the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER]. This is a measure that originally came up on Corrections Day for obvious reasons. I am pleased as we adjourn this Congress momentarily, that this will be part of our finished work.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 4233, the Savings in Construction Act of 1996, introduced by Congressman COX of California.

H.R. 4233 reflects bipartisan modifications made by both the House and the Senate to H.R. 2779, the original Savings in Construction Act. H.R. 2779 passed the House on July 23 under corrections day calendar consideration and was reported out of the Science Committee and the Technology Subcommittee, which I chair.

H.R. 4233 provides for the appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 in Federal construction projects.

The Metric Conversion Act, as amended, requires all Federal agencies to use the metric system in procurements, grants, and other business-related activities, except when such use is impractical or is likely to cause significant inefficiencies or loss of markets to U.S. firms.

In the implementation of the Act, however, certain American construction industries have suffered an adverse economic impact and the government has had to incur additional costs for using metric in certain Federal construction projects.

There is a need to correct the Metric Conversion Act by providing for flexibility in its implementation.

With H.R. 42233, we can achieve the goals of the act, in Federal construction projects, without closing project bids to American companies, especially small manufacturers who do not export and who cannot afford to retool their production facilities at great cost to produce products which are identific except for a slight change in size.

In subcommittee hearings, we heard testimony from these affected companies that, under the current implementation of the act, domestic producers are at a competitive disadvantage with respect to foreign metric producers, the number of companies that compete for contracts with the Federal Government are reduced, and manufacturers are forced to maintain double inventories of similar but incompatible products.

Mr. Speaker, as the chair of the Technology Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over our Nation's technology and competitiveness policy, I am a strong supporter of encouraging the use of the metric system in the interests of our Nation's industrial competitiveness in world markets.

Despite our current laws to promote metric, the United States still remains the only major industrialized country in the world which does not predominately use metric as a standard measurement system.

Converting to the metric system is a goal that Congress has wisely decided and should be fully supported. We must continue to promote, sensibly, and as vigorously as possible, the metric system to advance our Nation's long-term international competitiveness.

H.R. 4233 is a bill worthy of our support because it balances the need for the Federal Government to maintain our current efforts to promote metric which providing for appropriate implementation of the Metric Conversion Act in Federal construction.

I commend Congressman COX for his corrective legislation providing for this less costly and less intrusive method of meeting the goals of the Metric Conversion Act.

I also wish to recognize the chairman of the Science Committee, Congressman WALKER, the Committee's Ranking Member, Mr. BROWN, and the Ranking Member of the Technology Subcommittee, Mr. TANNER, for their bipartisan efforts in reporting this legislation to the House.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 4233.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4233.

The question was taken.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CROWS LANDING CALIFORNIA LAND CONVEYANCE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4088) to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to Stanislaus County, CA, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4088

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (in this Act referred to as ''NASA'') shall convey to Stanislaus County, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in section 2.

SEC. 2. PROPERTY DESCRIBED.

The property to be conveyed pursuant to section 1 is—

(1) the approximately 1528 acres of land in Stanislaus County, California, known as the Crows Landing Facility of NASA Ames Research Center (formerly known as the Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, Crows Landing);

(2) all improvements on the land described in paragraph (1); and

(3) any other Federal property that is—

(A) under the jurisdiction of NASA;

(B) located on the land described in paragraph (1); and

(C) designated by NASA to be transferred to Stanislaus County, California.

SEC. 3. TERMS.

(a) CONSIDERATION.—The conveyance required by section 1 shall be without consideration other than that required by this section.

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION.—(1) The conveyance required by section 1 shall not relieve any Federal agency or any responsibility under law for any environmental remediation of soil, groundwater, or surface water. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter the allocation of environmental responsibility contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of the Navy and NASA, dated December 22, 1992.

(2) Any remediation of contamination, other than that described in paragraph (1), within or related to structures or fixtures on the property described in section 2 shall be subject to negotiation to the extent permitted by law.

(c) RETAINED RIGHT OF USE.—NASA shall retain the right to use the property described in section 2 for aviation activities, without consideration and on other terms and conditions mutually acceptable to NASA and Stanislaus County, California.

(d) RELINQUISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION.—NASA shall relinquish, to the State of California, legislative jurisdiction over the property conveyed pursuant to section 1 by filing a notice of relinquishment with the State of California, which shall take effect upon acceptance thereof as prescribed by the laws of California.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS.—The Administrator of NASA may negotiate such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance required by section 1 as are appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] and the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER].

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would transfer the Crows Landing facility at Ames Research Center to the surrounding jurisdiction. The landing facility is no longer essential to NASA's needs. But if transferred to the county, it will provide that county with a potential economic development tool by providing needed airport capability. However, if in the future NASA needs to use the facility, it would be able to do so, and has therefore given its approval for this transfer.

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

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, the chairman has properly described the bill. I have nothing further to add. I ask that the House pass the bill.

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

Mr. WALKER. 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 Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4088, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.