

Opportunity and Responsibility Act—or, more appropriately, Dooms Day Legislation. H.R. 2 is another example of the “Contract on America.” And we know that the Contract on America is a contract on poor people—more than 1.4 million families who live in public housing across our country.

I oppose this draconian bill for many reasons. They include the new power that the bill gives to local public housing authorities to raise rents. This will drive thousands of low-income working families out of public housing. Public housing must be preserved for low-income people who need it most.

But let me discuss a major reason I oppose H.R. 2. It does absolutely nothing to move public housing residents closer to real jobs at real wages. Section 105—one of the more vicious parts of this bill—is the provision to require forced volunteerism and to establish “self-sufficiency contracts.” H.R. 2 requires that nonelderly and nondisabled residents of public housing who cannot find jobs have to perform 8 hours a month of something called “community service.” The bill also requires that residents and the public housing authority sign an agreement as part of the lease. This “agreement” is supposed to set goals for self-sufficiency. And one of the goals is a timetable for families to leave public housing when they become self-sufficient.

But how are millions of public housing residents supposed to become self-sufficient, when Congress refuses to appropriate money to rebuild our communities? Now that would create real jobs at real wages. Instead of passing H.R. 2, this Congress ought to be holding hearings this week on H.R. 950—The Job Creation and Infrastructure Restoration Act of 1997. This bill, cosponsored by more than 45 Members of Congress and over 100 organizations, including city councils, calls for \$250 billion to launch a major public works program that could put millions of people to work rebuilding schools, roads, hospitals, and highways.

Self-sufficiency contracts make no sense. No public housing residents should be forced to sign such contracts when H.R. 2 contains no money for jobs or supportive services to help people find jobs. And why is this Congress considering a law that requires community work in return for receiving Federal assistance? Do we require “volunteer work” in exchange for the right to receive other types of Federal assistance such as farm subsidies, LIHEAP, corporate welfare, or loan guarantees?

Section 105 of H.R. 2 is a threat to working people, especially low-wage workers. The “forced volunteers” required by section 105 threatens to displace thousands of low wage workers currently employed by public housing authorities. If Congress passes a law that requires millions of hours of free labor by public housing residents, then public housing authorities will find no need to pay wages and benefits to other workers who currently perform vital security, maintenance, and other jobs.

Mr. Speaker, you can count on my vote against H.R. 2. And you can count me in to continue to fight with public housing residents across this country to preserve the people's right to affordable housing. Thank you very much.

INTERSTATE 69 COMPLETION CRITICAL ISSUE FOR AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

**HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 1997*

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer the following resolution from the Vanderburgh County commissioners for my colleagues' consideration here in the Congress. It is but one of the latest examples I see daily confirming that there is widespread, deep support to complete Interstate 69 through my home State of Indiana and through America's heartland down to Texas.

I see this evidence daily through my work as the founder and chairman of the Interstate 69 caucus in the Congress. This caucus includes 37 members, including Representatives and Senators, from all points of the political spectrum.

As this historic Congress continues its work, Mr. Speaker, we need to push for a reauthorization of Federal highway spending to give States greater flexibility and more of the money that we all pay in taxes every time we gas up our cars and trucks. I think that need is well expressed in this resolution approved recently by the Vanderburgh County commissioners in Evansville, IN, and I commend it to the attention of my colleagues.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF VANDERBURGH

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County recognize that it has an important role to play in the economic development of Vanderburgh County; and

Whereas, the extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville is an integral element of economic growth and prosperity for Southwestern Indiana; and

Realizing, that Southwestern Indiana does not have direct interstate access to its Capitol in Indianapolis, nor in any other North-South direction; and

Recognizing, that the expansion of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville and then toward Mexico will greatly expand domestic and international commerce; and

Whereas, Vanderburgh County can attain only limited benefit from future expansion of trade without direct interstate access to the North and South;

Be It Resolved That, on this 10th day of March, 1997, the Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County endorsed the proposed extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville and eventually on to Laredo, Texas for the purpose of creating a vital transportation link that will lead to the expansion of intrastate, interstate, and international trade; thus, providing a catalyst for creating numerous jobs and providing economic security for its inhabitants; and furthermore, we call upon our counterparts in all Southwest Indiana Counties along the proposed Interstate 69 route to adopt a similar resolution in support of said project.

RICHARD E. MOURDOCK,

*President.*

BETTYE LOU JERREL,

*Vice President.*

PATRICK TULEY,

*Member.*

Board of Commissioners of Vanderburgh County.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

**HON. BILL McCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 1997*

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Tourism Week. The designation of May 4 to 10 is a great way to deliver the message that travel and tourism are vital to the U.S. economy. Today, May 7, is actually Tourist Appreciation Day. Approximately 3,000 communities are expected to participate in this celebration with awareness campaigns to stress the importance and success of tourism in the United States.

I know it seems odd to tout the importance of something that many of us take for granted. It seems that as long as there are planes, trains, and automobiles, people will travel. But the positive impact of tourism is incredible. In fact, tourism is America's largest services export industry, second largest employer, and third largest retail sales industry. This is a \$440 billion industry, directly employing 6.6 million Americans.

Perhaps one of tourism's biggest benefits is on our trade situation. We continue to worry about our trade deficit. However, as the leading export, tourism drew more than \$80 billion in expenditures by 43.4 million international visitors, creating a \$19.5 billion surplus. It is staggering to think that international visitors spend \$218 million per day on their trips to the United States.

On a more local level for me, Orlando and the entire State of Florida are popular tourist destinations. The mix of climate, theme attractions and natural beauty are instant draws to my district and State. I have the honor and pleasure to represent the Orlando area and see firsthand the benefits tourism can bring. The revenues generated by people visiting our State allow the State legislature to keep State taxes low. Florida still does not have a State income tax for this reason. Employment in Florida, especially central Florida, remains strong. Over 650,000 jobs are supported in Florida by tourists.

But aside from the economic benefits of tourism, Mr. Speaker, we simply must recognize the other bonuses of tourism. Vacations yield families quality time together. Traveling to new and interesting places is educational for people of all ages. International tourism promotes cultural and political understanding among different peoples. The list is virtually endless.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is important to realize the importance of tourism to the U.S. economy and that our efforts in Congress reflect that. It is my hope that my colleagues will take note of National Tourism Week and Tourist Appreciation Day. We cannot afford to discount this critical industry.

NATIONAL TEACHER'S APPRECIATION WEEK

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 1997*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of respect for National Teachers' Appreciation Week. Without a doubt, there