RECOGNIZING THAT FOR 50 YEARS THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) HAS WORKED TOWARD STABILITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA; TAIWAN TRAVEL ACT; NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017; AND DISTRIBUTION AND PROMOTION OF RIGHTS AND KNOWLEDGE ACT OF 2017

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
ON
H. Res. 311, H.R. 535, H.R. 2061 and H.R. 2397
JUNE 15, 2017
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RECOGNIZING THAT FOR 50 YEARS THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) HAS WORKED TOWARD STABILITY, PROSPERITY, AND PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA; TAIWAN TRAVEL ACT; NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017; AND DISTRIBUTION AND PROMOTION OF RIGHTS AND KNOWLEDGE ACT OF 2017

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:30 p.m., in room 2200 Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Ted Yoho (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. YOHO. The subcommittee will come to order.

Good afternoon. We have called this markup to order today to consider four important measures that touch on pressing challenges that the United States faces in the Asia-Pacific region. After the conclusion of this brief business meeting, we will proceed immediately to our scheduled hearing on U.S.-Taiwan ties.

Pursuant to notice, we have four bipartisan measures on our agenda this afternoon. As members were notified yesterday, it is the intention of the Chair to consider today's business en bloc so that we can proceed promptly to our hearing. All members may have 5 days to insert remarks into the record and, without objection, the following measures and amendments will be considered en bloc: House Resolution 311, reaffirming 40 years of relations between the United States and the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations; Yoho Amendment 37 in the Nature of a Substitute to H. Resolution 311; H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act; H.R. 2061, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017; Yoho Amendment 38 to H.R. 2061; and H.R. 2397, the Distribution and Promotion of Rights and Knowledge of DPRK Act of 2017.

Before turning to our ranking member, I recognize myself to speak on—and the Connolly Amendment—excuse me—Amendment 26 to H.R. 2061. And thank you.

[The information referred to follows:]
115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  

H. RES. 311

Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2017

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

RESOLUTION

Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia.

Whereas the United States and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its ten members—Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam—have worked together to advance our shared goals for 40 years, having established dialogue relations on September 10, 1977, with the issuing of the 1977 Joint Communiqué of the First ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue, and the United States acceding to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session with the United States in Thailand on July 22, 2009;
Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas the United States has supported efforts to strengthen the ASEAN Secretariat and expand its role in providing greater coordination among, and enhancing the effectiveness of, regional institutions;

Whereas, working together, the Governments and people of the United States and ASEAN can help realize their common vision of a peaceful, prosperous, rules-based Asia-Pacific region that offers security, opportunity, and dignity to all of its citizens;

Whereas ASEAN’s ten members, taken collectively, are the seventh-largest economy in the world, with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $2.4 trillion, and represent the United States fourth-largest export market with total two-way trade in goods and services reaching $254 billion and accounting for more than 500,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas ASEAN’s ten members represent a diverse group of nations and dynamic economies with an expanding workforce, a growing middle class, and a diverse set of skills, cultures, and resources;

Whereas ASEAN is home to critical global sea lanes located at the center of the world’s strongest economic growth area, with $5.3 trillion of global trade and more than half of total shipped tonnage transiting through ASEAN’s waters each year;

Whereas ASEAN, taken collectively, is the third-fastest growing economy in Asia after China and India, expanding by
30 percent since 2007 and exceeding the global growth average for the past ten years;

Whereas the ASEAN Economic Community aims to create one of the largest single market economies in the world, facilitating the free movement of goods, services, and professionals and engendering a sense of economic community among its member states;

Whereas the United States is the largest investor in Southeast Asia, with total foreign direct investment stock of nearly $226 billion in 2014, creating millions of jobs in the United States and in ASEAN member states, while investment in the United States from Southeast Asia has increased more than any other region’s investment in the past decade;

Whereas the United States has helped ASEAN create a Single Window customs facilitation system that will aid in expediting intra-ASEAN trade and make it easier for United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the U.S.-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive SMEs has already trained 4,600 small to medium enterprises, with nearly half of the individuals trained being young women entrepreneurs;

Whereas United States-ASEAN development cooperation has focused on innovation and capacity-building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and trade facilitation;

Whereas the Lower Mekong Initiative, established on July 23, 2009, is a multinational effort that helps promote sustainable economic development in mainland Southeast Asia to foster integrated, multisectoral, subregional cooperation and capacity building;
Whereas the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) was signed by all members of ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) on November 4, 2002, committing ASEAN and the PRC to “exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability,” and reaffirming “that the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea would further promote peace and stability in the region and agree to work, on the basis of consensus, toward the eventual attainment of this objective”;

Whereas the leaders of the United States and ASEAN, at their Special Leaders Summit in Sunnylands, California, on February 16, 2016, reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintain peace, security, and stability in the region.

Whereas the United States supports the East Asia Summit (EAS) as the premier leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on political, security, and economic issues in the region and commends the direction set in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration at the EAS 10th anniversary, including the new exchange mechanism for EAS members’ ambassadors;

Whereas ASEAN is a partner to the United States on key transnational challenges, such as terrorism, violent extremism, environmental degradation, pollution, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing;

Whereas the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners, through the 2015 East Asia Summit, adopted
a statement on transnational cyber issues that emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation to improve the security and stability of cyber networks, setting an important precedent for strengthening practical cooperation, risk reduction, and confidence building in cyber-space;

Whereas the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane adopted a statement on nonproliferation that reaffirmed the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners’ leaders’ support for efforts at the national, regional, and international level to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reiterated the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism;

Whereas North Korea’s provocative missile launches and nuclear tests highlighted the threat posed by its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and contradicts calls by ASEAN leaders at the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane for North Korea to abide by multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and international obligations;

Whereas the ASEAN region has experienced natural disasters including Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines;

Whereas conservation and sustainable management of forests throughout ASEAN play an important role in helping to reduce the risks of extreme weather events and other natural disasters, and provide sustainable economic livelihood opportunities for local communities;

Whereas the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with broader sustainable development goals,
including the achievement of food security and poverty alleviation throughout the ASEAN region;

Whereas the United States is a committed partner with ASEAN on the protection of human rights, which are not only essential for fostering and maintaining stability, security, and good governance, but protecting the basic rights and fundamental dignities of the people of ASEAN;

Whereas, on November 18, 2012, ASEAN member states came together and adopted an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration that, by its own terms, “affirms all the civil and political rights” and the “economic social and cultural rights” in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the United States supports the work and mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), including capacity building for the promotion and protection of human rights and the AICHR’s priorities programs, and activities;

Whereas the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Program has now engaged over 100,000 people between the ages of 18 and 35 across all ten ASEAN nations to promote innovation among young people while also providing skills to a new generation who will create and fill the jobs of the future;

Whereas the irregular movement of persons continues to be one of the main security threats in the Southeast Asia region;

Whereas addressing migration flows and combating human smuggling and human trafficking in ASEAN is an impor-
tant, ongoing challenge requiring increased coordination and shared responsibility;

Whereas, on November 21, 2015, ASEAN member states signed the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which represents an important step forward in preventing human trafficking, prosecuting the perpetrators, and protecting the survivors;

Whereas the United States supports ASEAN member states in anticorruption efforts through, among other initiatives, the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption;

Whereas Vice President Pence traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 20, 2017, where he met with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives, congratulated ASEAN on its 50th anniversary, and remarked on the 40th anniversary of the United States diplomatic relationship with ASEAN, noting that the U.S.-ASEAN relationship has “without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America—diplomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security”;

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence pledged that the United States would “redouble our cooperation with ASEAN on issues of regional security” and continue to support “increased information sharing and security efforts to protect our people and our way of life across the ASEAN region and across the wider world,” and “continue to work closely with ASEAN to promote peace and stability in the South China Sea by upholding a rules-based order, ensuring the lawful and unimpeded flow of commerce, and encouraging the peaceful and diplomatic resolution of disputes.”;
Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence remarked that “By strengthening our economic ties, the United States and ASEAN member nations can foster jobs, prosperity, and growth in new and unprecedented ways.” and that “American exports to ASEAN member nations already support more than 550,000 jobs in the United States, and almost 42,000 U.S. companies export more than $100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN nations every year.”; and

Whereas, on this visit, Vice President Pence announced that President Trump will attend the U.S.-ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit, and the APEC Leaders Meeting in Vietnam and the Philippines in November 2017; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) welcomes the leaders of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the United States for the meetings with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and members of Congress and affirms the meeting as the first of regular United States-ASEAN meetings;

(2) supports and affirms the elevation of the United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership and recommits the United States to ASEAN centrality and to helping to build a strong, stable, politically cohesive, economically integrated, and socially responsible ASEAN community with common rules, norms, procedures, and standards
consistent with international law and the principles
of a rules-based Asia-Pacific community;

(3) urges ASEAN to continue its efforts to fos-
ter greater integration and unity toward the ASEAN
community;

(4) recognizes the value of ASEAN working
with economic, political, and security partners, such
as Australia, Canada, the European Union, India,
Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of
Korea, and Taiwan both inside of and outside of
Asia, as the advantage of strategic economic initia-
tives like the U.S.-ASEAN Connect that dem-
onstrate a commitment to ASEAN and the AEC and
build upon economic relationships in the region;

(5) reaffirms the enhancement of United
States-ASEAN economic engagement, including the
elimination of barriers to cross-border commerce,
and supports the ASEAN Economic Community’s
goals, including strong, inclusive, and sustainable
growth and cooperation with the United States that
focuses on innovation and capacity building efforts
in technology, education, disaster management, food
security, human rights, and trade facilitation, in-
cluding for ASEAN’s poorest countries;
(6) supports efforts by ASEAN member states to address maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and to pursue claims through peaceful, diplomatic, and legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to further promote peace and stability in the region;

(7) urges all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific region, including the People’s Republic of China, to—

(A) exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or complicate or escalate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force; and

(B) refrain from new efforts to militarize uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, including but not limited to the construction of new garrisons and facilities, and the relocation of additional military personnel, materiel, or equipment;

(8) opposes actions by any country to prevent any other country from exercising its sovereign rights to the resources of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf by seeking to en-
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force claims to those areas in the South China Sea
that have no support in international law;
(9) opposes unilateral declarations of adminis-
trative and military districts in contested areas in
the South China Sea;
(10) supports efforts to negotiate the joint
management of maritime resources through diplo-
macy and peaceful negotiation;
(11) urges parties to refrain from unilateral ac-
tions that cause permanent physical damage to the
marine environment and supports the efforts of the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
and ASEAN to implement guidelines to address ille-
gal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the re-
gion;
(12) supports efforts by United States partners
and allies in ASEAN—
(A) to enhance maritime capability and
maritime domain awareness;
(B) to protect unhindered access to and
use of international waterways in the Asia-Pa-
cific region that are critical to ensuring the se-
curity and free flow of commerce;
(C) to counter piracy;
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(D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking
activities such as the trafficking of persons,
goods, and drugs; and

(E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of
countries or regional organizations to respond
to emerging threats to maritime security in the
Asia-Pacific region;

(13) urges ASEAN member states to develop a
common approach to reaffirm the decision of the
Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague’s rul-
ing with respect to the case between the Republic of
the Philippines and the People’s Republic of China;

(14) reaffirms the commitment of the United
States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt
human smuggling and trafficking in persons and
urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create
and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide as-
sistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(15) supports the Lower Mekong Initiative,
which has made significant progress in promoting
sustainable economic development in mainland
Southeast Asia and fostering integrated subregional
cooperation and capacity building;

(16) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the
promotion and protection of human rights by
ASEAN member states, and the implementation of
related priorities, programs, and activities;

(17) urges ASEAN governments to engage di-
rectly with leaders of civil society and human rights,
including victims of human rights abuses, and
prioritize the construction of forums that give these
stakeholders a voice to instruct public policy;

(18) encourages the President to communicate
to ASEAN leaders the importance of protecting
human rights, releasing political prisoners and end-
ing politically motivated prosecutions, strengthening
civil society, safeguarding the freedom of the press,
the freedom of assembly, and the free flow of infor-
mation and ideas, and promoting open and trans-
parent government; and

(19) supports the Young Southeast Asian Lead-
ers Initiative program as an example of people-to-
people partnership building that provides skills, net-
works, and leadership capabilities to a new genera-
tion of people who will create and fill jobs, foster
cross-border cooperation and partnerships, and rise
to solve the regional and global challenges of the fu-
ture.
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 311
OFFERED BY MR. YOHO OF FLORIDA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas on September 10, 1977, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (in this resolution referred to as “ASEAN”) established dialogue relations, with 2017 marking the 40th anniversary of United States-ASEAN relations;

Whereas on August 8, 2017, ASEAN will celebrate fifty years of regional cooperation towards greater stability, peace, and prosperity in Southeast Asia;

Whereas on April 29, 2008, the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN and the United States became the first dialogue partner to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas the United States committed in 2009 to hold an annual United States-ASEAN Leaders’ Meeting, and upgraded the commitment in 2012 to an annual United States-ASEAN Summit;

Whereas on April 20, 2017, Vice President Mike Pence met with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives in Jakarta, Indonesia, and stated that the United States-ASEAN relationship “without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America—dip-
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lomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security’’;

Whereas on February 16, 2016, at the Sunnylands Summit in California, the United States and ASEAN reaffirmed their shared commitment to maintain peace, security, and stability throughout the region;

Whereas in 2013 ASEAN, as a whole, was the seventh-largest economy in the world with an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of $2.4 trillion, and is the United States’ fourth-largest export market with total exports reaching $102,000,000,000 in 2015;

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have strong economic ties, as the United States is the single largest investor in ASEAN with accumulated United States foreign direct investment totaling almost $226,000,000,000 as of 2014, and economic relations with ASEAN supporting more than 500,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN partnership is vital to the security interests of the United States, as both the United States and the members of ASEAN have a shared common interest in a peaceful resolution of the South China Sea disputes and achieving a denuclearized North Korea;

Whereas on November 4, 2002, the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was signed by all members of ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China, committing all parties to “exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability’’;

Whereas ASEAN is a partner to the United States on key transnational challenges, such as terrorism, violent extre-
mism, environmental degradation, energy, infectious diseases, disarmament, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cybersecurity, trafficking in persons, illicit trafficking of wildlife and timber, and illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing; and

Whereas the 2016 East Asia Summit in Vientiane adopted a statement on nonproliferation that reaffirmed the United States, ASEAN, and other Dialogue Partners’ support for efforts at the national, regional, and international level to promote nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and reiterated the importance of nuclear security to combating nuclear terrorism; Now, therefore, be it

Strike the resolved text and insert the following:

1. That the House of Representatives—

   (1) supports and affirms the elevation of the United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership, and reaffirms the United States commitment to promoting a rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific and economic growth, peace, human rights and stability in Southeast Asia;

   (2) recognizes the value of ASEAN working with economic, political, and security partners, such as Australia, Canada, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan both inside and outside of Asia, to both strengthen existing initiatives such as the
United States-ASEAN Connect and to develop new initiatives that address mutual strategic concerns;

(3) encourages the enhancement of economic engagement between the United States and ASEAN through the elimination of trade barriers;

(4) supports cooperation with ASEAN to implement practical counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism measures, including efforts to counter homegrown radicalization and stem foreign fighter travel;

(5) supports efforts by ASEAN member states and other regional states, including the People’s Republic of China, to address maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and to pursue claims, through diplomacy and the use of legitimate regional and international arbitration mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea to further promote peace and stability in the region;

(6) urges all parties to maritime and territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific region to—

(A) exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would undermine stability or es-
calate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidations, or military force; and

(B) refrain from efforts to militarize uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, through actions including the construction of new garrisons and facilities, and the relocation of additional military personnel, materiel, or equipment; and

(7) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons and urges ASEAN to make increased efforts to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill reaffirming the 40 years of relations between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the shared pursuit of economic growth and regional security in Southeast Asia.”.
115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 535

To encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2017

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. ROYCE of California, and Mr. SHUSTERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

A BILL

To encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels, and for other purposes.

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 “Taiwan Travel Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), enacted in 1979, has continued for 37 years to be a cornerstone of relations between the United
States and Taiwan and has served as an anchor for peace and security in the Western Pacific area.

(2) The Taiwan Relations Act declares that peace and stability in the Western Pacific area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States and are matters of international concern.

(3) The United States considers any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States.

(4) Taiwan has succeeded in a momentous transition to democracy beginning in the late 1980s and has been a beacon of democracy in Asia, and Taiwan’s democratic achievements inspire many countries and people in the region.

(5) Visits to a country by United States cabinet members and other high-ranking officials are an indicator of the breadth and depth of ties between the United States and such country.

(6) Since the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, relations between the United States and Taiwan have suffered from insufficient high-level communication due to the self-imposed restrictions
that the United States maintains on high-level visits
with Taiwan.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that the United States Government should encour-
age visits between officials from the United States and
Taiwan at all levels.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It should be the policy
of the United States to—

(1) allow officials at all levels of the United
States Government, including cabinet-level national
security officials, general officers, and other execu-
tive branch officials, to travel to Taiwan to meet
their Taiwanese counterparts;

(2) allow high-level officials of Taiwan to enter
the United States, under conditions which dem-
strate appropriate respect for the dignity of such
officials, and to meet with officials of the United
States, including officials from the Department of
State and the Department of Defense and other cab-
inet agencies; and

(3) encourage the Taipei Economic and Cul-
tural Representative Office, and any other instru-
mentality established by Taiwan, to conduct business
in the United States, including activities which in-
volve participation by Members of Congress, officials of Federal, State, or local governments of the United States, or any high-level official of Taiwan.
115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 2061

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Ms. ROSENDEITNER (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. YOHO, and Mr. SHEEHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “North Korean Human
Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of
2004 (22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.), the North Korean
Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public
Law 110–346), and the Ambassador James R.
Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North
Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012
(Public Law 112–172) were the products of broad,
bipartisan consensus regarding the promotion of
human rights, transparency in the delivery of hu-
manitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee
protection.

(2) Fundamental human rights and humani-
tarian conditions inside North Korea remain deplor-
able, North Korean refugees remain acutely vulner-
able, and the congressional findings included in the
Acts listed in paragraph (1) remain substantially ac-
curate today.

(3) The United States, which has the largest
international refugee resettlement program in the
world, has resettled 212 North Koreans since the en-
actment of the North Korean Human Rights Act of
2004.

(4) In addition to the longstanding commitment
of the United States to refugee and human rights
advocacy, the United States is home to the largest
Korean population outside of northeast Asia, and
many people in the Korean-American community
have family ties to North Korea.
(5) Notwithstanding high-level advocacy by the United States, South Korea, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, China has forcibly repatriated tens of thousands of North Koreans.

(6) Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega served 25 years in the House of Representatives, including as the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, was a leader in strengthening the relationship between the American and Korean peoples, authored multiple resolutions regarding issues on the Korean Peninsula, was a champion of human rights, and stated, in support of the Ambassador James R. Lilley and Congressman Stephen J. Solarz North Korea Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2012, that “just as Ambassador Lilley and Congressman Solarz worked hard to protect the human rights of the North Korean people, we must remain vigilant in helping the people of North Korea who struggle daily to escape the oppression and tyranny of the North Korean regime”.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments to allow
the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
access to process North Korean refugees overseas
for resettlement and to allow United States officials
access to process refugees for resettlement in the
United States (if that is the destination country of
the refugees’ choosing);

(2) the Secretary of State, through persistent
diplomacy by senior officials, including United
States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in
close cooperation with United States ally South
Korea, should make every effort to promote the pro-
tection of North Korean refugees and defectors; and

(3) because North Koreans fleeing into China
face a well-founded fear of persecution upon their
forcible repatriation, the United States should urge
China to—

(A) immediately halt the forcible repatri-
ation of North Koreans;

(B) allow the United Nations High Com-
missioner for Refugees unimpeded access to
North Koreans inside China to determine
whether such North Koreans require protection
as refugees; and

(C) fulfill its obligations under the 1951
United Nations Convention Relating to the Sta-
tus of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to
the Status of Refugees, and the Agreement on
the Upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the
People’s Republic of China to UNHCR Branch
Office in the People’s Republic of China (signed
December 1, 1995).

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTH KOREAN
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2004.

(a) HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—
Paragraph (1) of section 102(b) of the North Korean
Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)) is amend-
ed by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(b) PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Sec-
tion 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
(22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended by striking “2017” in each
place it appears and inserting “2022”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN
HUMAN RIGHTS.—Subsection (d) of section 107 of the
7817) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting
“2022”.

(d) REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sec-
tion 201 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004
(22 U.S.C. 7831) is amended in the matter preceding
paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(e) Assistance Provided Outside of North Korea.—Paragraph (1) of section 203(e) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833(e)) is amended by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

(f) Annual Reporting.—Section 305 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

SEC. 5. REPORT BY THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

(a) In General.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the status of current United States broadcasting to North Korea and the extent to which the Board has achieved the goal of 12-hour-per-day broadcasting to North Korea, in accordance with section 103(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7813(a)); and

(2) includes a strategy to overcome obstacles to such communication with the North Korean people, including through unrestricted, unmonitored, and inexpensive electronic means.
(b) Form.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” has the meaning given such term in section 5 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7803).
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2061
OFFERED BY MR. YOHO OF FLORIDA

Page 5, strike lines 13 through 16 and insert the following:

(b) Promoting Freedom of Information.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “$2,000,000” and inserting “$3,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2017” and inserting “2022”.

Add at the end the following new section:

SEC. REPEAL OF DUPLICATE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 403 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 is hereby repealed.
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2061
OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Add at the end the following new section:

SEC. ___. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) In general.—Not later than 120 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal
departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate
congressional committees a report that includes a descrip-
tion of any ongoing or planned efforts of the Department
of State with respect to each of the following:

(1) Resuming the repatriation from North
Korea of members of the United States Armed
Forces missing or unaccounted for during the Ko-
rean War.

(2) Reuniting Korean Americans with their rel-
atives in North Korea.

(3) Assessing the security risks posed by travel
to North Korea for United States citizens.

(b) Form.—The report required under subsection (a)
shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(c) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—

In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-
mittees” has the meaning given such term in section 5 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7803).
H. R. 2397

To amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to authorize further actions to promote freedom of information and democracy in North Korea, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2017

Mr. YORO (for himself, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to authorize further actions to promote freedom of information and democracy in North Korea, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Distribution and Prom-
5 motion of Rights and Knowledge Act of 2017” or the
6 “DPRK Act of 2017”.
SEC. 2. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY IN NORTH KOREA.

The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) of section 103 (22 U.S.C. 7813)—

(A) by striking “radio broadcasting” and inserting “broadcasting, including news rebroadcasting,”; and

(B) by striking “increase broadcasts” and inserting “increase such broadcasts, including news rebroadcasts,”; and

(2) in subsection (a) of section 104 (22 U.S.C. 7814)—

(A) by striking “The President” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President;

(B) by inserting “, USB drives, micro SD cards, audio players, video players, cell phones, wi-fi, wireless internet, webpages, internet, wireless telecommunications, and other electronic media that shares information” before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:
“(2) DISTRIBUTION.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to distribute or provide grants to distribute information receiving devices, electronically readable devices, and other informational sources into North Korea, including devices and informational sources specified in paragraph (1). To carry out this paragraph, the President is authorized to issue directions to facilitate the free-flow of information into North Korea.

“(3) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—In accordance with the authorization described in paragraphs (1) and (2) to increase the availability and distribution of sources of information inside North Korea, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to establish a grant program to make grants to eligible entities to develop or distribute (or both) new products or methods to allow North Koreans easier access to outside information. Such program may involve public-private partnerships.

“(4) CULTURE.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors may broadcast Amer-
ican, Korean, Chinese, and other popular music, television, movies, and popular cultural references as part of its programming.

“(5) RIGHTS AND LAWS.—In accordance with the sense of Congress described in section 103, the Broadcasting Board of Governors shall broadcast to North Korea in the Korean language information on rights, laws, and freedoms afforded through the North Korean Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, and any other applicable treaties or international agreements to which North Korea is bound.

“(6) BROADCASTING REPORT.—Not later than—

“(A) 180 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Broadcasting Board of Governors, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that sets forth a detailed plan for improving broadcasting content for the purpose of targeting new audiences and increasing listenership; and
Mr. YOHO. First, we have House Resolution 311, which recognizes 40 years of the U.S.-ASEAN ties and reaffirms the economic security interests we share with this dynamic group of countries. I want to thank Representatives Wagner and Castro, who chair the recently revived ASEAN Caucus. We are offering this measure for focusing on an area that is sometimes overlooked but very much deserving of our attention. The 10 nations of ASEAN have tremendous potential for growth and share our interests in a secure bipolar Asia. So, reaffirming our relations is an important undertaking.

We will also consider the Taiwan Travel Act authored by Mr. Chabot, the chairman emeritus of the subcommittee. Chairman Chabot’s bill will strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations by codifying a policy of greater freedom of movement for the Republic of China officials in the United States and will also facilitate more high-level interactions between our governments.

In the face of China’s intensifying efforts to restrict Taiwan’s international space, strengthening our relationships with Taiwan is especially important. So I thank Chairman Chabot for introducing this measure.

Next, we consider Chairman Ros-Lehtinen’s reauthorization of the North Korea Human Rights Act, as the 2014 U.N. Commission of Inquiry of North Korea found the gravity, scale, and nature of human rights abuses reveals a state that does not have any par-
allel in the contemporary world. Indeed, the Kim regime is the world's worst human rights abuser and North Korea Human Rights Act is a fundamental part of congressional leadership to end these abuses.

I have offered a technical amendment to this legislation to unify some of its authorization with legislation the committee has passed since the Human Rights Act was last reauthorized and look forward to sending this bill to the full committee.

Finally, we consider the Distribution and Promotion of Rights and Knowledge Act of 2017. This bill will promote the freedom of information and democracy in North Korea and I would like to thank the ranking member, Mr. Sherman, as well as Chairman Royce, and Ranking Member Engel of the full committee for joining us as original cosponsors on this legislation.

This bill will expand the authority of the President and the Broadcasting Board of Governors to transmit and distribute information inside North Korea, one of the surest ways to weaken the Kim regime's grip on power, to promote freedom and liberties.

My sincere thanks to my colleagues for joining us today to move these important measures further along in the legislative process.

I now recognize our ranking member, Mr. Sherman, for any remarks he may have.

Mr. SHERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We have four excellent bills. We should pass them. I understand we will pass then en bloc and before we do that, we should adopt the, I believe, en bloc amendment to H.R. 2061, which includes the amendment from Mr. Connolly.

With that, unless someone wants me to yield time, I yield back.

Mr. YOHO. Members seeking recognition will be recognized for brief remarks.

Mr. Chabot.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you.

I want to thank the chairman for bringing this legislation before the subcommittee today. I rise in support of H.R. 535, the Taiwan Travel Act, a bill that I, along with my colleague and friend from California, Mr. Sherman, introduced earlier this year.

As a founding member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I take the commitments of our country with Taiwan very seriously. Yesterday, I expressed my concerns to the Secretary of State, Tillerson, regarding our own self-imposed restrictions that prohibit high-ranking United States officials from meeting with their Taiwanese counterparts and, worse, bars Taiwanese officials from setting foot in our Nation's capital, in this city right here. It is ridiculous. This is a center of democracy and freedom. Taiwanese officials should be able to come and meet with American officials here in Washington, DC.

This policy goes against our own self-interest. It tells China that we are willing to yield to them on our own foreign policy. It conveys weakness, I believe, to Beijing. Not only does restricting visits by high-level Taiwanese decision-makers tie our leaders' hands and insult an ally, it makes it nearly impossible to conduct diplomacy in an increasingly critical region.
The United States should have direct dialogue with the democratically-elected leadership of Taiwan and it is time to change this outdated policy. The Taiwan Travel Act will do this.

China continues to take aggressive actions that further its long-running campaign to isolate Taiwan. The United States has a legal and moral commitment to defend Taiwan sovereignty in the face of these attacks. Restricting high-level visits from Taiwan insults and ally and damages our national security in an increasingly dangerous world.

The United States should encourage direct dialogue with the democratically-elected leadership of our ally, Taiwan. It is time to change our policy. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

I once again want to thank Mr. Sherman for his leadership on this issue as well, making it a bipartisan measure. And I yield back.

Mr. YOHO. Thank you, Mr. Chabot.

Next we will go to Ms. Gabbard. Did you have a comment?

Mrs. Wagner.

Mrs. WAGNER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to express my support for all of today's initiatives, including the Taiwan Travel Act, which I believe can be, frankly, the cornerstone for a more what I will call a mature relationship with Taiwan that recognizes Taiwan's tremendous contributions to both democracy and to stability in the Asia Pacific.

I would also like to speak specifically in support of House Resolution 311, the resolution I was honored to introduce with my colleague, Representative Castro, in commemoration of ASEAN's 50th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations.

Southeast Asia has tremendous cultural, political, historical, and religious diversity. ASEAN was formed, in part, to create a bulwark against communism in the Southeast Asia among these diverse nations. And today, ASEAN's goals have evolved and the region is experiencing tremendous growth, nearly $100 billion in U.S. goods and services are exported to ASEAN, rivaling our $113 billion market in China.

In January, I founded the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on ASEAN with my colleague, Congressman Castro. The Caucus acknowledges America's special relationship with ASEAN and defines ways that Congress can strengthen security, economic, technical, and humanitarian engagement in Southeast Asia.

House Resolution 311 was one of our first initiatives and I am grateful that the chair and the ranking member are strong supporters of this effort. The resolution supports and affirms the elevation of the United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership and reaffirms a U.S. commitment to promoting a rules-based order in the Asia Pacific and economic growth, peace, human rights, and stability in Southeast Asia.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back. Thank you.

Mr. YOHO. Thank you, Mrs. Wagner for those great remarks.

Hearing no further request for recognition, the question occurs on the items considered en bloc.

All those in favor, say aye.
Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, we amended H.R. 2061 with the two en bloc amendments as part of this?
Mr. YOHO. Yes, sir.
Mr. SHERMAN. Okay, so it includes both adopting the en bloc amendment to 2061 and your motion also passes.
Mr. YOHO. Yes, sir, and I thank you for pointing that out.
Mr. SHERMAN. That makes it an outstanding motion, Mr. Chairman.
Oh, we may have one more.
[Simultaneous speaking.]
Mr. YOHO. We have the honor of being joined by Ms. Ros-Lehtinen. Do you have a comment that you would like to——
Mr. SHERMAN. And I do want to remark I am thrilled that the left wing of this table has become so popular.
Mrs. WAGNER. Solidarity! Solidarity!
Mr. SHERMAN. We are just moderating that side.
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Now that FOX has let go of its fair and balanced slogan.
Thank you, Dr. Yoho, and thank you, Ranking Member Sherman. We have our own subcommittee hearing on Russia and the Middle East downstairs, so I am a little out of breath. But thank you for working with our office to bring the North Korea Human Rights Re-authorization Act of 2017 to markup today.
I was proud to author and lead the reauthorization of this important law in both 2008 and 2012, and I am proud to do so again with the measure before you today, H.R. 2061.
Since 2004, the Human Rights Act of North Korea has provided us in the United States with a number of essential tools, designed to promote North Korean human rights. H.R. 2061 ensures that those tools will continue to be available, including authorizing grants that promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law; authorizing actions aimed at promoting the freedom of information, including increasing the availability of information sources not controlled by the Kim regime; authorizing humanitarian assistance to North Korean refugees, defectors, migrants, and orphans, as well as women who are victims of trafficking. It also ensures that the Special Envoy for North Korea Human Rights Issues; once someone is re-appointed, as is required by the original law, continues reporting to Congress on how he or she is fulfilling their responsibilities.
Every day under the Kim regime, North Koreans are suffering unimaginable horrors. They live under constant fear of arrest, of disappearance, of execution. They are exploited. They are trafficked, while dissidents are starved and tortured. Rule of law, justice, and freedom of expression simply do not exist.
With this bill, we ensure that our efforts in the United States to promote North Korean human rights continue, that desperately needed information is getting to those inside, and that refugees fleeing the regime are receiving protection.
Before I go, I would like to express my support for Chairman Yoho’s Distribution and Promotion of Rights and Knowledge Act, which makes some very valuable additions to the North Korea Human Rights Act, including promoting additional methods of electronic communication and authorizing the broadcast of popular cul-
ture, as well as knowledge about the rights, the laws, the freedoms which North Koreans should be afforded.

The Kim regime cannot be allowed to maintain its monopoly on information and we must continue to explore every possible avenue in order to allow North Koreans to get the information they need.

I thank the chair. I thank the ranking member and all the members for allowing me to join you today. And I yield back. Thank you, sir.

Mr. YOHO. Thank you, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen. Everybody wants to know why you stay so fit and it is because you run from one committee hearing to the next.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. From one meal to the next.

VOICE. And I am coming to the next, too.

Mr. YOHO. Hearing no further requests for recognition, the question occurs on the items considered en bloc, along with the approval of the amendments.

All those in favor say aye.

Opposed?

In the opinion of the Chair, the ayes have it and the measures considered en bloc are agreed to. Without objection, the measures considered en bloc are ordered favorably reported to the full committee, as amended, and staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes.

That concludes our markup.

[Whereupon, at 2:48 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]
APPENDIX

Material Submitted for the Record
SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
Ted Yoho (R-FL), Chairman

June 15, 2017

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held by the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific in Room 2200 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov).

DATE: Thursday, June 15, 2017

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

MARKUP OF:

H. Res. 311, Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia;

H. R. 535, Taiwan Travel Act;

H. R. 2061, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017; and


By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202-225-9125 or leave your request in advance of the event, where possible. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general, including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices, may be directed to the Committee.
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON Asia and the Pacific MARKUP

Day Thursday Date June 15, 2017 Room 2200 RHO

Starting Time 2:36 pm Ending Time 2:48 pm

Recesses ________________________________________

Providing Member(s)
Rep. Ted Yoho

Check all of the following that apply:
Open Session [✓] Executive (closed) Session  Electromechically Recorded (tape) [ ]
Televisioned [ ] Stenographic Record [ ]

BILLS FOR MARKUP: (Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Rep. Ilana Ros-Lehtinen

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: (List any statements submitted for the record.)
No

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: (Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)
All measures passed en bloc with unanimous consent.

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): (Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)

Subject Year Yes No Present Not Voting

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE
or
TIME ADJOURNED

[Signature]
Subcommittee Staff Director
By unanimous consent, the Chair called up the following measures and amendments, previously provided to Members, to be considered en bloc:

1. H. Res. 311 (Castro), Reaffirming 40 years of relations between the United States and the Association of South East Asian Nations;  
   a. Yoho 37, in the nature of a substitute to H. Res. 311.

2. H.R. 535 (Chabot), the Taiwan Travel Act.

3. H.R. 2061 (Ros-Lehtinen), the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017;  
   a. Yoho amendment 38 to H.R. 2061;  
   b. Connolly amendment 26 to H.R. 2061.


The measures considered en bloc were agreed to by voice vote.

By unanimous consent, the measures as amended were ordered favorably reported to the Full Committee, as amended.

The Committee adjourned.