph (1) may authorize the State forester to serve as the agent for the Secretary in providing the restoration and protection services authorized under paragraph (1).

(4) SUBCONTRACTS.—In accordance with applicable contract procedures for the eligible

State, a State forester may enter into subcontracts to provide the restoration and protection services authorized under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into under paragraph (1).

(5) TIMBER SALES.—Subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a) shall not apply to services performed under a cooperative agreement or contract entered into under paragraph (1).

(6) RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.—Any decision required to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any restoration and protection services to be provided under this section by a State forester on National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management land, as applicable, shall not be delegated to a State forester or any other officer or employee of the eligible State.

(7) APPLICABLE LAW.—The restoration and protection services to be provided under this section shall be carried out on a project-to-project basis under existing authorities of the Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management, as applicable.

SA 2451. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 4_____. QUALITY CONTROL BONUSES.

Section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence of paragraph (4), by striking ''payment error rate'' and all that follows through ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''liability amount or new investment amount under paragraph (1) or payment error rate''; and

(B) in the first sentence of paragraph (5), by striking ''payment error rate'' and all that follows through ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''liability amount or new investment amount under paragraph (1) or payment error rate'';

(2) by striking subsection (d); and

(3) in subsection (i)(1), by striking ''subsection (d)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)(2)''.

On page 337, line 8, strike ''$28,000,000'' and insert ''$71,000,000''.

On page 337, line 10, strike ''$24,000,000'' and insert ''$67,000,000''.

On page 337, line 12, strike ''$20,000,000'' and insert ''$63,000,000''.

On page 337, line 14, strike ''$18,000,000'' and insert ''$61,000,000''.

On page 337, line 16, strike ''$10,000,000'' and insert ''$53,000,000''.

SA 2452. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 6203. LOANS UNDER SECTION 502 OF THE HOUSING ACT OF 1949 FOR CERTAIN DWELLINGS IN THE STATE OF ALASKA.

Section 502(a) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may not deny an application for a loan under this section with respect to a dwelling in the United States solely on the basis that the application relates to a dwelling with an alternative water supply system (including a catchment, holding tank, or cistern system), if the Secretary determines that it is not feasible for the dwelling to obtain potable water from a conventional water supply system.''.

SA 2453. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1006, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

''(4) ADDITIONAL AVAILABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after October 1, 2013, the Secretary shall make assistance available to producers of an otherwise eligible crop described in subsection (a)(2) that suffered losses—

''(i) to a 2012 annual fruit crop grown on a bush or tree; and

''(ii) in a county covered by a declaration by the Secretary of a natural disaster for production losses due to a freeze or frost.

''(B) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall make assistance available under subparagraph (A) in an amount equivalent to assistance available under paragraph (1), less any fees not previously paid under paragraph (2).''.

SA 2454. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SEC. 3015. PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE FOR NORTH KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No amounts may be obligated or expended to provide assistance under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(b) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President may waive subsection (a) if the President determines and certifies to the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committees on Agriculture and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

SA 2455. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. REPORT ON EFFECTS OF DEFENSE AND NONDEFENSE BUDGET SEQUESTRATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The inability of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to find $1,200,000,000,000 in savings will trigger automatic funding reductions known as ''sequestration'' to raise an equivalent level of savings between 2013 and 2021.

(2) These savings are in addition to $900,000,000,000 in deficit reduction resulting from discretionary spending limits established by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable, the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a detailed report on the impact of the sequestration required to be ordered by paragraphs (7)(A) and (8) of section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a) for fiscal year 2013 on January 2, 2013.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) For discretionary appropriations an estimate for the defense and nondefense functions based on current law of the sequestration percentages and amount necessary to achieve the required reduction.

(B) For direct spending an estimate for the defense and nondefense functions based on current law of the sequestration percentages and amount necessary to achieve the required reduction.

(C) Any other data or information that would enhance public understanding of the sequester and its effect on the defense and nondefense functions of the Federal Government including the impact on essential public safety responsibilities such as homeland security, food safety, and air traffic control activities.

SA 2456. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On p. 1009, after line 11, add the following:

SEC. 122 ____. REQUIREMENTS FOR AERIAL OVERFLIGHTS OF AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, pursuant to her responsibility to protect public health and safety, shall only conduct aerial overflights to inspect agricultural operations if the EPA Administrator determines that aerial overflights are more cost-effective than ground inspections to the taxpayer and the Agency has notified the appropriate State officials of such flights.

SA 2457. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KIRK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 6104 and insert the following:

SEC. 6104. ACCESS TO BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS.

Section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''loans and'' and inserting ''grants, loans, and'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' means any area described in section 3002 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''LOANS AND'' and inserting ''GRANTS, LOANS, AND'';

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''make grants and'' after ''Secretary shall'';

(C) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) PRIORITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In making grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

''(i) establish not less than 2, and not more than 4, evaluation periods for each fiscal

year to compare grant, loan, and loan guarantee applications and to prioritize grants, loans, and loan guarantees to all or part of rural communities that do not have residential broadband service that meets the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e);

''(ii) give the highest priority to applicants that offer to provide broadband service to the greatest proportion of unserved rural households or rural households that do not have residential broadband service that meets the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e), as—

''(I) certified by the affected community, city, county, or designee; or

''(II) demonstrated on—

''(aa) the broadband map of the affected State if the map contains address-level data; or

''(bb) the National Broadband Map if address-level data is unavailable; and

''(iii) give a higher priority to applicants that have not previously received grants, loans, or loan guarantees under paragraph (1) and that are seeking to build out unserved areas or to upgrade rural households to the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e).

''(B) OTHER.—After giving priority to the applicants described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall then give priority to projects that serve rural communities—

''(i) with a population of less than 20,000 permanent residents;

''(ii) experiencing outmigration;

''(iii) with a high percentage of low-income residents; and

''(iv) that are isolated from other significant population centers.''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

''(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, the project that is the subject of the grant shall be carried out in a rural area.

''(B) MAXIMUM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the amount of any grant made under this section shall not exceed 50 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided.

''(C) GRANT RATE.—The Secretary shall establish the grant rate for each project in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary that shall provide for a graduated scale of grant rates that establish higher rates for projects in communities that have—

''(i) remote locations;

''(ii) low community populations;

''(iii) low income levels;

''(iv) developed the applications of the communities with the participation of combinations of stakeholders, including—

''(I) State, local, and tribal governments;

''(II) nonprofit institutions;

''(III) institutions of higher education;

''(IV) private entities; and

''(V) philanthropic organizations; and

''(v) targeted funding to provide the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e) in all or part of an unserved community that is below that minimum acceptable level of broadband service.

''(D) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY TO ADJUST.—The Secretary may make grants of up to 75 percent of the development costs of the project for which the grant is provided to an eligible entity if the Secretary determines that the project serves a remote or low income area that does not have access to broadband service from any provider of broadband service (including the applicant).'';

(4) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or'';

(ii) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) demonstrate the ability to furnish, improve in order to meet the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e), or extend broadband service to all or part of an unserved rural area or an area below the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e);'';

(iii) in clause (ii), by striking ''a loan application'' and inserting ''an application''; and

(iv) in clause (iii)—

(I) by striking ''the loan application'' and inserting ''the application''; and

(II) by striking ''proceeds from the loan made or guaranteed under this section are'' and inserting ''assistance under this section is'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''the proceeds of a loan made or guaranteed'' and inserting ''assistance''; and

(bb) by striking ''for the loan or loan guarantee'' and inserting ''of the eligible entity'';

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''is offered broadband service by not more than 1 incumbent service provider'' and inserting ''are unserved or have service levels below the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e)''; and

(III) in clause (ii), by striking ''3'' and inserting ''2'';

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(i) INCREASE.—The Secretary may increase the household percentage requirement under subparagraph (A)(i) if—

''(I) more than 25 percent of the costs of the project are funded by grants made under this section; or

''(II) the proposed service territory includes 1 or more communities with a population in excess of 20,000.

''(ii) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may reduce the household percentage requirement under subparagraph (A)(i)—

''(I) to not less than 15 percent, if the proposed service territory does not have a population in excess of 5,000 people; or

''(II) to not less than 18 percent, if the proposed service territory does not have a population in excess of 7,500 people.''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''3'' and inserting ''2''; and

(II) in clause (i), by inserting ''the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e) in'' after ''service to'';

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) INFORMATION.—Information submitted under this subparagraph shall be—

''(I) certified by the affected community, city, county, or designee; and

''(II) demonstrated on—

''(aa) the broadband map of the affected State if the map contains address-level data; or

''(bb) the National Broadband Map if address-level data is unavailable.'';

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (1),'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B),'';

(ii) by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PILOT PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may carry out pilot programs in conjunction with interested entities described in subparagraph (A) (which may be in partnership with other entities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary) to address areas that are unserved or have service levels below the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under subsection (e).'';

(E) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', and proportion relative to the service territory,'' after ''estimated number'';

(F) in paragraph (6), by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or'';

(G) in paragraph (7), by striking ''a loan application'' and inserting ''an application''; and

(H) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING.—The Secretary—

''(A) shall require any entity receiving assistance under this section to submit quarterly, in a format specified by the Secretary, a report that describes—

''(i) the use by the entity of the assistance, including new equipment and capacity enhancements that support high-speed broadband access for educational institutions, health care providers, and public safety service providers (including the estimated number of end users who are currently using or forecasted to use the new or upgraded infrastructure); and

''(ii) the progress towards fulfilling the objectives for which the assistance was granted, including—

''(I) the number and location of residences and businesses that will receive new broadband service, existing network service improvements, and facility upgrades resulting from the Federal assistance;

''(II) the speed of broadband service;

''(III) the price of broadband service;

''(IV) any changes in broadband service adoption rates, including new subscribers generated from demand-side projects; and

''(V) any other metrics the Secretary determines to be appropriate;

''(B) shall maintain a fully searchable database, accessible on the Internet at no cost to the public, that contains, at a minimum—

''(i) a list of each entity that has applied for assistance under this section;

''(ii) a description of each application, including the status of each application;

''(iii) for each entity receiving assistance under this section—

''(I) the name of the entity;

''(II) the type of assistance being received;

''(III) the purpose for which the entity is receiving the assistance; and

''(IV) each quarterly report submitted under subparagraph (A); and

''(iv) such other information as is sufficient to allow the public to understand and monitor assistance provided under this section;

''(C) shall, in addition to other authority under applicable law, establish written procedures for all broadband programs administered by the Secretary that, to the maximum extent practicable—

''(i) recover funds from loan defaults;

''(ii)(I) deobligate awards to grantees that demonstrate an insufficient level of performance (including failure to meet build-out requirements, service quality issues, or other metrics determined by the Secretary) or wasteful or fraudulent spending; and

''(II) award those funds, on a competitive basis, to new or existing applicants consistent with this section; and

''(iii) consolidate and minimize overlap among the programs;

''(D) with respect to an application for assistance under this section, shall—

''(i) promptly post on the website of the Rural Utility Service—

''(I) an announcement that identifies—

''(aa) each applicant;

''(bb) the amount and type of support requested by each applicant; and

''(II) a list of the census block groups or proposed service territory, in a manner specified by the Secretary, that the applicant proposes to service;

''(ii) provide not less than 15 days for broadband service providers to voluntarily submit information about the broadband services that the providers offer in the groups or tracts listed under clause (i)(II) so that the Secretary may assess whether the applications submitted meet the eligibility requirements under this section; and

''(iii) if no broadband service provider submits information under clause (ii), consider the number of providers in the group or tract to be established by reference to—

''(I) the most current National Broadband Map of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration; or

''(II) any other data regarding the availability of broadband service that the Secretary may collect or obtain through reasonable efforts; and

''(E) may establish additional reporting and information requirements for any recipient of any assistance under this section so as to ensure compliance with this section.'';

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), for purposes of this section, the minimum acceptable level of broadband service for a rural area shall be at least—

''(A) a 4-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and

''(B) a 1-Mbps upstream transmission capacity.

''(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At least once every 2 years, the Secretary shall review, and may adjust, the minimum acceptable level of broadband service established under paragraph (1) to ensure that high quality, cost-effective broadband service is provided to rural areas over time.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making an adjustment to the minimum acceptable level of broadband service under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may consider establishing different transmission rates for fixed broadband service and mobile broadband service.'';

(6) in subsection (f), by striking ''make a loan or loan guarantee'' and inserting ''provide assistance'';

(7) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) TERMS.—In determining the term and conditions of a loan or loan guarantee, the Secretary may—

''(A) consider whether the recipient would be serving an area that is unserved; and

''(B) if the Secretary makes a determination in the affirmative under subparagraph (A), establish a limited initial deferral period or comparable terms necessary to achieve the financial feasibility and long-term sustainability of the project.'';

(8) in subsection (j)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''loan and loan guarantee'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ''grants and'' after ''number of''; and

(ii) by inserting '', including any loan terms or conditions for which the Secretary provided additional assistance to unserved areas'' before the semicolon at the end;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''loan''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''loans and'' and inserting ''grants, loans, and'';

(D) in paragraph (3), by striking ''loan'';

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(F) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) the overall progress towards fulfilling the goal of improving the quality of rural life by expanding rural broadband access, as demonstrated by metrics, including—

''(A) the number of residences and businesses receiving new broadband services;

''(B) network improvements, including facility upgrades and equipment purchases;

''(C) average broadband speeds and prices on a local and statewide basis;

''(D) any changes in broadband adoption rates; and

''(E) any specific activities that increased high speed broadband access for educational institutions, health care providers. and public safety service providers.''; and

(9) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively;

(10) by inserting after subsection (j) the following:

''(k) BROADBAND BUILDOUT DATA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a grant, loan, or loan guarantee under this section, a recipient of assistance shall provide to the Secretary address-level broadband buildout data that indicates the location of new broadband service that is being provided or upgraded within the service territory supported by the grant, loan, or loan guarantee—

''(A) for purposes of inclusion in the semi-annual updates to the National Broadband Map that is managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (referred to in this subsection as the 'Administration'); and

''(B) not later than 30 days after the earlier of—

''(i) the date of completion of any project milestone established by the Secretary; or

''(ii) the date of completion of the project.

''(2) ADDRESS-LEVEL DATA.—Effective beginning on the date the Administration receives data described in paragraph (1), the Administration shall use only address-level broadband buildout data for the National Broadband Map.

''(3) CORRECTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to the Administration any correction to the National Broadband Map that is based on the actual level of broadband coverage within the rural area, including any requests for a correction from an elected or economic development official.

''(B) INCORPORATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administration receives a correction submitted under subparagraph (A), the Administration shall incorporate the correction into the National Broadband Map.

''(C) USE.—If the Secretary has submitted a correction to the Administration under subparagraph (A), but the National Broadband Map has not been updated to reflect the correct by the date on which the Secretary is making a grant or loan award decision under this section, the Secretary may use the correction submitted under that subparagraph for purposes of make the grant or loan award decision.'';

(11) subsection (*l*) (as redesignated by paragraph (9))—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''$25,000,000'' and inserting ''$50,000,000''; and

(ii) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2017''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) set aside at least 1 percent to be used for—

''(I) conducting oversight under this section; and

''(II) implementing accountability measures and related activities authorized under this section.''; and

(12) in subsection (m) (as redesignated by paragraph (9))—

(A) by striking ''loan or'' and inserting ''grant, loan, or''; and

(B) by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2017''.

SA 2458. Ms. STABENOW (for Ms. SNOWE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 488, commending the efforts of the firefighters and emergency response personnel of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, who came together to extinguish the May 23, 2012, fire at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine; as follows:

In the fourth whereas clause of the preamble, strike paragraph (18) and insert the following:

''(18) Newington Fire Department, New Hampshire;''.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 10 a.m. in SD–430 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Forty Years and Counting: The Triumphs of Title IX.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Libby Masiuk of the committee staff on (202) 224–5501.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in open session on Thursday, June 21, 2012, at 10 a.m. in SD–430 Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Olmstead Enforcement Update: Using the ADA to Promote Community Integration.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Lee Perselay of the committee staff on (202) 228–3453.

COMMENDING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL—USS ''MIAMI'' FIRE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, notwithstanding the adoption of S. Res.

488 and the preamble thereto, I ask unanimous consent that a Snowe amendment to the preamble that is at the desk be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 2458) was agreed to, as follows:

In the fourth whereas clause of the preamble, strike paragraph (18) and insert the following:

''(18) Newington Fire Department, New Hampshire;''.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 470.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 470) designating July 28, 2012, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 470) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 470

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as ''cowboys'', helped establish the American West;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of American culture for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across the United States who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, making rodeo one of the most-watched sports in the United States;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 28, 2012, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 495, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 495) designating the period beginning on June 17, 2012, and ending on June 23, 2012, as ''Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week,'' and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and the impact such disease has on patients.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, Senator HATCH and I submitted a resolution to increase awareness of Polycystic Kidney Disease, PKD, a life-threatening genetic illness.

PKD is the most common genetic illness, and over 600,000 people have been diagnosed with PKD nationwide. There is no treatment or cure for this devastating disease. Families and friends provide unwavering support to their suffering loved ones.

But there is hope. The PKD Foundation has reported the discovery of specific genes involved in the development of PKD, allowing for the development of clinical trials.

While scientists continue researching to find new treatments and cures for PKD, others are working to bring awareness. Every year, the PKD Foundation holds an annual fundraising walk for PKD. In Wisconsin, where over 11,000 patients are living with the disease, residents gather across the state to take part in this very special walk.

To support these efforts, I propose that Congress increase public awareness of the disease by designating the week of June 17 to 23 of this year as ''National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week.'' We will be taking a positive step toward finding a cure for this disease by increasing awareness.

I trust that my colleagues will see how designating a week to this disease will help those afflicted by polycystic kidney disease, and I hope for my colleagues' full support of this important resolution.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 495) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 495

Whereas polycystic kidney disease, known as ''PKD'', is a life-threatening genetic disease, affecting newborns, children, and adults regardless of sex, age, race, geography, income, or ethnicity;

Whereas there are 2 forms of polycystic kidney disease, autosomal dominant (ADPKD), and autosomal recessive (ARPKD), a rare form frequently leading to early death;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease causes multiple cysts to form on both kidneys (ranging in size from a pinhead to a grapefruit), leading to an increase in kidney size and weight;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is a systemic disease that causes damage to the kidneys and the cardiovascular, endocrine, hepatic, and gastrointestinal systems;

Whereas patients with polycystic kidney disease often experience no symptoms early in the disease, and many patients do not realize they have polycystic kidney disease until other organs are affected;

Whereas symptoms of polycystic kidney disease may include high blood pressure, chronic pain in the back, sides or abdomen, blood in the urine, urinary tract infection, heart disease, and kidney stones;

Whereas polycystic kidney disease is the number 1 genetic cause of kidney failure in the United States;

Whereas more than half of polycystic kidney disease patients will reach kidney failure and require dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive, thus placing an extra strain on dialysis and kidney transplantation resources;

Whereas there is no treatment or cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

Whereas there are thousands of volunteers nationwide dedicated to expanding essential research, fostering public awareness and understanding, educating patients and their families about polycystic kidney disease to improve treatment and care, providing appropriate moral support, and encouraging people to become organ donors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the period beginning on June 17, 2012, and ending on June 23, 2012, as ''Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week, to raise public awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research to find treatments and a cure for polycystic kidney disease; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States and interested groups to support Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week through appropriate ceremonies and activities, to promote public awareness of polycystic kidney disease, and to foster understanding of the impact of such disease on patients and their families.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved

to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the majority leader be recognized and that following leader remarks, the next 2 hours be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and Republicans controlling the final half; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; and that finally, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of S. 3240, the farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Ms. STABENOW. This evening we reached agreement for consideration of amendments to the farm bill. There will be several rollcall votes beginning at 2:15 tomorrow in relation to the amendments to the farm bill. We will also begin consideration of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution of disapproval regarding boiler MACT.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:05 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 18, 2012:

THE JUDICIARY

MARY GEIGER LEWIS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF JESSE BROWN

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Congressman JEFF DENHAM to honor Jesse Brown for his years of dedicated service to Merced County. Jesse is the Executive Director of the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) and will be retiring after twenty-four years in the position.

MCAG was formed in 1967 by the local governments in the Merced County region as a forum for making key decisions on regional growth and transportation issues. Jesse took on his position in 1988. He is well known for his leadership in promoting regional solutions to the many challenges facing the region, including transportation, public transit and solid waste. In his thirty years of public service, Jesse has successfully worked to build partnerships at the state and federal level to ensure the San Joaquin Valley remains a high priority.

Jesse has served as Chair of the California Council of Governments Director Association, President of the San Joaquin Valley Transportation Planning Directors Association, and Executive Director of the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System, known as YARTS. Additionally, he served as a committee member through the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce to ensure that Merced was the choice place for the tenth campus of the University of California.

Jesse has a Bachelor's in Public Administration and M.S. in Urban Planning from the University of Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, we thank you for the opportunity to recognize Jesse Brown and his career with the Merced County Association of Governments. Further, we appreciate you joining us in thanking him for his dedicated service to Merced County and his commitment to the betterment of the region. We wish him well during this next chapter of his life.

HONORING LLOYD LACUESTA UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM KTVU

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Lloyd LaCuesta upon his retirement from KTVU.

Lloyd retires on June 15th, after over 35 years of reporting with KTVU Channel 2 News. Lloyd held the position of South Bay Bureau Chief for decades and is the longest tenured reporter at KTVU. He received his B.A. in Journalism and Political Science from California State University, Los Angeles, and San Jose State University. He obtained his M.A. in Journalism from University of California, Los Angeles.

Lloyd worked for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner as a high school correspondent and then in radio at KNBC/KNX. Lloyd later served in the U.S. Army as a military broadcast journalist for the American Forces Korea Network before coming to KTVU in 1976.

From 1987–1990, Lloyd served as Asian American Journalists Association's (AAJA) first elected national president. In 1991, Lloyd co-founded the UNITY alliance to increase diversity in the news and served as its first president. His mentorship, reputation, and service earned him AAJA's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

Lloyd covered stories ranging from the L.A. Riots in 1992 and the Columbine high school shooting to the first landing of the Space Shuttle at Edwards Air Force Base and a flight into Mr. St. Helen's volcano crater. His reporting led him to the Philippines to cover the Marcos vs. Aquino Presidential campaign, Honduras to report on Hurricane Mitch, and Vietnam to produce a series on Amerasian children.

For his work, Lloyd has won six Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Arts and Sciences. He received awards from the Associated Press and the Peninsula Press Club. He uses his expertise to teach journalism at San Jose State University and Menlo College.

We honor Lloyd LaCuesta, on the special occasion of his retirement and will miss him on the ten o'clock news. We commend Lloyd for his invaluable service to our community and wish him the best in his future adventures. We are very fortunate to have benefited from his dedication, tenacity, and perspective. He has left his mark in San Jose and the larger community.

SUSAN J. CAMPBELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Susan J. Campbell of Susan J. Campbell Copywriting Solutions of Saint Joseph, Missouri. This business has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Employer of Excellence.

Susan J. Campbell is passionate about her work and she takes every opportunity to ensure those who work with her are able to break into a similar passion. Balancing work and family is perhaps the greatest stand-out feature within the company. Susan sets the pace by working hard to build the company, encouraging co-workers, and reaching out in service to the community.

Susan is involved in many service opportunities and invites co-workers to join in. Each year, Susan and her co-workers volunteer at the Royal Family Kids Camp, and Susan is always asking what more can she do to help. She goes above and beyond in her community and in her workplace allowing every employee and independent contractor to set his or her own work schedule.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Susan J. Campbell Copywriting Solutions. This business is a tremendous asset to the St. Joseph community, and I am honored to represent this business in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RENEE JONES-BOS OF THE NETHERLANDS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my warmest regards and great appreciation to Ambassador Jones-Bos for her successful efforts to reinforce the strong ties between the people of the United States and the people of the Netherlands.

For four years, Ambassador Jones-Bos has served the Dutch people with energy and grace in a time of great tumult for both the Dutch and American people. During her tenure, our two peoples have stood side-by-side on the battlefields of Afghanistan and as partners in the aftermath of global financial crisis. Throughout these challenges, Ambassador Jones-Bos has been a poised and unwavering advocate for her country and strong ally to the United States. Through her educational efforts and through her sound advice at key times, Ambassador Jones-Bos has played a major diplomatic role in the most significant events of our bi-lateral relationship over the last four years.

The people of the Netherlands and the United States have shared a bond since the Dutch ship, the Half Moon, first sailed up the Hudson River more than 400 years ago. The Dutch helped settle and found New Amsterdam, Brooklyn, and Harlem. Their descendents rose to become Presidents of the United States and to build the great fortunes that helped America attain its stature as the most prosperous and powerful Nation this world has ever known.

As an enthusiastic and committed joint-custodian of those ties since 2008, Ambassador Jones-Bos helped to strengthen our ability to confront with confidence the major challenges that our two countries face today. The strength of our alliance and the endurance of our friendship have made both our nations stronger and the world more secure as a consequence.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on the Netherlands, on behalf of my colleagues and on behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank Ambassador Jones-Bos for her dedicated service in support of the ties between the Dutch and

American people and I congratulate her on her many successes as her country's representative to the U.S.

CELEBRATING THE 136TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John Missionary Baptist Church on the historic occasion of its 136th year anniversary. From its most humble beginnings in 1876, the church has gown to provide a wealth of spiritual guidance and stewardship to so many in the Dallas area.

Like the structure that houses its congregants today, St. John Missionary Baptist Church has been a bedrock of devotion and service to thousands in the community over the years. The church's call to action for decades has been "Where Christianity is a business and not a sideline," and so many have taken up that call to provide leadership and evangelism to their friends and neighbors.

I want to acknowledge the church's current pastor, the Reverend Bertrain Bailey for his stalwart commitment to outreach in his ministry, and the leadership and guidance he has provided.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating St. John Missionary Baptist Church on their 136th year in service to God and their community. St. John Missionary Baptist Church has fed the souls of generations in Dallas and the surrounding communities, and may it in its blessings continue to prosper and grow in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF STAR ISLAND CORPORATION AND THEIR SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC GOSPORT REGATTA

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the non-profit Star Island Corporation for their successful restoration of the historic Gosport Regatta.

The Star Island Corporation has owned and maintained Star Island for almost 100 years. As part of the National Historic District located on the Isles of Shoals, the Corporation was desirous of re-creating a historic moment in time for the benefit of today's retreats and conferences on the island. Research into the 1875 Gosport Regatta, which was held to celebrate the opening of the Oceanic Hotel on the island, revealed that the race was won by the America, the yacht for which the America's Cup is named. The Captain and owner of the America, General Benjamin Franklin Butler, played a pivotal role in the creation of the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln and the restoration of the Gosport Regatta allows for recognition of this important historical connection to the Star Island Retreat and Conference Center, on the Isles of Shoals in Rye, New Hampshire.

I commend the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Star Island Corporation for their time and efforts on this restoration, and wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR MATT DOHERTY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matt Doherty, Mayor of Belmar, New Jersey. Mayor Doherty is the 2012 recipient of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh Irish Man of the Year award. Matt is a respected member of Belmar, New Jersey and continues to dedicate his efforts to improving the community. His commitment to his profession and constituents is truly worthy of this body's recognition.

In 2006, Mayor Doherty was elected to serve on the Borough Council and was re-elected in 2009. He proudly served as Borough Council President and was respected by his colleagues and constituents. Matt Doherty was elected Mayor of the Borough of Belmar, New Jersey on November 2, 2010. During his tenure as Mayor, Belmar has continued to see tremendous growth and prosperity. He has also been the catalyst for growth and prosperity throughout the Borough and an advocate for improvement projects. Of his many notable accomplishments as Mayor, Matt is often praised for his support of first-responders. Mayor Doherty implemented free beach access for all Monmouth County First-Aid and Fire Department Volunteers throughout Belmar. He has also required the implementation of Mobi-Mats on the beach for ADA-approved accessibility. The 9th Avenue pier at the Belmar Marina has been redeveloped as a result of Mayor Doherty's foresight and ingenuity. In addition to his capacity as Mayor, Matt served as ADA coordinator, Harbor Commissioner, and presided as a member of the Belmar Planning Board. Mayor Doherty is a passionate and committed leader, whose unyielding leadership and vision for the future of Belmar are exemplified through his actions as Mayor.

Mayor Doherty demonstrates strong ties to the Irish-American community. Matt is a dedicated member of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh of the Jersey Shore and is applauded for his commitment. His participation and contributions to the organization remain, in part, a reason for the organization's success. Matt is also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and serves as a trustee for the Inlet Terrace Association in Belmar. In addition to his recreational and professional career, Matt has traveled to Northern Ireland multiple times to participate in the "Bloody Sunday March" in Derry, Ireland. He has also visited Ballybriggen, Ireland and continues to proudly represent his Irish culture and heritage. Most recently, Irish Echo named Mayor Doherty to the "40 Under 40" for his efforts and outstanding contributions to the Irish-American community.

Matt Doherty is a Financial Advisor at Investors Bank. He was previously employed as a Licensed Mortgage Banker and owner of Doherty Mortgage, LLC located in Belmar. He earned his Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University. Matt is happily married to Maggie Moran. Together, they have two daughters, Hannah and Claire.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Matt Doherty continues to exemplify outstanding contributions to Belmar, New Jersey and serves as an outstanding role model and dedicated leader of the Irish-American community. The fitting recognition of Irish Man of the Year bestowed by the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh is a fitting tribute to his outstanding contributions.

HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my vote on H.R. 436, the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2011. As many of my colleagues know, I helped lead the charge throughout the 2010 healthcare debate to ensure the medical device industry was not overly burdened by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). During negotiations on the final healthcare bill, I made it a point to argue that overly taxing the medical device industry would stump innovation, affect patient care quality and burden an already struggling job market. When we came together to discuss health care reform, we agreed that it was necessary for everyone to contribute in order to ensure a successful outcome. That is why I fought tirelessly, within my own caucus, to make sure the bill was responsible in the way Congress paid for the legislation.

As we approach the 2014 deadline of final implementation for ACA, many uncertainties have arisen from both the general public and business community. The Republican Majority has addressed this growing concern with an onslaught on key revenue provisions of the ACA. In fact, they have paid for those repeals by targeting programs from those individuals who need ACA the most. For that reason, I was forced to vote against H.R. 436, which CBO estimated, if enacted, could remove over 350,000 individuals off of health care. Given that many of my constituents rely on the health care benefits provided by the ACA, I could not support this bill as written.

However, as the full implementation moves forward, I will continue to monitor the effects of this legislation on the medical device industry. If the capacity that is anticipated to flood the markets does not become realized, I am ready and willing to work with the medical device industry to unburden them of any unnecessary taxes, while responsibly ensuring that the rest of the ACA moves forward.

CHRISTI NORRIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christi Norris of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Christi is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Support Services.

As the Communications Manager for the Social Welfare Board, Christi's influence extends far beyond the organizing and daily operations responsibilities of her job. Christi has been responsible for developing successful fundraisers, putting together a quarterly newsletter, and promoting a cheerful atmosphere in the organization through birthday celebrations and productive staff functions.

Christi's faith influences her work attitude and she is recognized as one who interacts with people of every age and socio-economic level with consistent charm and effectiveness. Christi demonstrates the high character coupled with high work standards which constitute a career worth imitating.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Christi Norris. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE RCA HERITAGE PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The RCA Heritage Program for its tireless efforts in preserving the name and legacy of RCA. For over sixty years, RCA served as a vanguard of progress not only in South Jersey, but in the country as a whole. RCA's visionary leadership and its dedication to industrial innovations led this company to become a world-renowned manufacturer of products for entertainment, communications, and national security. RCA also served as a critical component of the country's defense and manufacturing industries during World War II, giving the United States a significant technological advantage on the world stage. In having such a broad impact on the region, it is only right to preserve RCA's cultural and societal legacy.

The RCA Heritage Program, under the sponsorship of Rowan University, has worked to establish The RCA Heritage Program Museum, which will preserve the memory of RCA and educate future generations on its impact. In further promotion of education, The RCA Heritage Program established a scholarship available to South Jersey residents interested in pursuing a master's degree in electrical engineering at Rowan University.

With the help of former RCA employees, The RCA Heritage Program has brought together generations of South Jersey residents, collecting pieces of history which would otherwise be lost to time.

Mr. Speaker, The RCA Heritage Program's continuing mission to preserve the lasting legacy of RCA for South Jersey and its residents should not go unrecognized. I join all of South Jersey in paying tribute to this exceptional organization.

TOP COPS—ISSAQUAH PD

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, September 24 of last year during a beautiful fall afternoon, six police officers in Issaquah, Washington stopped a gunman intent on murdering innocent people. Because of their quick actions and bravery, the officers will be honored Saturday evening at the 19th annual TOP COPS Awards ceremony in Washington, DC.

On that fateful day last fall, the gunman walked through yards and on sidewalks indiscriminately firing a rifle at homes, businesses, and passersby. Not far away, more than 100 people were watching a youth football game at a local school. Before the players and spectators could find refuge, the six officers put an end to his rampage utilizing the information being relayed via 9-1-1 operators.

On that day, as on every day, law enforcement officers saved lives calmly, swiftly and selflessly.

Each year, Mr. Speaker, the National Association of Police Organizations recognizes law enforcement officers from federal, state, county and local agencies for acts of bravery, courage and outstanding service to their communities over the preceding year. I am proud that six of our nation's finest officers—and who serve in the district that I represent—8th of Washington—will be acknowledged with the rest of our heroes during police week.

Mr. Speaker, to Officers Brian Horn, Jesse Petersen, Laura Asbell, Tom Griffith, Corporal Christian Munoz, and Sergeant Chris Wilson, I say "thank you." I will continue to support you and all of our law enforcement professionals around the country.

DIANE WATSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Diane Watson of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Diane is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

Diane's recent retirement from the St. Joseph School District Board of Education ended more than 40 years of total service to the public school system as a teacher and volunteer, including 12 consecutive years as a Board Member. During her first term on the board, she helped lead a $36 million bond project for school improvement. In her later term, she helped with the establishment of personal computers for students. Diane's volunteer career extends across the community, including roles as a docent at the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art; Chapter and Reciprocity President of P.E.O.; and an elder, deacon and committee member to the First Presbyterian Church. As Area Coordinator for Phi Delta Kappa, she traveled the western part of Missouri encouraging quality education. She has also contributed her time and talents to the Calla Varner Board, the Junior League, the Flower Society, the St. Joseph Symphony, and the Performing Arts Association, among others. With an enthusiastic personality and a "can-do" attitude, Diane Watson has become an outstanding community volunteer and an admired friend to many—all of which she humbly attributes to "going wherever the Lord leads."

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Diane Watson. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 562

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562.

Local 562 has a proud history in local labor movement which began in the 1800s and I am honored to rise today to honor its people, and its work, over the last 100 years. Local 562's 4,500 members serve the plumbing and mechanical industry in 67 counties in Eastern Missouri. In 1999 Plumbers Local 35 was merged by the International Union with Pipefitters Local 562 to create the new Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562.

Plumbers and Pipefitters local 562 provides some of the best educated and trained labor workforce in the world. Its workers have participated in the successful construction of some of St. Louis' most significant initiatives, ranging from large private buildings to major transportation and infrastructure projects. This success is due to Local 562's attention to quality service and craftsmanship.

Local 562 has also been a leader in the industry, as exemplified by its investing over $12 million in a new training facility. Because of rigorous training, members of local 562 are at the forefront of innovative new industries in our ever changing economy. They are integral to our regional and national economic development, as a well skilled and educated workforce is critical to a growing economy.

For all of Local 562's contributions to our economy, it is also well known for its volunteer and charitable efforts in the community. The Plumbers & Pipefitters annually provide thousands of dollars worth of services to help St. Louis' poor and elderly citizens pay for their utility bills; donate plumbing repairs and home renovations for the less fortunate; help build decent and affordable housing; raise funds for police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders who have fallen in the line of duty; and volunteer time and money to children's hospitals.

Recognizing a century of leadership and excellence in the construction industry, and in our community, I offer hearty congratulations to the members of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 562, and thank them for their service.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, on the 200th anniversary of President James Madison signing a declaration of war against Great Britain, it is $15,736,971,094,472.17. We've added $5,110,094,045,559.09 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

LEECHIA JONES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leechia Jones of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Leechia is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in the Workplace.

Leechia is humble regarding her numerous accomplishments she has earned through her leadership and dedication, which include the Communicator of the Year award from Southwestern Bell; the Sullivan Award from Catholic Charities, and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the National Association for Community Leadership and from Leadership St. Joseph. Often called upon to help with new initiatives, Leechia extended her wisdom and leadership as coordinator for the St. Joseph Youth Alliance during its beginning phases, serving there as a loaned team member from Family Guidance Center for three years.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Leechia Jones. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

CELEBRATING CHIEF DAVID DUBOIS' TWENTY NINE YEARS WITH THE ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on May 31, 2012 Chief David Dubois retired from the Rochester Police Department after 29 years as a law enforcement officer in that community. A native of Somersworth, New Hampshire, Chief Dubois decided from an early age to pursue a career in law enforcement based on the example of his father who also enjoyed a career as a police officer.

Chief Dubois began his career as a part-time police officer in Somersworth and became a full-time officer in Rochester in 1983. He quickly rose through the ranks, serving the community in many capacities during his tenure. In May of 2002, he was appointed Police Chief and served in that position for a decade. Throughout his career, he has been known as a community leader committed to protecting the citizens he represented and the men and women under his command. Chief Dubois has also been active in the Rochester community and has participated in many civic organizations like the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Rochester.

I want to commend Chief Dubois for his service and wish he and his family well in the coming years.

MONTFORD POINT MARINES: JOE COBBS AND JOHNNY THOMPSKINS; DISTINGUISHED MASON AND SON OF CIVIL WAR VETERAN LUKE MARTIN, JR.

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two American trail blazers from North Carolina's first congressional district; Montfort marine veterans Johnny Thompskins and the recently deceased Joe Cobbs. I would also like to recognize the son of a Civil War veteran Luke Martin, Jr. Thompskins, Cobbs, and Martin will be honored by the Christian Community Charity Workers (CCCW) Inc., on June 24 at the Flame Banquet Center in New Bern, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, recruiting for the "Montfort Marines" began on June 1, 1942, following public pressure on President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Black leaders to issue Executive Order 8802, which barred government agencies and federal contractors from employment discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin. The order also required all of the U.S. Armed Services, including the United States Marine Corps, to recruit and enlist African Americans. Despite an era thick with racial discrimination, Black recruits lined up by the thousands to defend the freedoms of people abroad, while still being denied basic unalienable rights at home.

Among the inaugural class of Black Marines were Johnny Thompskins and the late Joe Cobbs. Thompskins, a man of small stature but enormous courage; and Cobbs, who developed a strong work ethic while working his family's farmland, received basic training at the segregated Camp Montfort Point in North Carolina, because no Black recruit was allowed to enter the main base of nearby Camp Lejeune unless accompanied by a white Marine.

Nevertheless, these three men were unafraid by the onslaught of World War II. They understood that victory in war was only achievable with the talent of its Black citizens. As a result, these men served their country with distinction, chartered uncharted territory, and set the bar for exemplary African American servicemen.

At 94 years old, Martin is widely known around the state of North Carolina as one a few living children of Civil War veterans. His father, Luke Martin, Sr., was a slave in Hertford County when he joined the Union Army and began to bravely fight for the freedoms of his loved ones.

Nonetheless, Martin, Jr. is a distinguished mason who has earned enormous respect for building a several structures across Craven County. Martin's son Frederick Martin was killed in the Vietnam War in 1968.

Today, Thompskins and Martin reside in New Bern, North Carolina. Cobbs also lived there until his passing in May. All entered the world as young men determined to forge independence and enthusiastic to contribute to the country and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Thompkins, Cobb, and Martin to America expand the definition of patriotism. Their trailblazing efforts will forever remain a cornerstone in American history.

LINDA JUDAH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Linda Judah of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Linda is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award: Woman in the Workplace.

Ms. Judah has served as Director of Buchanan Child Support Enforcement, a hospital and school nurse, and is currently the Executive Director of the Social Welfare Board. Linda has grown to have a compassionate understanding of the specific health challenges faced by low-income patients and has worked aggressively to overcome those challenges. Through her hard work and dedication to ensure that the Social Welfare Board achieve the highest level of care, the clinic now serves as a standard for others seeking to provide high-quality care.

In addition to serving as a leader for several overseas medical trips, Ms. Judah has worked diligently to secure funding for the free clinic through a period of economic uncertainty and has earned such a respect among nursing students and interns that she was invited to be the commencement speaker at graduation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Linda Judah. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many who have gathered in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, Connecticut. This is a remarkable milestone for this wonderful institution of learning.

The Neighborhood Music School is not your ordinary school. Its 3,000 students hail from communities across Connecticut and range from 6 months to over 80 years of age. The Neighborhood Music School offers a myriad of programs in music and dance that are open to children and adults regardless of age, economic status, or experience. The arts, in all of its many mediums, are both a celebration of culture and tradition as well as a means of personal expression. The Neighborhood Music School has opened the doors of opportunity to thousands throughout its century-long history and has become a beloved community treasure.

The Neighborhood Music School has a particularly interesting history. When it first opened in 1911, on Wooster Street in New Haven, it was established in conjunction with St. Paul's Church as a settlement house and social services organization for local immigrants known as the Neighborhood House. However, in its first four years Neighborhood House saw such a demand for music programs it was decided that a separate entity, the Neighborhood House Music School was created and placed under the leadership of its first director, Susan Hart Dyer, a violinist and graduate of the Yale School of Music.

Faculty came from the Yale School of Music and the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. The school grew rapidly and even during the most difficult economic times of the Great Depression, the demand for the programs remained high. In 1945, Neighborhood House Music School officially became an independent entity called Neighborhood Music School and during the next decade a change in admission policies broadened the school's reach and enrollment reached new heights. It was in 1968, after a 4-year long building fund campaign, that the Neighborhood Music School opened its new home on Audubon Street, in what is now the heart of New Haven's thriving arts community.

Today, in its 30,000 square foot facility, Neighborhood Music School is home to thirty-three studios, practice rooms, a recital hall, and a library, showcasing the extraordinary talents of thousands of children and adults every year. In fact, just a few years ago, eighteen students from the Neighborhood Music School participated in the White House Community Classroom Music Series program with First Lady Michelle Obama. It was an extraordinary opportunity for them and a testament to the incredible opportunities this organization provides.

The Neighborhood Music School is an extraordinary organization—a place where anyone can explore their passion for music and dance. I am proud to join our community in congratulating them on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best for many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHAIRMAN VICTOR V. SCUDIERY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Victor Scudiery upon his retirement from his position as Chairman of the Monmouth County Democratic party. Chairman Scudiery has faithfully dedicated his time and political experience to the constituents of Monmouth County, New Jersey and is truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Victor Scudiery was born and raised in Newark, New Jersey where he was active in local politics. Chairman Scudiery is an alumnus of Seaton Hall University where he earned a degree in business administration. Chairman Scudiery served two years active duty and four years as a reservist with the United States Army upon graduation. Along side his brother, Chairman Scudiery began to embark on his business endeavors and opened Interstate Electronics, Inc. (IEI) in 1968. Interstate Electronics was the beginning of a successful business enterprise that later included a record company, a series of children's albums and coloring books, and numerous successful music and pictorial productions. The Airport Plaza Shopping center on Route 36 in Hazlet, New Jersey remains the Chairman's primary base of operation. Through his efforts, Airport Plaza has been revitalized. Chairman Scudiery continues to admirably oversee several other business ventures throughout the State of New Jersey.

In addition to his business ventures, Chairman Scudiery served under former Governor Brendan Byrne on the Ethics Advisory Council. Chairman Scudiery was also appointed to serve as Co-Chairman of the Boy Scouts of Monmouth County, Technical Advisor at Kean College and Chairman of the Buck Smith Scholarship Award Foundation. Chairman Scudiery sits on the Bayshore Community Hospital Board of trustees and is the Chairman of the Bayshore Senior Health, Education and Recreation Center Board of Directors. He is a dedicated member of the Bayshore Hospital Health Care Center. Chairman Scudiery is also a long time member of the Northern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce and was recently appointed to the Board of Directors. As a result of his hard work and dedication, he was honored with the 2008 Business Ambassador of the Year Award.

Victor Scudiery was elected Chairman of the Monmouth County Democratic Party in 1989. Under Chairman Scudiery's leadership, the Democratic party of Monmouth County continues to make impressive strides to assure that Democrats are elected to office. Multiple towns in Monmouth County with long tradition of Republican leadership now have a Democratic presence as a result of Chairman Scudiery's direction. The Chairman will be retiring from his position in 2012. His steadfast leadership has boosted the Monmouth County Democratic party. He will continue to serve as an inspiration to future Democratic leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman Victor Scudiery has dedicated his life to various philanthropic, business and political endeavors. Please join my colleagues in thanking the Chairman for 23 years of service to the Democratic Party and dedication to the Monmouth County, New Jersey community.

LORI PRUSSMAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lori Prussman of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Lori is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award: Woman in Volunteerism.

Lori Prussman is a valuable volunteer leader and has provided faithful services within the PTA for nearly 20 years. Ms. Prussman has served two terms as the St. Joseph PTA Council President. In that capacity, she has worked tirelessly promoting new schools and new technology and has patiently addressed hundreds of questions from concerned citizens. Ms. Prussman has been actively involved in leading PTA projects like the Character and Spiritual Scholarship and has worked to keep the organization solvent through the Major Savers Fundraisers. Thanks to Lori Prussman, the PTA manages to keep attention focused on advocating for children in the St. Joseph community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Lori Prussman. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 362, On agreeing to the King Amendment—I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall vote 363, On agreeing to the King Amendment—I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall vote 364, On agreeing to the Blackburn Amendment—I would have voted ''nay.''

Rollcall vote 365, On agreeing to the Blackburn Amendment—I would have voted ''nay.''

Rollcall vote 366, On agreeing to the Sullivan Amendment—I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall vote 367, On agreeing to the Turner Amendment—I would have voted ''aye.''

Rollcall vote 368, On agreeing to the Polis Amendment—I would have voted ''nay.''

Rollcall vote 369, Motion to Recommit H.R. 5855—I would have voted ''nay.''

Rollcall vote 370, Final passage of H.R. 5855—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act—I would have voted ''aye.''

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER LANSING BUSINESS MONTHLY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Greater Lansing Business Monthly, which this month will mark the 25th anniversary of its founding by mid-Michigan entrepreneur Chris Holman.

Twenty-five years ago, Mr. Holman saw the need for a publication that would promote, publicize, and support local companies, provide a forum for ideas, and keep members of the community informed of the services and products offered by businesses in the area.

The first issue of The Greater Lansing Business Monthly hit the streets in June 1987. In its 25 years of existence, the magazine has become known for its consistent quality and for the positivity of its content.

The magazine is distributed to all non-resident addresses in the cities of Lansing, Mason, Holt, Grand Ledge, East Lansing, Haslett, DeWitt, Williamston, and Okemos. Readership has gown to an estimated 40,000 per month.

The Business Monthly's content includes feature stories centered around a theme each month. Whether the topic is banking or business travel, health care or hospitality, articles highlight the quality products and people of the Greater Lansing area. These stories highlight successful businesses in the community and the people who comprise the companies.

In response to market needs, The Greater Lansing Business Monthly has become involved in many other endeavors. For example, The Greater Lansing Business Index & Survey provides an in-depth look at mid-Michigan's economy. Other projects include CEO networks, the Greater Lansing Entrepreneurial Awards, the Greater Lansing Business Showcase and the Greater Lansing Business + Sports Luncheon. The magazine is also represented on more than a dozen boards in the area. The magazine enjoys a 92 percent awareness and readership rate among businesses in the Greater Lansing market.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in honoring The Greater Lansing Business Monthly and its staff for 25 years of exceptional service to mid-Michigan employers and their customers.

MORGAN BRAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Morgan Brand of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Morgan is active in the community and in her school and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Leadership is a hallmark of Morgan's high school career. While earning high academic honors each semester, she remained involved in Student Council and was a delegate to the Missouri Association of Student Council Summer Leadership Workshop. Morgan's leadership extends to the broader community where she has worked part-time and was essential to the organization of the Senior Citizen Prom. She is often seen at athletic events supporting her peers, and is a member of the varsity tennis team as well as a gifted actor and singer. Morgan was also named to the Scholastic Honor Society at its May induction ceremony. Morgan is a natural tutor and mentor, leading activities for struggling students.

Those who work with Morgan describe her as highly organized and able to win the participation of others though her own example and dependability. Morgan Brand has a bright smile and a bright future both in terms of personal success and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Morgan Brand. She is an amazing individual and a tremendous asset to our community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL IMAGING AND BIOENGINEERING

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10-year anniversary for one of the newest Institutes at the National Institutes of Health. The Congress authorized the creation of the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering over a decade ago, and I am proud to say I was a cosponsor of the enacting legislation. Since 2002, the NIBIB has worked diligently towards its mission to develop new technologies that are combating a myriad of diseases and conditions. NIBIB is unique in the sense that unlike most Institutes at NIH, NIBIB doesn't focus on a particular body area. Its mission is not bound to a particular disease either. Instead, it fills a vital need: it creates the tools and technologies for clinicians and researchers to fight all diseases. In a way, we are all patient advocates for NIBIB.

Some of the technological advances include innovations like advanced imaging tools, such as functional MRI and PET/CT. These not only save lives by diagnosing disease noninvasively and earlier than ever before, but they have provided researchers in other areas of medicine new tools to study and combat their particular disease of focus. In its unique role at NIH, NIBIB is not only providing new bench-to-bedside diagnostics and therapies for patients, but also delivering novel bench-to-bench tools and technologies that are revolutionizing the way other researchers fight diseases in the laboratory.

In this vein, NIBIB is providing an enormously positive return on the taxpayers' investment. The therapies, diagnostics and treatments created by NIBIB research have forever changed patient care and the way we conduct research. But perhaps equally as important, these technologies are being commercialized and manufactured by the private sector here in the U.S. We are an exporter of these incredible technologies, created and manufactured by highly-skilled workers. And when the NIBIB delivers on the next game-changing technology, the U.S. will again be the home to those job-supporting companies.

With that, I would like to congratulate NIBIB, its Director, Dr. Rod Pettigrew, Deputy Director Dr. Belinda Seto and all of the dedicated staff that have made NIBIB a model of success. I hope my fellow colleagues can agree that these are important federal programs deserving of our sustained support.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL AND SYLVIA HOLLINGER

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Paul and Sylvia Hollinger for their contributions and years of service to the Christian broadcasting community.

Both born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Paul and Sylvia graduated from the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago in 1958 and were married that same year. After starting a ''temporary'' job at the Christian radio station WDAC in July of 1961, Paul's role expanded from salesman to station manager, and eventually to partner in the WDAC Radio Company. Along the way, Sylvia served as chief encourager and critic, while assisting Paul as an editor and typist.

Beyond their roles at WDAC, the ''Voice of Christian Radio,'' Paul and Sylvia have contributed to the greater Christian broadcasting community through the National Religious Broadcasters organization. Ever-present at NRB national conventions, Paul and Sylvia developed sincere and lasting friendships with other station owners and broadcasters like David Jeremiah, James Dobson, and Joni Eareckson Tada.

From their stone farmhouse and farm in southern Lancaster County, Paul and Sylvia spent over four decades raising their two children and welcoming visitors. They are devoted grandparents to six grandchildren and eagerly await the arrival of their first great-grandchild. When not at work or home, Paul and Sylvia played an integral role in the life of Calvary Church of Lancaster. Since 1973, they have served in the capacity of Sunday school teachers, choir members, and on various church boards.

Paul is a past member of the Moody Alumni Board and I share his and Sylvia's passion for the Moody Bible Institute. I also commend them both for their unwavering commitment to upholding and defending the rights of the unborn. They have actively supported pro-life organizations and Sylvia hosts a weekly pro-life radio report titled ''Heartbeat.''

Today, Paul and Sylvia live in the Willow Valley retirement community where they continue to welcome family and guests, and together are writing a 70 year history of their church. Paul and Sylvia have led rich, dedicated lives to each other and for their Maker. To paraphrase a familiar verse in the Gospel of John, were all their stories written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FIREFIGHTER NATHAN RAULZ

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nathan Raulz, 18, of Conroe, Texas. Raulz had been a volunteer with Central Montgomery County Fire-Rescue (formerly River Plantation Fire Department) Station 171 for the past three years and planned to continue his career in public service.

After graduating from Conroe High School approximately three weeks ago, he joined the department full time. He loved serving his community and his country, which explain why he recently enlisted in the military as well. His dream was to serve his country, gain valuable training through the military, and then return

home to resume his career in professional fire fighting. The city of Conroe, and all of Montgomery County were shocked when such a bright light of a young life was snuffed out in a tragic motorcycle accident June 6. Nathan's legacy of service and dedication to his dreams will stay with our community for years to come.

The Central Montgomery County Fire-Rescue Station 171 issued this statement after learning of the loss of Raulz: "Today our department suffered a great loss. Firefighter Nathan Raulz was killed in an automobile accident on Stidham Road. This young man won our hearts almost three years ago when he joined our department as a junior firefighter. Immediately he stood out as a stellar newcomer, and grew into an amazing young man and firefighter. The dedication and promise he showed earned him the title Junior Firefighter of The Year two years in a row. We will truly miss our "Ragoo"! We would like to send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Nathan. You will be in our thoughts and prayers."

Today we honor the life of Nathan Raulz, we pray for his family, and we remember his dedication to others and hope it will challenge us all to live each day to the fullest.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VINCENT WILLIAMS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Vincent Williams. Though he was 85 years old and lived a full and happy life, to all us who knew him, his sudden passing this week came much too soon.

Vinnie was a fixture at 59 Elm Street—the building where my District Office is located. Sitting next to his shoeshine stand in the first floor lobby, he always had a kind word and a contagious smile for any passerby. Vinnie was one of those people who always brightened the days of others. He had a kind and generous nature and he loved seeing people every day—always ready for a conversation. If he saw that you were a little down, he would do what he could to make you smile. He was the last of the shoeshine men in New Haven and he was a beloved member of our building's community.

Born in North Carolina, one of Vinnie's first jobs was as a shoeshine. A local barber offered him the position and it came naturally to him. He later joined the United States Navy and served our country with honor and integrity during World War II. It was after his service that he arrived in New Haven where he took up work at the Winchester firearms factory. After five years at Winchester Vinnie took a job with the U.S. Postal Service where he worked until his retirement. However, retirement did not suit Vinnie well—he did not like sitting at home. So he went back to where he began—a shoeshine stand—setting up shop at the 59 Elm Street building.

My staff and I will always carry fond memories of Vinnie. Almost every afternoon, Vinnie would close up shop and take a walk around the building stopping in each office to wish everyone a good afternoon. I am not sure how many people knew about Vinnie's sweet-tooth, but he had one. My staff always made sure the small candy dish at our front desk had something in it—because the few times it did not, Vinnie was the first one to let us know. He also loved the word jumbles in the daily paper and worked them out every day. Every once in a while, however, he would get stumped. There is one member of my staff that he would always ask for help. After memorizing the letters, he would come upstairs, poke his head in her office, repeat the letters and give her a minute to come up with a suggestion. Even if the others he asked were stumped as well, he would work at it until he figured it out—and then would let everyone he had asked know the answer as well.

On behalf of myself and my staff, I extend my deepest sympathies to his six children, Ulysses, Cynthia, Gail, Michael, Latanga, and Vincent, Jr., as well as his family and friends. I want them to know how many lives he touched and the impact he had on others. Vinnie was a remarkable human being. His absence leaves an emptiness in our hearts that will never be quite be filled. He will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known him.

A SALUTE TO THE LIFE OF DR. GARDNER CALVIN TAYLOR

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor on the occasion of his 94th birthday. Dr. Taylor's indispensable contribution to American preaching and his instrumental role in the Civil Rights Movement underscore a life devoted to uplifting the human soul and the equal treatment of men and women everywhere.

Dr. Taylor was born June 18, 1918 in segregated Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was the only child born to Reverend Washington and Selina Taylor. He was only 13 years old when his father "Wash" Taylor passed away. Even the short time Gardner had with his father; he had already impacted Gardner's delivery of the spoken word. Originally pursuing hopes of one day becoming a lawyer, a single event would forever change his course and life pursuits. Gardner survived a horrific car accident that claimed the lives of two others. Convinced that his survival was no happenstance, it was then he experienced a call to ministry.

In 1937, Dr. Taylor forewent plans to attend the University of Michigan Law School and enrolled in the Oberlin School of Theology. It was there he met his wife, Laurabelle Scott, whom he married in 1940 and had one daughter, Martha. During his studies at Oberlin, Dr. Taylor preached at Bethany Baptist Church from 1938 to 1941. He later went on to pastor Concord Baptist Church of Christ in New York City in 1948. When he commenced his pastoral duties at Concord, church membership was a very respectable 5,000 members. By the end of his tenure in 1990, his unparalleled leadership and sermonic delivery grew the membership to more than 14,000 members.

Striving to serve equally beyond the pulpit, in 1961, he unsuccessfully sought the presidency of the National Baptist Convention. His close affiliation with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other Civil Rights leaders placed him at odds with members of the National Baptist Convention. Not one to be deterred from service, Dr. Taylor along with Dr. King, went on to found the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Dr. Taylor's talent was revered. He taught at several elite divinity schools including Yale, Harvard, and Duke Universities. In 1979, Time magazine named Dr. Taylor one of the seven greatest Protestant preachers in America, and in 1980, the publication deemed him the "Dean of the Nation's Black Preachers".

In 1993, his influence reached into public service when he delivered the sermon for President William Jefferson Clinton's Inaugural Prayer Service. President Clinton was so impressed with Dr. Taylor that in 1997, he again enlisted Dr. Taylor to deliver the benediction at his second inauguration. And, in 2000, President Clinton honored Dr. Taylor with the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Dr. Taylor is commonly referred to as the "dean of American preaching" and the "poet laureate of American Protestantism." For many, Dr. Taylor's oration and style is considered the standard for young ministers seeking to learn the art of preaching. His brilliant ability to merge significant metaphors and powerful language into a seamless narrative continues to inspire clergy and laymen alike.

Dr. Taylor's life constitutes a worthy example for others, one in which everyone uses his or her individually bestowed talents to enrich the lives of the beloved community. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Gardner Calvin Taylor on his 94th birthday and honoring his lifelong commitment to the betterment of society.

SARA SUMMERS STEIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sara Summers Stein of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Sara is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Emerging Leader.

Sara is an intelligent and highly motivated young woman who is considered a sparkplug wherever she happens to be serving. During an outstanding college and post-graduate career, Sara demonstrated strong leadership both in her personal work and her ability to head up major University programs. Since graduating with a PhD in Education Leadership, Sara has used her considerable talent to improve the lives of others. Sara has worked with the youth through EmpowerU and has been pivotal in the success of the parent-child reading program Read from the Start. Sara is currently working to bring awareness to Clean Air St. Joe while being a wife and a mother of two.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sara Summers Stein. She has already made an amazing impact on countless

individuals in the St. Joseph community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR OF BRUCE KATSIFF'S RETIREMENT FROM THE JAMES A. MICHENER ART MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Bruce Katsiff, Director and CEO of the James A. Michener Art Museum, who is retiring after 23 years of dedicated service to the museum and the Bucks County community.

The Michener Museum is an important part of my district's art and cultural identity and this is due in no small part to Mr. Katsiff's leadership and vision. In fact, it was he who changed the name from the James A. Michener Arts Center to the now nationally recognized James A. Michener Art Museum.

In 1989 when he began as director, attendance at the museum averaged 8,000 visitors a year. Now, 120,000 people come to see the exhibits each year and the museum ranks among the top art museums in the greater Philadelphia region.

Bruce's love of art goes back to high school, where he discovered photography and participated in his first exhibit at the age of 17. He then studied photography at Rochester Institute of Technology, earned a Master of Fine Arts at the Pratt Institute and completed postgraduate work at the University of Oxford.

Mr. Katsiff's keen business sense blended well with his passion for art. Under his guidance, the museum flourished in size and staff. Just this month, the Edgar N. Putman Event Pavilion was opened to establish the museum as a premier destination for facility rentals in our area.

For Bruce's final project, the museum will host an exhibition from the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy, of Old Master paintings and tapestries, including oil paintings from legendary artists such as Botticelli and Titian.

Because of all that Mr. Katsiff has accomplished, I know that he will leave this position in high spirits. Thanks again to Bruce Katsiff for all that you have done for not only the Michener Museum, but for the entire Bucks County community. I am honored to serve as your representative in Congress, and I wish you many more years of continued success.

HONORING MR. RICHARD ZILKA

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard Zilka, outgoing president of the Clearing Civic League in Chicago, Illinois, for his lasting service to the community.

Mr. Zilka's community owes him an enormous debt. A member of the Clearing Civic League since 1965, he has been president for 26 years during which time he has distinguished himself as a tireless fighter for the success and safety of the neighborhood. Instrumental in securing a public library for the citizens of Clearing and establishing the Clearing Night Watch, he also successfully campaigned against the installation of high-pollution medical incinerators in the area. These are just some of the many successes that he spearheaded on behalf of the residents of Clearing.

Mr. Zilka and his wife of 54 years, Marie, have two sons and one daughter. Prior to his retirement he worked for International Harvester, which has since become Navistar. He has also fulfilled a number of diverse roles in the community, including serving on the advisory council of Chicago's John F. Kennedy High School, and the Community Advisory Council in Bedford Park. He has also served as a member of the nearby Garfield Ridge Civic League. In recognition of his achievements, South Rutherford Avenue was recently renamed in his honor.

A resident of Chicago his entire life, Richard Zilka has been a tireless fighter for the well being of his neighbors on the Southwest Side. Held in the utmost regard within the community, I have been inspired by his loyal and enduring service. As he retires from his position as president of the Clearing Civic League, I wish him all the very best for the future.

COLONEL TODD P. ''SLEDGE'' HARMER RETIRES AFTER 26 YEARS' SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Todd P. ''Sledge'' Harmer on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force.

I have had the pleasure of working with Sledge on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office, and greatly appreciate his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me personally, as well as numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel Harmer has given much to this Nation through his dedicated and selfless service. His Air Force career started the day he arrived at the U.S. Air Force Academy in June of 1982. He established himself as a serious student with a great aptitude for flying. Upon graduation on May 28, 1986 with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering, Lt Harmer was competitively selected among pilot training selectees to attend Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Lead-In Fighter Training, and F16C Operational Course, excelling in each course. He was assigned to the 14th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Misawa AB, Japan where he started flying combat training missions and preparing for greater aerial tasks. His superiors rated him the ''best wingman in the squadron'' and recognized him as a gifted fighter pilot. As a new Captain, he was upgraded to instructor pilot (IP) and mission commander in absolute minimum time, then selected to be a Standardization/Evaluation Flight Examiner because of his great flying skill and leadership. He was reassigned to the 69th Fighter Squadron at Moody AFB, GA as an IP and Chief of Weapons and Tactics. He was certified as combat-ready, and qualified in air-to-surface, air-to-air and nuclear roles. To no one's surprise, he was selected to attend the coveted F–16 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, and completed it with honors. He went on to complete Squadron Officer School, again completing it with honors and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He returned to the 69th Fighter Squadron for a few years to train and evaluate pilots, and contributed greatly to the success of this important fighter squadron. Captain Harmer was reassigned to the 23rd Operations Support Squadron at Pope AFB, NC where he was responsible for planning and coordinating F–16 employment supporting contingencies, exercises and readiness inspections. After serving as a flight commander and IP, he was sent overseas to serve in the 36th Fighter Squadron, Osan AB, Republic of Korea. He was hand-picked to command a flight of fighter pilots flying wartime taskings in a upgraded F–16C. His superiors identified him as an ''aviator without peers'', and the ''greatest contributor to the combat readiness of the most forward deployed fighter squadron in the Air Force.'' He was promoted to the rank of Major and give greater responsibility as the Assistant Operations Officer, and later the Aide-de-Camp to the Seventh Air Force Commander, Lt General Joseph Hurd. General Hurd recognized his superior airmanship and trusted counsel and called him the finest aide he had ever seen. Sledge was sent to the U.S. Naval War College and earned a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, then went on to the Air Force's School of Advanced Airpower Studies and spent a year excelling in a rigorous curriculum. Following this, newly promoted Lt Colonel Harmer was assigned to the prestigious Checkmate Division at the Pentagon to lead the European Command Pacific Command Branch. There he continued to contribute, lead and inspire his research teams through keen analysis and writings. Senior Air Force leadership had been impressed with his papers and reports over the years, but his writings would receive special recognition while in Checkmate and would help shape the employment and advancement of air and space power. Perhaps more importantly, however, Lt Colonel Harmer would become an impact strategist and leader in the days following 9–11. He led teams developing Air Force position on Grand Military Strategy, air and space operations plans, combat search and rescue, and the air attack plan for Operation Enduring Freedom. His years of training, education and performing every mission in a superb manner would help him to continue on the track to senior leadership. He was assigned as the Commander, 63rd Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, AZ and given the difficult task of commanding in the Air Force's largest fighter wing. He did not disappoint. He set the benchmark for training and air operations. Following this assignment, Lt Colonel Harmer would attend National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC and receive a Master of Science in National Security Strategy, and the designation of Distinguished Graduate. He would spend the following year in Turkey as an Executive Officer to the Commander of CC–Air and 16th Air Force, and, U.S. Senior National Representative, Allied Air Component Command HQ Izmir. He was promoted to Colonel and assigned as the Vice

Commander to a very demanding and active fighter wing, 388th FW, Hill AFB, UT, and to prepare him to later command his own wing, the 33rd Fighter Wing, Eglin AFB, FL. His boss, Lt General Gary North, tasked him to direct important sorties such as protection to POTUS, space shuttle and several deployments at home and abroad. General North also hand-picked Colonel Harmer for a demanding position in Iraq's Ministry of Defense where he led a highly specialized planning and training team, and advised the U.S. Forces-Iraq leadership on sensitive Arab-Kurd issues. Upon returning to the U.S., the Air Force continued to challenge Sledge by assigning him to one of the most demanding positions within the Air Force, his current job as the Chief of Air Force House Liaison. Since June 2010, Sledge has advised the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Director of Legislative Liaison, and numerous other senior military and civilian leaders on issues of the greatest concern to HQ Air Force and the Congress. He has more than served as a liaison between the Pentagon and the Hill, he has developed and improved key relationships that help us make better decisions about the Air Force. He is extremely intelligent and articulate, and has helped shape my thinking and influenced many Members of Congress. Simply, we trust him!

Colonel Harmer is a command pilot with over 3,300 flying hours primarily in the F–15 and F–16. He is the recipient of the following major medals and decorations for his service and accomplishments: the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

Throughout his distinguished career he has represented our country and Air Force with dignity and honor, and this is why I am so privileged to pay tribute to this fine Airman. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Todd Harmer, his wife Stacie and their daughters, Jordan, Leigh and Erika, for their service and sacrifices over the past 26 years. I wish them Godspeed, and continued happiness as they start a new chapter in their lives.

RECOGNIZING JOHN GUALTIER

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Gaultier of Vinton, IA for his years of service to veterans in Eastern Iowa.

John's service to the veterans and his community in Eastern Iowa has been a lifelong endeavor, as he's drawn on his own experience in war and battling PTSD to ensure that returning veterans are better served and that students are aware of the service and sacrifice their elders made in the Second World War. At the age of 18, John served as an Army Medic in the European Theater of Operations where he saved many American lives and participated in the liberation of two concentration camps and a Russian POW camp.

Since 1995, John has logged over 7,000 hours of volunteer service at the Iowa City Veterans Medical Center visiting with his fellow veterans and drawing on his own experience battling post-traumatic stress to help them recover. John has worked with psychiatrists at the Medical Center to help them in treating servicemembers with PTSD returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. John has also donated money and vehicles to ensure that veterans have transportation to VA facilities for their care.

John's service to his community also extends to students at Vinton-Shellsburg and North Linn Schools where he has shared stories of his experience in the war for the past eight years. John has turned his difficult experience in war into a lesson for our community's youth.

For his work volunteering at the Iowa City VA hospital and sharing his experiences with students, John was honored earlier this year by Cedar Rapids' KCRG's "9 Who Care" Awards, and he was nominated to represent Eastern Iowa at the Jefferson Awards for Public Service, where he is a finalist for the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for "Outstanding Community Service Benefiting Local Communities."

As the son of a World War Two veteran, who landed on Iwo Jima when he was 17, I understand the service and sacrifice made by veterans like John. They truly are members of the Greatest Generation, and John deserves to be commended for continuing to serve after he returned home and turning his own trials from war into a learning experience for others.

Congratulations John for this well-deserved honor. Thank you for your continued service to our community and work on behalf of Veterans. You represent the best of Iowa, having served your country and community for over half a century. Keep up the good work.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Leadership Alliance. The Leadership Alliance, established in 1992, is a national academic consortium of leading research universities and minority serving institutions with the mission to develop underrepresented students into outstanding leaders and role models in academia, business and the public sector.

Through an organized program of research, networking and mentorship at critical transitions along the entire academic training pathway, the Leadership Alliance prepares young scientists and scholars from underrepresented and underserved populations for graduate training and professional apprenticeships. Leadership Alliance faculty mentors provide high quality, cutting-edge research experiences in all academic disciplines at the nation's most competitive graduate training institutions and share insights into the nature of academic careers.

In the 20 years since its establishment, the Leadership Alliance has mentored over 2,000 undergraduates who have participated in the Summer Research Early Identification Program and over 200 alumni who have obtained their PhD (215) or MD–PhD (19) degrees as Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars.

More than 53 percent of Leadership Alliance early identification students enroll into a graduate level program versus the national rate of 40 percent enrollment into graduate programs. Of this 53 percent, 42 percent enrolled into or completed PhD programs. Of the 42 percent of students enrolling into doctoral training programs, 46 percent completed PhD programs and more than half of those were in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Leadership Alliance institutions graduated approximately 25 percent of all biomedical sciences PhD degrees to underrepresented minority students in a five year time period (2004–2008), making it a leading consortium grantor of PhD degrees in the biomedical sciences in the United States.

In my district, over the past 18 summers, the University of Pennsylvania has hosted 210 undergraduates who were mentored by faculty and had an in-depth research experience designed to provide them with theoretical knowledge and practical training in research and scientific experimentation and other scholarly investigations.

Leadership Alliance Doctoral Scholars are diversifying the academy with 58 percent of them at research-intensive institutions. Doctoral Scholars also are engaging in career positions in government and industry. The Leadership Alliance has demonstrated its effectiveness as a model for identifying, training and mentoring underrepresented minorities who are poised to expand and diversify the base of the 21st century workforce.

I am pleased today to recognize the importance of sustaining efforts to invest in programs that identify, train and mentor talented underrepresented and underserved students; recognize the continued dedication of institutional leaders, faculty members, administrators and students across the United States and support their roles in the continued training and mentoring of underrepresented students along the academic pathway; and to congratulate and commend the Leadership Alliance, including the University of Pennsylvania, for 20 years of mentoring a diverse and competitive research and scholarly workforce.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOUNT WASHINGTON CRUISES ON THEIR 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mount Washington Cruises on reaching your 140th anniversary.

New Hampshire is proud to be home to some of the most beautiful sights in the Northeast. The White Mountains and Lakes Region have attracted tourists from all over the world, and the beauty and grandeur of Lake

Winnipesaukee has been shared with thousands of visitors thanks to the M/S *Mount Washington.*

The M/S *Mount Washington* is truly one of New Hampshire's greatest treasures and continues to be one of the state's leading tourist attractions in the Lakes Region and for Weirs Beach. The daily in season tours give visitors the chance to view firsthand the beauty and majesty of Lake Winnipesaukee. With the ability to hold 1250 passengers, the *''Mount''* has also been a popular venue for parties, weddings and various celebrations. Today Mount Washington Cruises is owned and operated by local individuals ensuring that this fine vessel and her operations maintain in New Hampshire and are run by New Hampshire's great citizens.

I congratulate the owners, officers and crew of the Mount Washington Cruises for their continued success and their dedication to maintain the great legacy of the M/S *Mount Washington* here in the Granite State. I wish you all the best for continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP T.D. JAKES

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop T.D. Jakes, senior pastor and evangelist at The Potter's House in Dallas. The Potter's House is not only a house of worship, but a global humanitarian organization with over 30,000 members, which Bishop Jakes has faithfully served for more than 15 years. As well as celebrating a career in service with over 35 years of ministry, Bishop Jakes also celebrates his 55th birthday this month.

During an event in his honor this month, Bishop Jakes was joined by various church members, celebrities, and dignitaries in Dallas for a spiritual celebration of his 35 years of accomplishments in the ministry. The event, titled ''Triumphant Journey,'' highlighted Bishop Jakes' contributions to his congregants and supporters as a pastor, author, and husband.

Few people have the ability and the calling to lead such a great following into a life of devotion and compassion. Yet, Bishop Jakes has devoted his efforts in his commitment to helping the needy, and empowering the disillusioned. Through his ministerial work, Bishop Jakes has used his talents to unite tens of thousands of North Texans under a united spiritual cause. Harnessing the generosity of his congregation, Bishop Jakes continues to lead a commanding effort to better his community, and bring humanitarian assistance to other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, faith-based leaders and the powerful following they command serve as powerful tools in the furthering of altruism, and the building of strong communities. Bishop Jakes is a unifying force in North Texas, and his contributions to the faith-based community are undeniable. I commend Bishop Jakes for his leadership, and wish The Potter's House continued success in its pursuit of a better understanding of the faith.

A TRIBUTE TO COACH FINLEY READ

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, Finley Read, of Lumberton, North Carolina. Coach Read has dedicated over twenty years coaching and administrative work Lumberton High School, which is my alma mater. Coach Read deserves to be honored here today for his tireless contribution to the community of Lumberton. I ask that you join me in recognizing his long and remarkable career.

Coach Read enrolled and graduated from NC State University, where he was active in the football program. His impressive record during this time was interrupted only to serve our country in the U.S. Army. After returning to Lumberton, Coach Read became a high school teacher and multi-sport coach for the Lumberton Pirates, where he remained for two decades. In addition to his role as an administrator, Coach Read has bettered his community in countless ways. Through his leadership in football, baseball, and basketball, Coach Read has touched the lives of many Lumberton High students. He has been quite influential in our community, where he is known for his integrity and kindness.

Recently, the loss of long-time colleague and close friend, Coach Alton ''Turmey'' Brooks, left a hole in the lives of Lumberton High School students. His passing galvanized the community to honor Coach Brooks, which in turn has reminded us of the quiet, humble integrity of Coach Finley Read. His award today from the community of Lumberton comes in the form of a pirate ship, in recognition of his winning leadership for the Lumberton Pirates. His friends, former colleagues, and students from all walks of life have come together to praise him for role as a successful mentor, devout Christian, loving husband, and dedicated father.

I have known Coach Read all of my life, and I have personally witnessed and experienced Coach Read's powerful and positive influence in many different settings—from teaching me and other youngsters how to swim at Woodside Pool when I was in the third grade, to his giving me the opportunity to serve as Manager of the Pirates baseball team while I was in high school, to my work with him as a fellow Elder in our home church, First Presbyterian, in Lumberton. Coach Read, his wife Ruth, and all of his children, Kathy, Carey, and Allison, are dear friends that my family and I have long-known and respected.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Finley Read has mentored students in Robeson County for decades. As Co-founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I especially appreciate the work Coach Finley Read has done to make our community a better and healthier place. I wish Coach Read and his family God's richest blessings, and I ask that you join me today in recognition of his impressive career.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA WILLIAMS-SKINNER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, who is being honored by President Obama as a Champion for Change. Dr. Williams-Skinner is being commended for her dedication to addressing the needs of low-income men and boys.

Dr. Williams-Skinner has worked tirelessly through her organization, the Skinner Leadership Institute, to promote leadership building and evangelism. The organization prides itself in its holistic approach, which builds moral character, technical skills, and spiritual growth. Using this approach, the organization trains youth, ministry, and political leaders. Her work with young men, in particular, highlights the importance that she places on fatherhood within the family.

As former Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, Dr. Williams-Skinner helped to coordinate the Congressional Black Caucus Prayer Breakfast, which today attracts leaders from across the Nation. Since 1992, she has worked through the Leadership Institute to empower the communities around her. She has helped to train up-and-coming leaders, many of whom are today the stalwarts of their communities. The Skinner Leadership Institute hosts bi-weekly prayer walks through the halls of Congress, and its African American Leadership seminars have helped to foster a sense of community among African American leaders. Dr. Williams-Skinner has also served as a board member of Operation Push, the Christian Community Development Association, and the Neighborhood Learning Center.

Mr. Speaker, the work of faith-based leaders should not go unnoticed. Dr. Williams-Skinner's commitment to cultivating spiritual maturity and public service has shaped leaders that help to reconcile the spiritual, moral, and technical needs of our country. These leaders will help build strong communities. Her work not only benefits today's leaders, but helps to secure leaders of the future. Her accomplishments and contributions to our Nation are indisputable. I applaud Dr. Williams-Skinner's leadership, and I wish her continued success with the Skinner Leadership Institute.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED WENDELL GRIFFITH

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life and service of Northwest Florida's beloved Wendell Griffith.

For nearly 25 years, Wendell Griffith was a constant presence on the campus of Northwest Florida State College. As a professor of United States and World History, Mr. Griffith

had a unique personal teaching style that inspired his students to engage with history and learn invaluable life lessons. A true patriot, Mr. Griffith served his country honorably in the United States Marine Corps and his reverence for our Constitution guided both his service to our nation and the community.

Mr. Griffith was remembered by students and colleagues alike as a truly world class story teller. By framing historical events in this unique context, he was able to reach thousands of students and instill in them a true and full appreciation of history and of the importance of historical events and documents. Mr. Griffith was also an ardent follower of politics, and he bestowed upon his students an appreciation for the importance of participating in American democracy.

Mr. Griffith was also a loving and committed husband, father and friend. He is survived by his wife, Sara Lynn, his three sons, Edward, Brett and Lucas, his two grandchildren, Nathan and James, and scores of friends, colleagues and students. To some, Wendell Griffith will be remembered as an inspiring teacher, to others as a true American patriot. To his family and friends, he will be remembered as a loyal and caring family man.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Wendell Griffith. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to the entire Griffith family.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH POTTER

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sorrow today following the passing of Ralph Potter of Fayetteville, North Carolina. Mr. Potter was a proprietor of almost fifty restaurants in the Carolinas, beloved member of the community, devoted family man, dear friend, and effective public servant. Mr. Potter passed away on June 2, 2012 at the age of 75, and he will be dearly missed.

Ralph Potter grew up in Wilmington, attended New Hanover High School, and then enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was the first in his family to graduate from college. He went on to earn his juris doctor from UNC School of Law, which he would later use to serve his community as the president of the state restaurant association. His strong work ethic and intelligence helped earn him the Methodist University's Entrepreneur and Businessman of the Year award, and his restaurants can now be found throughout North and South Carolina. Outside of business, Mr. Potter was devoted to his family, to his church and his community, and he will long remain a well-known and influential figure in Fayetteville.

Mr. Potter was very active in the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association as a reflection of his proud Greek heritage, and supported education efforts through his such as the Ira Douglas Potter Memorial and Ralph M. Potter Scholarship Funds at UNC, as well as a scholarship fund at Salem College. He pushed for the creation of the first Cumberland County Public library, along with his roles at the board of trustees of Fayetteville Academy and ARC of Cumberland County. He always worked hard to address community challenges in Fayetteville, and always did so with humor and kindness.

Mr. Potter was also recognized for his deep faith in Christ, and was active at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church. There he taught Bible study, established the Paris and Potter Endowment Fund for the church, and became a godfather for the church at its consecration. We know today that he is resting at home in peace and joy with his Savior.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Potter was a personal friend of mine and I have the utmost respect for his integrity, business acumen and his strong commitment to church and community. May we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined his life. He is survived by his wife, Dena Fasul Potter, son Nicholas D. Potter, daughter Rebecca Cooke and numerous grandchildren, cousins, nieces and nephews. May God continue to bless all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

DEPORTATION EXEMPTION FOR IMMIGRANT ALIENS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I was taken aback by the Administration's announcement last week that it would decline to enforce the law when it comes to the deportation of illegal aliens who were brought to our Nation as young children.

I believe that the president is wrong on this issue—as wrong as he can be.

We are a Nation of immigrants. We take pride in our immigrant roots. Southern West Virginia has a proud history of immigrant families and workers who migrated to the coal fields to live and work.

For every immigrant who came to this country legally, abiding by the process and respecting the law, this action is a slap in the face. For the immigration and border security officers, who are working and risking their lives to enforce the law, this announcement is a slap in the face. For the American workers who will be forced to compete for American jobs against immigrant aliens, this announcement is a slap in the face.

I share the frustration of many Americans in the stubborn refusal of the House Republican Majority in not taking action on critical legislation—a long-term surface transportation, budget and appropriations bills, and a host of expiring laws that run the gamut from tax breaks, to Medicare payments to our hospitals and health providers, to critical government programs; all of which are undermining confidence in the Congress as an institution and acting as deadweight on job creation and growth. To some extent, one could even argue the Congress has invited this executive action by refusing to act to strengthen our Nation's borders and immigration enforcement.

But, a chief executive's decision, to bypass the Congress and refuse to implement the law, is unacceptable. It may make for good politics in some quarters of our Nation, but it sets a terrible and dangerous precedent.

The Constitution requires the president to enforce the law. It authorizes the president to recommend changes to the law. It does not—does not—permit the president to selectively choose which laws to enforce.

The Congress must disabuse the president and every future president of the notion that laws with which the executive branch disagrees can be ignored. More important than party, and more important than presidential politics, must be the upholding of the Constitution and seeing to it that the laws are faithfully executed.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF WILLIE J. O'NEAL

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Willie J. O'Neal who passed on June 12, 2012 at the age of 74. Mr. O'Neal, known to his family and friends as ''Deacon Bill,'' was an esteemed member of the Northwest Florida community, a proud veteran, and a dedicated servant of God. I am humbled to commemorate his life.

Born in 1937, Deacon Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force, retiring at the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Upon retirement from the Air Force, he continued to serve his country in the civil service. Earlier this month, Deacon Bill celebrated his 20th year as a deacon at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Niceville, Florida. He spent his days as a fixture at the Eglin Air Force Base Exchange (BX) ministering to countless people from his favorite booth at the BX Starbucks. Deacon Bill was a mentor to some, a minister to many, and a friend to all.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life and dedicated service of Willie J. ''Deacon Bill'' O'Neal. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his children, Monica, Steven, and Mark, five grandchildren, Melony, Ethan, Clare, Grace and Matthew, and their entire family. He will truly be missed by all of us throughout the community.

A TRIBUTE TO ALTON G. ''TUNNEY'' BROOKS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Alton G. ''Tunney'' Brooks, a long-serving coach and athletic director at Lumberton High School, my own alma mater. Coach Brooks was an irreplaceable mentor for many students in our community, a devoted family man, and a dear friend. Coach Brooks passed away on the morning of May 4, 2012, after a three-year battle with lung cancer, and he will be deeply missed.

Driven by a strong love for his community and a deep investment in its youth, Coach Brooks coached numerous sports during his

lifetime and served as the Lumberton High School Athletic Director. In this capacity, Coach Brooks was a valuable leader and role model, who pushed young athletes to achieve things they never thought possible and worked to shape their senses of integrity, character, discipline, and teamwork.

This dedication is evident through his many recognitions, as he was named to the N.C. Athletic Directors and N.C. High School Athletic Association's Halls of Fame. His legacy will also be remembered through the Lumberton High School football stadium, named in his honor, and through an endowment scholarship at UNC-Pembroke. Coach Brooks also received honors as a superior athlete himself—at Charles Coon High School, where he received all-state honors and won state championships, at Wake Forest University where he was team captain of the baseball and basketball teams, and on the national level in 1951, when he helped the U.S. win silver at the first-ever Pan American Games in Argentina as the catcher for the U.S. baseball team.

I knew Coach Brooks personally, not only as the father of my good friend, Richie Brooks, with whom I grew up with in Lumberton, and with whom I served on the Student Council at LHS, but also through his being the first Manager of Woodside Pool, which he and my father spent countless hours developing through Recreation Facilities, Inc. As President of the Student Body at LHS and as Manager of the Lumberton Pirates baseball team when I was in high school, I knew first-hand of Coach Brooks' leadership as our school's well-respected and dynamic athletic director.

As a Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I have a deep, personal respect for Coach Brooks' dedication to this cause. Over several decades, he has taught hundreds of youth in the Lumberton area valuable lessons and skills that have made a meaningful and lasting impact on their lives, and our community will always remain grateful.

Mr. Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, and character that defined the life of Alton ''Tunney'' Brooks. May God continue to bless his three children, Debbie, Richie and John, all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

ENSURING SOUND SCIENCE IN AGENCY RULEMAKING AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sound Science in Agency Rulemaking and Risk Assessments Act to help restore sound science and scientific integrity to the rulemaking process at our federal agencies.

On March 9, 2009, President Obama issued a Presidential memorandum directing the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to require federal departments and agencies to develop procedures ''for restoring scientific integrity to government decision making.'' To date, this worthwhile and sensible project has not been completed.

This bipartisan bill, which I am introducing with my colleague from North Carolina, Mike McIntyre, seeks to build on the President's initiative by codifying the requirement that the Director of OSTP require each agency to develop guidelines to maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of scientific information used by federal agencies. This legislation requires appropriate peer review, the disclosure of scientific studies used in making decisions, and an opportunity for stakeholder input. The bill requires federal agencies to give greatest weight to information based on reproducible data that is developed in accordance with the scientific method. Further, it deems agency actions that do not follow such procedures to be arbitrary and subject to challenge by affected stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, we all want the best science used in decisions made by the federal government. This bill will help accomplish that goal.

RECOGNIZING LONGWOOD STUDENTS WHO HONORED VETERANS

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, both past and present, of the Longwood School District in my district on Long Island for the completion of two major projects—the Longwood Veterans Walk and the accompanying Longwood Veterans History Project, which honor those men and women who have served this nation in overseas conflicts.

In tribute to the service our veterans have given to this country, a monument commemorating the service of former Longwood school students who served in the Gulf War, the Iraq War, and the continuing War in Afghanistan, has been constructed and will be dedicated on June 16, 2012, in Bartlett Pond Park.

This monument is the last in a series honoring the Longwood veterans from every war in our nation's history, dating back to the Revolution. The first, dedicated in 2007, created an enthusiasm for local history and the personal stories of these men and women.

Since then, the students of Longwood Junior High School have, using a variety of sources, conducted their own research to locate the names and lives of every Longwood veteran, an undertaking that resulted in six volumes of biographies. Through the generosity of the local community, sufficient funds were raised for the completion of this ambitious and moving project.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud of this project and the students who have made it a reality. On behalf of New York's first congressional district, I urge my colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the inspiring civic duty demonstrated by these students who have honored our community's veterans.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. DEWAYNE CHARLES HESTER

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous public servant, Deputy Sheriff Dewayne Charles Hester, who served the people of Bladen County as a law enforcement officer for more than a decade. The Bladenboro community recently and unexpectedly lost this dear friend and beloved lawman, but his influence and compassion for the people he served will live on. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Deputy Hester's career in law enforcement began in the City of Elizabethtown Police Department, and his hard work earned him the title of Sheriff's Deputy with the Bladen County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Hester was well-respected for his dedication to keeping the citizens of Bladen County safe.

Deputy Hester made a lasting mark on his community, our state and our nation. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude, and we can best honor his memory by honoring his commitment to public service.

A man of faith, Hester was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Bladenboro. We know today that he is resting at home in peace and joy with his Savior.

As a Member of the Law Enforcement Caucus, I have been personally aware of Deputy Hester's commitment and service. Following the tragedy befalling our friend and colleague, Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, I benefitted from the professionalism, courtesies, and respect he showed as he provided protection for me during one of my ''Conversations with the Congressman'' meetings at the Town Hall in Elizabethtown. This was but one example of his answering the call of duty wherever and wherever he was needed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout North Carolina and a wonderful husband, loving father, and dutiful son. Deputy Dewayne Hester will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Tammie Hester; his daughters, Haley and Hannah Hester; his two brothers, Jamie and Kenneth; and his mother, Elfriede Hester.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time, and we will continue to remember him as an honorable man who gave his life in the line of duty.

CONGRATULATING MURDIC AND BEULAH BOWEN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on July 3, 2012, Mr. and Mrs. Murdic and Beulah Bowen will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Murdic and Beulah were married on July 3, 1942, in Columbia, South Carolina, and are longtime residents of the Elgin community in Richland County, South Carolina.

Together, the Bowens have contributed a great deal to their community, the State of

South Carolina, and our Nation. On December 3, 1942, Murdic reported to the United States Army and served in the 94th Division during World War II throughout the European Theatre. After his tour of duty, he returned to Elgin where he began working in textiles and became the owner of a mercantile business and a used car business. Beulah worked with the Citizens and Southern National Bank in Elgin, South Carolina, and retired from the bank after 40 years of dedicated service.

Murdic and Beulah have remained active and devoted members of the Highway Pentecostal Holiness Church in Elgin, South Carolina, and continue to remain a steadfast example of devotion, patience, and understanding to their three daughters, six grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. I would like to congratulate Murdic and Beulah Bowen on this momentous occasion and offer my best wishes to them and their family in the future.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act. Many of these individuals await this decision in fear, as they stand to lose their sense of security if the law is struck down. Since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law on March 23, 2010, millions of Americans have already benefited from its sweeping reforms, and millions more stand to benefit once the law is fully implemented in 2014. Texas has the highest percentage of adults without health insurance, and striking down the Affordable Care Act will only worsen this predicament for Texans.

If the Supreme Court strikes down the Affordable Care Act, there will be no winners. The Affordable Care Act forces insurance companies to play by the rules, giving Americans greater control over their own health care. Under the health care law, insurance companies are required to publicly justify their actions if they chose to raise rates by 10 percent or more, and can no longer impose lifetime dollar limits on health benefits. In a major show of support, several insurance companies, including UnitedHealthcare and Aetna, have even pledged to preserve certain provisions of the health care law no matter what the Supreme Court decides.

A repeal of the Affordable Care Act would further exacerbate health disparities between minorities and non-minorities. Minorities suffer disproportionately from serious illnesses such as cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS. Historically, minorities have faced considerable barriers to accessing affordable health insurance, and these barriers have contributed to significant health disparities. Under the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 3.8 million African Americans and roughly 5.4 million Latinos who would otherwise be uninsured will gain coverage by 2016. If the Affordable Care Act is struck down, millions of minorities will be forced to seek primary care in our Nation's overcrowded emergency rooms, and the costs of care will be shifted to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans have introduced numerous measures to undermine and repeal the Affordable Care Act, they have not yet offered one piece of legislation which would reduce health care costs for young adults and seniors or address the growing health disparities between minorities and non-minorities. As we await this monumental court decision, I, along with my Democratic colleagues, will continue to advocate for access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WHITEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM BEING NAMED NORTH CAROLINA 2–A STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to ask you to join me in recognizing the Whiteville High School baseball team of Whiteville, North Carolina, on being named North Carolina 2–A State Champions.

The Whiteville Wolfpack finished their season strong with a 16-game winning streak for a record of 26–5, including the championship game win over the 2011 returning State Champions. The Whiteville team also received the honors for All-Cape Fear region baseball coach of the year, Brett Harwood, and player of the year, Nathan Hood.

As founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, a long-time little league coach and one who grew up playing baseball, I appreciate the dedication, determination, and teamwork that earned these players the esteemed title of State Champions. I am also impressed by Coach Brett Harwood who led this team to victory, as well as the parents of each player and the Whiteville community as a whole for supporting these young baseball players as they worked to achieve their dream.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Whiteville High School baseball team, and wishing them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 20

9:30 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities, Insurance and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the initial public offering (IPO) process, focusing on ordinary investors.

SD–538

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Patent and Trademark Office, focusing on implementation of the Leahy-Smith ''America Invents Act'' and international harmonizing efforts.

SD–226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine risks, opportunities, and oversight of commercial space.

SR–253

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Holocaust-era claims in the 21st century.

SD–226

Armed Services

Personnel Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense programs and policies to support military families with special needs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2013 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR–232A

JUNE 21

Time to be announced

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider H.R. 1160, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey the McKinney Lake National Fish Hatchery to the State of North Carolina, S. 1324, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, S. 1201, to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, S. 2018, to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship, S. 3264, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, S. 2104, to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act, S. 3304, to redesignate the Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters located at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. in Washington, D.C., as the ''William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building'', to redesignate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 200 East Wall Street in Midland, Texas, as the ''George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush United States Courthouse and George Mahon Federal Building'', and to designate the Federal building housing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives Headquarters located at 99 New York Avenue N.E., Washington D.C., as the ''Eliot Ness ATF Building'', H.R. 1791, to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 101 South United States Route 1 in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the ''Alto Lee Adams, Sr., United States Courthouse'', and the nominations of Allison M. Macfarlane, of Maryland, and Kristine L. Svinicki, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and a proposed resolution relating to the General Services Administration.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine perspectives on money market mutual fund reforms.

SD–538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael Peter Huerta, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

SR–253

Finance

To hold hearings to examine Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) accession, focusing on the Administration's views on the implications for the United States.

SD–215

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine implementation of the New Start Treaty, and related matters.

SD–419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine an update on Olmstead enforcement, focusing on using the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to promote community integration.

SD–430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Katherine C. Tobin, of New York, and James C. Miller III, of Virginia, both to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD–342

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 250, to protect crime victims' rights, to eliminate the substantial backlog of DNA samples collected from crime scenes and convicted offenders, to improve and expand the DNA testing capacity of Federal, State, and local crime laboratories, to increase research and development of new DNA testing technologies, to develop new training programs regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence, to provide post conviction testing of DNA evidence to exonerate the innocent, to improve the performance of counsel in State capital cases, S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, S. 1744, to provide funding for State courts to assess and improve the handling of proceedings relating to adult guardianship and conservatorship, to authorize the Attorney General to carry out a pilot program for the conduct of background checks on individuals to be appointed as guardians or conservators, and to promote the widespread adoption of information technology to better monitor, report, and audit conservatorships of protected persons, and the nominations of Brian J. Davis, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Terrence G. Berg, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jesus G. Bernal, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Lorna G. Schofield, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Grande Lum, of California, to be Director, Community Relations Service, and Jamie A. Hainsworth, to be United States Marshal for the District of Rhode Island, John S. Leonardo, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, Patrick A. Miles, Jr., to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, and Danny Chappelle Williams, Sr., to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, all of the Department of Justice.

SD–226

1:30 p.m.

Judiciary

Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Universal Music Group/EMI merger and the future of online music.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine security clearance reform, focusing on sustaining progress for the future.

SD–342

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

JUNE 27

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine health and benefits legislation.

SR–418

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1897, to amend Public Law 101–377 to revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station, S. 2158, to establish

the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway National Heritage Area, S. 2229, to authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, S. 2267, to reauthorize the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area, S. 2272, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali, S. 2273, to designate the Talkeetna Ranger Station in Talkeetna, Alaska, as the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station, S. 2286, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2316, to designate the Salt Pond Visitor Center at the Cape Cod National Seashore as the ''Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Visitor Center'', S. 2324, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Neches River in the State of Texas for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System, S. 2372, to authorize pedestrian and motorized vehicular access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, and S. 3300, to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington.

SD–366

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine innovative non-federal programs for financing energy efficient building retrofits.

SD–366

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students.

Room to be announced

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4223–S4251

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3304–3309, and S. Res. 495. **Page S4238**

Measures Passed:

National Day of the American Cowboy: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 470, designating July 28, 2012, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S4250**

Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 495, designating the period beginning on June 17, 2012, and ending on June 23, 2012, as ''Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Week'', and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease and the impact such disease has on patients. **Page S4250**

Measures Considered:

Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1940, to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, to restore the financial solvency of the flood insurance fund.

Pages S4223–26, S4230–36

Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that when Senate resumes consideration of S. 3240, to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2017, the pending motion to recommit be withdrawn; that Reid Amendment No. 2390 (to Amendment No. 2389) be withdrawn; that Reid (for Stabenow/Roberts) Amendment No. 2389 be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered original text for the purposes of further amendment; that the following amendments and motions be the only first-degree amendments and motions in order to the bill: Akaka Amendment No. 2440 (highly fractionated tribal lands); Akaka Amendment No. 2396 (tribal relations office); Baucus Amendment No. 2429 (livestock); Bingaman Amendment No. 2364 (multi-state aquifers); Brown (OH) Amendment No. 2445 (rural development); Cantwell Amendment No. 2370 (pulse pilot); Casey Amendment No. 2238 (technical/study-federal milk marketing); Coons Amendment No. 2426 (poultry insurance study); Feinstein Amendment No. 2422 (conservation innovation grants); Feinstein Amendment No. 2309 (insurance recall); Gillibrand Amendment No. 2156 (SNAP); Hagan Amendment No. 2366 (crop insurance-plain language); Kerry Amendment No. 2187 (commercial fishermen); Landrieu Amendment No. 2321 (rural development loans); Manchin Amendment No. 2345 (dietary study); Merkley Amendment No. 2382 (organic crop insurance); Schumer Amendment No. 2427 (acer); Stabenow Amendment No. 2453 (NAP); Udall (CO) Amendment No. 2295 (bark beetle); Warner Amendment No. 2457 (rural broadband); Wyden Amendment No. 2442 (microloans); Wyden Amendment No. 2388 (farm to school); Leahy Amendment No. 2204 (rural development); Nelson (NE) Amendment No. 2242 (rural housing); Klobuchar Amendment No. 2299 (transportation study); Carper Amendment No. 2287 (poultry feed research); Sanders Amendment No. 2254 (biomass); Thune Amendment No. 2437 (crop insurance); Durbin-Coburn Amendment No. 2439 (crop insurance); Snowe Amendment No. 2190 (milk marketing order reform); Ayotte Amendment No. 2192 (value added grants); Collins Amendment No. 2444 (dairy); Grassley Amendment No. 2167 (pay cap marketing loans); Sessions Amendment No. 2174 (SNAP); Nelson (NE) Amendment No. 2243 (SNAP); Sessions Amendment No. 2172 (SNAP); Paul Amendment No. 2181 ($250,000 income limit); Alexander Amendment No. 2191 (wind loans); McCain Amendment No. 2199 (catfish); Toomey Amendment No. 2217 (organic/AMA); DeMint Amendment No. 2263 (broadband funding); DeMint Amendment No. 2262 (SoS Free MKT); DeMint Amendment No. 2268 (Loan guarantees); DeMint Amendment No. 2276 (checkoffs); DeMint Amendment No. 2273 (broadband); Coburn Amendment No. 2289 (MAP); Coburn Amendment No. 2293 (Limit Millionaires); Kerry Amendment No. 2454 (North Korea); Kyl Amendment No. 2354 (North Korea); Lee Amendment No. 2313 (Forest Legacy);

Lee Amendment No. 2314 (CSP/CRP cut); Boozman Amendment No. 2355 (Ag research, law info); Boozman Amendment No. 2360 (TEFAP); Toomey Amendment No. 2226 (energy title); Toomey Amendment No. 2433 (sugar); Lee Motion to Recommit (FY 2008 levels); Johnson(WI) Motion to Recommit; Chambliss Amendment No. 2438 (conservation crop insurance); Chambliss Amendment No. 2340 (sugar); Chambliss Amendment No. 2432 (FMPP); Ayotte Amendment No. 2195 (GAO crop insurance fraud report); Blunt Amendment No. 2246 (veterans); Moran Amendment No. 2403 (food aid); Moran Amendment No. 2443 (beginning farmers); Vitter Amendment No. 2363 (pets); Toomey Amendment No. 2247 (paperwork); Sanders Amendment No. 2310 (genetically engineered food); Coburn Amendment No. 2214 (convention funding); Boxer Amendment No. 2456 (aerial inspections); Johanns Amendment No. 2372 (aerial inspections); Murray Amendment No. 2455 (sequestration); McCain Amendment No. 2162 (Sequestration report—DoD); and Rubio Amendment No. 2166 (RAISE Act); that at 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments in the order listed alternating between Republican and Democratic sponsored amendments; that there be no amendments or motions in order to the amendments prior to the votes other than motions to waive points of order and motions to table; that there be two minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form in between the votes and all after the first vote be ten minute votes; that Toomey Amendment No. 2247; Sanders Amendment No. 2310; Coburn Amendment No. 2214; Boxer Amendment No. 2456; Johanns Amendment No. 2372; Murray Amendment No. 2455; McCain Amendment No. 2162; and Rubio Amendment No. 2166 be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold; that the clerks be authorized to modify the instruction lines on amendments so the page and line numbers match up correctly; that upon disposition of the amendments, the bill, as amended, be read a third time; that there be up to ten minutes equally divided in the usual form prior to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; and that the vote on passage of the bill be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold. **Pages S4250–51**

Boiler MACT/EPA—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Republican Leader, the Republican Leader, or his designee, be recognized to move to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 37, to disapprove a rule promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to emission standards for certain steam generating units; that there be up to four hours of debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees; that two hours of debate, equally divided, occur on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, and Senate continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution at 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, for the remaining two hours of debate; that at 12:30 p.m., on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Senate vote on the adoption of the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution; that if the motion is successful, then the time for debate with respect to the joint resolution be equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; and that all other provisions of the statute governing consideration of the joint resolution remain in effect. **Page S4251**

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Fire—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the adoption of S. Res. 488 and the preamble thereto, that Stabenow (for Snowe) Amendment No. 2458, to amend the preamble, be agreed to. **Pages S4249–50**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000, with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–51) **Page S4238**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, with respect to North Korea; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–52) **Page S4238**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 64 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. EX. 122), Mary Geiger Lewis, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. **Pages S4226–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4238–40**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4240–43**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4236–38**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4243–49**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: Page S4249

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—122) Page S4230

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 9:05 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 19, 2012. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4251.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 5952–5958; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 111–112; and H. Res. 689 were introduced. Pages H3732–33

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H3733–34

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3668, to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–537);

H.R. 3100, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundary of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, to conduct a study of potential land acquisitions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–538); and

H. Res. 688, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2578) to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–539). Page H3732

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative LaTourette to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H3709

Recess: The House recessed at 2:12 p.m. and reconvened at 4:01 p.m. Page H3711

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow certain land to be used to generate income to provide funding for academic programs: H.R. 1556, to amend the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow certain land to be used to generate income to provide funding for academic programs; Pages H3711–12

Clarifying authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes": H.R. 4027, to clarify authority granted under the Act entitled "An Act to define the exterior boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in the State of Utah, and for other purposes"; Pages H3712–13

Providing for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah: S. 684, to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Alta, Utah, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 383 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 379; Pages H3714, H3721–22

Modifying a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior: S. 404, to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 380 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 380; Pages H3713–14, H3722–23

East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act: S. 997, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to extend a water contract between the United States and the East Bench Irrigation District; Page H3715

Expressing the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States: H. Res. 683, to express the regret of the House of Representatives for the passage of laws that adversely affected the Chinese in the United States, including the Chinese Exclusion Act; Pages H3715–19

Counterfeit Drug Penalty Enhancement Act: H.R. 3668, amended, to prevent trafficking in counterfeit drugs; and Pages H3719–21

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 2012: H.R. 1272, amended, to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al, by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188. Pages H3723–25

Recess: The House recessed at 5:10 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H3721

Motion to Instruct Conferees: Representative Walz (MN) announced his intent to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4348. Page H3723

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act: H.R. 2938, amended, to prohibit certain gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona. **Pages H3725–29**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2012—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–113). **Page H3721**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2012—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–114). **Page H3721**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H3710–11.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3721–22, H3722–23. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2578 to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes. The Committee granted, by a record vote, a structured rule providing 90 minutes of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for purpose of amendment the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 112–25 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Hastings (WA), Representatives Markey, Bishop (UT), Grijalva, and King (IA).

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2012

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: business meeting to consider pending nominations, 10 a.m., SR–222.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the potential for induced seismicity from energy technologies, including carbon capture and storage, enhance geothermal systems, production from gas shales, and enhanced oil recovery, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, to hold hearings to examine a review of recent Environmental Protection Agency's air standards for hydraulically fractured natural gas wells and oil and natural gas storage, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine confronting the looming fiscal crisis, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 641, to provide 100,000,000 people with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis within six years by improving the capacity of the United States Government to fully implement the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, S. 1039, to impose sanctions on persons responsible for the detention, abuse, or death of Sergei Magnitsky, for the conspiracy to defraud the Russian Federation of taxes on corporate profits through fraudulent transactions and lawsuits against Hermitage, and for other gross violations of human rights in the Russian Federation, S. 2165, to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, H.R. 4240, to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, S. Res. 402, condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for committing crimes against humanity and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government and governments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield, S. Res. 429, supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day, S. Res. 473, commending Rotary

International and others for their efforts to prevent and eradicate polio, S. Res. 385, condemning the Government of Iran for its continued persecution, imprisonment, and sentencing of Youcef Nadarkhani on the charge of apostasy, and the nominations of Piper Anne Wind Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Mongolia, Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Dorothea-Maria Rosen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, Edward M. Alford, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Mark L. Asquino, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Douglas M. Griffiths, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, Brett H. McGurk, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, Susan Marsh Elliott, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan, Richard L. Morningstar, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Timothy M. Broas, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Jay Nicholas Anania, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Suriname, all of the Department of State, and lists in the Foreign Service, 2:15 p.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine Title IX, focusing on forty years and counting, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights, to hold hearings to examine reassessing solitary confinement, focusing on the human rights, fiscal and public safety consequences, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: to receive a briefing on treating substance abuse disorder and expanding access to and resources for community-based treatment providers in the United States, 2 p.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup of Agriculture Appropriations Bill, FY 2013; and the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Bill, FY 2013; 10:15 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, markup of Activities and Summary Report of the Committee on the Budget, 11:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled ''The American Energy Initiative,'' 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''The Federal Green Jobs Agenda,'' 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Full Committee, begin markup of H.R. 5859, to repeal an obsolete provision in title 49, United States Code, requiring motor vehicle insurance cost reporting; H.R. 5865, the ''American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2012''; H.R. 4273, the ''Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2012''; H.R. 5892, the ''Hydropower Regulatory Efficiency Act of 2012''; H. Con. Res. 127, providing for the acceptance of a statue of Gerald R. Ford from the people of Michigan for placement in the United States Capitol; and Semi-Annual Committee Activity Report, 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining Bank Supervision and Risk Management in Light of JPMorgan Chase's Trading Loss,'' 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing ''Border Security Threats to the Homeland: DHS' Response to Innovative Tactics and Techniques,'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Transportation Security, hearing entitled ''Is TSA's Planned Purchase of CAT/BPSS a Wise Use of Taxpayer Dollars?,'' 1:30 p.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet, hearing entitled ''New Technologies and Innovations in the Mobile and Online space, and the Implications for Public Policy,'' 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Full Committee, mark up of H.R. 5949, the ''FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act of 2012,'' 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee hearing entitled ''Taxpayer-Funded Litigation: Benefitting Lawyers and Harming Species, Jobs and Schools,'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled H.R. 2706, the ''Billfish Conservation Act of 2011''; H.R. 3472, the ''Pirate Fishing Vessel Disposal Act of 2011''; and H.R. 4100, the ''Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2011,'' 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending, hearing entitled ''The Obama Administration's Green Energy Gamble Part II: Were All the Taxpayer Subsidies Necessary?,'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4480, the ''Strategic Energy Production Act of 2012,'' 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, hearing entitled ''Best Practices in Transforming Research into Innovation: Creative Approaches to the Bayh-Dole Act,'' 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Investigation and Oversight, hearing entitled ''The Science of How Hunting Assists Species Conservation and Management,'' 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reclaiming the Process: Examining the VBA Claims Transformation Plan as a Means to Effectively Serve our Veterans''; and Approval of the Activities Report for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''MedPAC's June 2012 Report to Congress,'' 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the economic impact of ending or reducing funding for the American Community Survey and other government statistics, 2:30 p.m., 210, Cannon Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: The Majority Leader will be recognized. Senate will resume consideration of S. 3240, Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act, with several roll call votes on or in relation to amendments to the bill beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Also, Senate will begin consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 37, Boiler MACT/EPA.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, June 19

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 2578—Amending the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California (Subject to a Rule).

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