So, Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution introduced by my good friend from New York, Congressman RANGEL.

This resolution encourages the International Olympic Committee to choose New York City as the host for the Olympic Games in 2012. Congressman RANGEL has been relentless on promoting New York as a great choice for the Olympics and never shying away from any effort to drive this notion. As a member of the New York City delegation, I wholeheartedly support the Resolution.

The United States will not host the Olympic Games for another 8 years now, bringing that span to 10 years—in 2012, I trust the Olympic Committee will see fit to bestow this honor to our great city. Bringing the Games to the United States will not only exert a huge economic boost on local, regional, and of course national level, it will also create jobs not only the for the Games, but also on the road towards them

New York is uniquely qualified to invite the "world". The Olympic ideals of competition, fair play, and pursuit of dreams are perfectly embodied and thoroughly celebrated in the City. Olympic Games drive world wide cultural understanding and exchange and thus promoting peace.

The diverse ethnicity of the City would resonate with all guests—and vice versa. Not just since the United Nations, as the epitome of those ideals, took root in New York, the City has been a beacon of freedom and a meeting-spot for the world. The City was hit hard on 9/11, but it never retreated and withdrew in its shelter. It kept embracing the world. In 2012, we want to show this yet another time.

Furthermore, the current plans would allow for extraordinary Olympic Games. The so-called "x-plan" will bring athletes and guests right into the heart of New York, perfectly blending the atmosphere of the great New York skyline with the East River riverfront. The Olympic Games right next to the United Nations headquarters would be the biggest display of international understanding and exchange.

I urge all my colleagues to join Congressman RANGEL in supporting this resolution.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 475, of which I am a cosponsor, which expresses the sense of Congress encouraging the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to choose New York City as the site of the 2012 Olympic Games. I would like to thank my friends and colleagues Representatives RANGEL and FOSSELLA for introducing this resolution.

New York City is the greatest city in the world. As the center of arts, business, culture, tourism, architecture, education, and sports, New York is an ideal candidate to host the world's greatest athletic competition. With its top-notch mass transportation systems, New York already has much of the infrastructure in place to transport athletes and fans to the athletic events. Because New York is a site for many of the world's top sports competitions, including the U.S. Open, and the home of several professional sports teams, our city has the necessary capabilities to handle large numbers of people along with the tremendous security requirements.

Aside from allowing New York to showcase its beauty and infinite attractions to a global audience, hosting an Olympic Games would be a tremendous boost to an economy that continues to recover from the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Our local restaurants and businesses would greatly benefit from the potential revenue that the Olympics would bring.

Greece just hosted one of the greatest Olympic Games ever to be held, and I commend them on their success. I am confident that New Yorkers would open their arms and welcome the world to our doorstep just as the people of Greece welcomed us to the birthplace of the Olympics.

I look forward to working with my friends in the New York congressional delegation and our local officials to bring the 2012 Olympic Games to New York City.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 475.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND PURPOSES OF NATIONAL FARM SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 494) supporting the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week and applauding the men and women who provide a stable supply of food and fiber for the United States and the world.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 494

Whereas nearly half of the land in the United States is used for agricultural production;

Whereas many farmers and ranchers operate and maintain heavy-duty equipment and machinery and work with large and unpredictable livestock, which makes farming and ranching among the most dangerous occupations in the United States;

Whereas farmers and ranchers are at risk of serious work-related accidents, and many farmers and ranchers suffer disabling injuries each year;

Whereas the children of farmers and ranchers are at special risk from farm-related accidents;

Whereas the President has proclaimed, by Executive Order, September 19 through September 25, 2004, as National Farm Safety and Health Week ; and

Whereas National Farm Safety and Health Week provides an opportunity for increased awareness and educational programs targeted towards the protection and productivity of farmers and ranchers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week; and

(2) applauds the men and women who provide a stable supply of food and fiber for the United States and the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I should start by congratulating the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) for introducing this resolution, and I rise in wholehearted support of it, which brings our attention to the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week which the President proclaimed for this week, beginning September 19.

For those of us who represent American farmers and ranchers, we know the long hours farmers devote to getting the crops safely to the bin or the cotton to the gin. Farmers are in the fields now harvesting this year's field crops. When the weather is ripe for picking corn or cutting beans, farmers understand the good weather window could close at any time, and that could mean fewer bushels or less quality. When the cotton bolls are ready, the gins are ready to run.

Unfortunately, as we have seen in many parts of the country this year, there are risks in this seasonal activity, and today, we want to applaud America's farmers who run the big machines and our ranchers who manage the big and sometimes unruly animals. We want to take a few minutes this afternoon to commend America's men and women who plant, tend and harvest the world's most bountiful supply of food and fiber in the world for us, the American consumers, and a large part of the world as well.

All of us need to understand the importance of agriculture to our economy and our quality of life. This resolution is one part of recognizing the importance of agriculture by bringing the Nation's attention to the importance of safety and health on our farms and ranches.

I again commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) for bringing this resolution before the House and urge its adoption.

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 494, which supports the goals and purposes of National Farm Safety and Health Week and applauds the men and women who provide a stable supply of food and fiber for the United States and the world.

By way of background, it should be noted that, for well over half a century, Congress has recognized National Farm Safety and Health Week. As far back as the 1940s, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the first presidential proclamation recognizing National Farm Safety and Health Week in order to commemorate the hard work, diligence and sacrifices that our Nation's farmers and ranchers make on a daily basis.

□ 1800

This week is a time for our Nation to reflect upon the important role that U.S. agriculture has played and continues to play in this Nation and throughout the entire world. The United States began as an agrarian society, and agriculture has been the backbone of this country. Over time, however, our Nation became more industrialized, and people left the farms and rural areas to pursue opportunities in the cities. And yet despite the fact that there are fewer people producing the Nation's food and fiber, productivity has increased.

While the business of farming has undergone significant changes since the founding of this Nation, one thing has not changed: farming continues to be one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. A report by the National Safety Council concluded that agriculture had the second highest fatality rate of all industries in the Nation. In 2003 alone there were 710 farm-related fatalities and 110,000 disabling injuries.

I hasten to add that, because of the nature of family farms, farm-related injuries and fatalities are not solely limited to adults. A 2001 study by the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety reported that nearly 1.5 million young people, 20 years or younger, lived or worked on farms. The same study showed that more than 660,000 in that age range were employed but not living on farms. According to the study, more than 100 children younger than 20 die each year and more than 22,000 are injured from agriculture-related injuries. Similarly, a study by the American Academy of Pediatrics showed that for teenagers farm jobs have the highest rate of fatalities of all types of teen employment.

While there are many potential hazards on a farm, the greatest continues to be machinery. Reports indicate that 30 percent of farm machinery-related deaths occur in children less than 5 years old. Additionally, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration concludes that 68 percent of farm-related deaths can be traced to some sort of machinery, including tractors, trucks, equipment such as augers and loaders, power takeoffs, and haying equipment.

Of all the equipment on the farm, tractors remain the most dangerous. In fact, OSHA reports that more than half of the deaths that occur on the farm are the result of tractor accidents. Of the deaths caused by tractor accidents, 57 percent are the result of rollovers and another 9 percent are the result of people either falling off or getting run over by a tractor.

Agriculture-related deaths and injuries are not limited to incidents involving machinery, however. Farmers and ranchers are subject to a whole host of other dangers including agriculture chemicals and fertilizers, unruly and unpredictable livestock, and buildings that contain high dust levels and toxins.

It goes without saying that the commitment to farm safety cannot be limited to a single week. Nevertheless, this timely and welcome resolution to commemorate farm safety reminds us all of how important it is for farmers, ranchers, and their workers to perform their work safely and to take precautions to protect themselves. When one's child is out there with them, take a little extra bit of care for that youngster.

By recognizing the dangers inherent in farming and ranching and by taking steps to prevent accidents, our Nation will continue to lead the world in the production of agriculture commodities.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS), the author of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture for yielding me this time. I also appreciate the strong support of my concurrent resolution by both the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture today.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to recognize the National Farm Safety and Health Week and to thank our farmers and ranchers nationwide for their hard work day in and day out.

Over half the land in the United States is used for agricultural production; and without the work of our farmers and ranchers, our Nation and others around the world would not have the safe, stable supply of food and fiber that we enjoy today.

In my home State of New York, agriculture is the number one industry, and I am proud to represent one of the largest agricultural areas in the State. In districts like mine all across this great land, farmers work long, hard hours and make tremendous sacrifices. They should be applauded for their efforts.

Unfortunately, those long, hard hours are not risk-free. Sadly, there are hundreds of farm-related fatalities and thousands of injuries every year, and sadder still, many of these accidents could be prevented through increased awareness and better safety practices.

The National Farm Safety and Health Week is a national effort to reduce the number of farming- and ranching-related deaths and injuries through educational and awareness initiatives. Helping educate our farmers and their families on necessary safety precautions is essential to ensuring the strong productivity of our agricultural sector.

I would like to commend the National Safety Council for their leadership and continued work towards achieving these goals through the National Farm Safety and Health Week. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

I have no further requests for time, but let me just say in closing that I am honored to join today with the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) in joining with the President, President Bush, having declared this week National Farm Safety Week; and I am very happy to join in support of that concurrent resolution, in support of the President. I thank the President for recognizing this important contribution.

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

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

I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas for working with us on bringing forth this concurrent resolution and congratulate the gentleman from New York for bringing this forward. And I urge my colleagues to adopt what I think is important to not just people in rural America but in all America, to understand the importance of agriculture and the importance of farm safety. With that, I urge my colleagues to support the concurrent resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 494.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 494, the concurrent resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2028, PLEDGE PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 781 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: