

PERMANENT PERFORMANCE
REVIEW ACT OF 1996

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Permanent Performance Review Act of 1996. This bill would apply performance reviews to all of the agencies and departments of the Federal Government and thus enable Congress to tackle more effectively both our Government's budget and performance deficits.

Performance reviews enable an organization to measure how successful a program or office is in reaching its goals. With such information in hand, those responsible for making a budget can do a better job in allocating the available resources.

The Permanent Performance Review Act would enable Congress to develop, in coordination with the executive branch, a better picture of the successes and failures among its myriad of programs and departments. Congress could then target more intelligently its resources so that the American taxpayer gets better performance from a reduced number of federally supported programs. Performance reviews would enable Congress to tackle more effectively both the Government's budget deficit and performance deficit.

This bill recognizes that real change will only take place when there is an institutionalized, permanent, and cooperative effort on the part of Congress, the Federal bureaucracy and the President to increase Government's efficiency and to build a framework that can be used to reduce and then eliminate our credit card spending. Whether under Presidents Kennedy, Carter, or Reagan, every recent drive to improve the efficiency of the Federal Government has failed because it was sabotaged by at least one of these three stakeholders who was never allowed to participate as a full partner at the decisionmaking table. It must be a team effort, able to draw upon the support of the American people's desire for smaller, more efficient government.

My bill would establish a permanent commission which would provide that participation for the Congress, the Federal bureaucracy, and the President. The Permanent Performance Review Commission would be appointed by both the President and congressional leaders. The Commission would be responsible for managing self-studies to be conducted over time by all the major Federal agencies. The Commission would hold hearings and consult with the appropriate congressional committee leaders in developing their final performance reviews and related legislative recommendations.

After receiving a performance review, the appropriate standing committee of the House would hold its own hearings and review all of the legislative recommendations of the Commission. These recommendations would become the basis for a bill that would be required to receive consideration on the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, truly effective performance reviews would ensure that Congress can reform this Government so that it serves the best interests of all of our citizens. I thank those members of the Budget Committee who are

original cosponsors of this measure and urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

IN MEMORY OF S. SGT. BENJAMIN
L. GILLESPIE

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, serving in the U.S. Military is one of the most honorable and noble professions one could aspire to. It requires sacrifice, dedication, and commitment. Many of our Nation's finest men and women have served, and are serving in our Armed Services—keeping this Nation strong and free.

This service is not without risk or loss. I want to bring to our attention today that my State, and indeed, our Nation has lost an extraordinary young man while in service to his country. S. Sgt. Benjamin L. Gillespie, U.S. Army, of the 168th Armored Battalion, stationed at Fort Carson, CO, was killed in an unfortunate humvee accident on July 26 while conducting a training exercise.

Sergeant Gillespie was born April 20, 1965, to Ardell and Almon Dean Gillespie of North Salt Lake City, UT, and graduated from Woods Cross High School in 1983. He leaves behind his parents, as well as his beloved wife, Veronica, and son Brandt, as well as many other close family members in Utah, Arizona, and Tennessee.

He enlisted with the United States Army on September 15, 1983, and was stationed in Bamberg, Germany, with the 2/2 ACR where he worked with the East/West German border patrol. Later, he served at Fort Carson with the 27th Cavalry. Later, he served with the Salt Lake City Recruiting Battalion, stationed out of South Salt Lake from 1990-94, before returning to the duty which he loved, which was working directly with the troops with the 168th, again at Fort Carson. He earned many honors during his distinguished career, including two Army Commendation Medals, six Army Achievement Medals, the Gold Recruiter Badge with three Sapphire Achievement Stars, the Recruiter's Ring, the Order of the Cobra, and two Meritorious Service Medals.

He was well-beloved by everyone who knew him. His commanding officer stated that he was one of the finest young men and soldiers he had ever known. Clearly, Sergeant Gillespie was one of the best this country has to offer, and we all mourn that his time was cut short. It is my hope and prayer that the pain and sadness that his family feels at this time will eventually be replaced by the comfort and assurance that his service will not be forgotten, and the knowledge that he has now entered into the rest of the Lord in whom he had great faith.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers are with the family of Sergeant Gillespie; particularly his young wife and son. May they be blessed and watched over during this difficult time.

PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER
SYSTEM ACT OF 1996

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation to authorize two critically important rural water systems in South Dakota, the Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1996, and the Fall River Water Users District Rural Water System Act of 1996. Both bills are strongly supported by local project sponsors who have demonstrated that support by agreeing to substantial financial contributions from the local level.

Like many parts of South Dakota, these two counties have insufficient water supplies of reasonable quality available, and the water supplies that are available do not meet the minimum health and safety standards, thereby posing a threat to public health and safety.

In addition to improving the health of residents in the region, I strongly believe that these rural drinking water delivery projects will help to stabilize the rural economy in both regions. Water is a basic commodity and is essential if we are to foster rural development in many parts of rural South Dakota, including the Perkins County and Fall River County areas.

The Perkins County Rural Water System Act of 1996 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a Perkins County Rural Water System providing service to approximately 2,500 people, including the communities of Lemmon and Bison, as well as rural residents. The Perkins County Rural Water System is located in northwestern South Dakota along the South Dakota/North Dakota border and it will be an extension of an existing rural water system in North Dakota, the southwest pipeline project. The State of South Dakota has worked closely with the State of North Dakota over the years on the Perkins County connection to the southwest pipeline project. A feasibility study completed in 1994 looked at several alternatives for a dependable water supply, and the connection to the southwest pipeline project is clearly the most feasible for the Perkins County area.

Past cycles of severe drought in the southeastern area of Fall River County have left local residents without a satisfactory water supply and during 1990, many home owners and ranchers were forced to haul water to sustain their water needs. Currently, many residents are either using bottled water for human consumption or they are using distillers due to the poor quality of the water supplies available. After conducting a feasibility study and preliminary engineering report, the best available, reliable, and safe rural and municipal water supply to serve the needs of the Fall River Water Users District consists of a Madison aquifer well, three separate water storage reservoirs, three pumping stations, and approximately 200 miles of pipeline. The legislation I am introducing today authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to construct a rural water system in Fall River County as described above. The Fall River system will serve rural residents, as well as the community of Oelrichs and the Angostura State Recreation Area.