

The only labor union that we know that is in favor of these standards, and I cannot figure out for the life of me, the steel workers. I met with the steel workers this week in an effort to try to understand this, because my local steel workers back in Pittsburgh are not for this. The regional directors, who have watched the steel industry move offshore, are not for this.

The Washington lobbyists for the steel workers are for this. I do not know if someday they want to be Secretary of Labor under somebody's administration. I do not know that. It is only conjecture by a cynical television reporter who now is standing here in Congress. I do not know what the reason is.

But the point of it is this, I have been almost all of my adult life a union member, still carry my AFL-CIO card. In acting on behalf of the working people of my region, which is what I was sent here to do, I cannot go along with these proposed new standards. They make no sense. It is bad news environmentally. It is bad news from a health perspective. It is bad news certainly from a wealth perspective from the continuing prosperity of this country moving forward.

We have loved it during the past 5 years as we have watched the stock market go up and industrial investments going up. It is coming into our area; we are starting to see growth and development. I am afraid that the brakes are going to go on.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my friends in this Congress, I would ask that we have as many Members as can sign onto the bill that the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BOUCHER], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] and I will be dropping tomorrow, because we think there should be a 5-year moratorium on any action by the EPA.

We think there should be a moratorium until these monitors can be put in place, the study can be done, the material from that study can be fully analyzed and that we will know 5 years from now what we are doing. What is the cost of doing that? We are going to have to fund each year the study. We are going to have to fund the building of those monitors. That will cost far less than what it will cost if the EPA implements these new standards and they are wrong.

We are willing in a bipartisan fashion to fund that study. We have talked about it. We think it is the right thing to do. I would urge my friends to join me.

THE VA'S BEST KEPT SECRET: VETERAN'S ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. CHRISTENSEN]. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. QUINN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a short period of time here, 4 or 5 minutes, to inform my colleagues in

the House about a veterans' congressional jobs program that has come to my attention and we have initiated in my district office.

This is information for our colleagues here in Congress and for their staff members, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs here in the House.

Back in January and February, Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with staff over at the VA and talk about the existing programs. We talked about financing and the budget that is coming up. I also know that most of us as Federal Representatives here in the Congress are committed to improving veterans' employment opportunities, and I think that the Members here will be very interested that the VA is offering a jobs program for service-connected disabled veterans.

This is an existing program that I believe is a win-win-win situation, Mr. Speaker. I think it is one of the VA's best kept secrets, not purposefully; but I think that, if Members know about it and if they are informed about it, they are going to be very excited about it for the district offices and serving our constituents and helping the employment picture for veterans back home in their districts.

That is why it was important for me to come to the floor today and to speak to our colleagues and our Members. This program is referred to as the Chapter 31 Program. The purpose of the VA's vocational rehabilitation program is to assist service-disabled veterans find and maintain suitable employment. The trainee receives a stipend from the VA. In other words, there is no additional cost to us in our district offices.

I mentioned before that I think it is a win-win-win situation because it has helped the effectiveness of my office. It has helped us with our constituent service. It is also a win then for the individual veteran who has an opportunity to experience this on-the-job training, and I believe it is a win for the community at large.

The VA has done an excellent job in finding a candidate to work in my congressional office back in our district. We selected a trainee, Mr. Mark Dunford, who has a bachelor's degree in history, and he is completing his prelaw work at Canisius College in Buffalo. He has agreed to take on all our constituent work relating to veterans.

When we have constituents call our offices that want some help with either hospital veterans benefits or problems with some benefits they are receiving for a previously expired husband or wife, this is the kind of individual that will take that constituent work and get it done.

He is doing an outstanding job, Mr. Dunford is. His experience and skills acquired in the military are an asset to our office. But when he is assisting in constituent work, when he is monitoring the needs that people in my district

and all of our districts have with regard to veterans affairs, he is one of those take-charge people who gets it done.

This on-the-job training program is an excellent way for disabled veterans to gain the work experience that they need.

I think, finally, that it is an opportunity for those of us who are Members of Congress here to lead by example. It is an opportunity to take this congressional job training experience another step and allow our veterans to have that experience so they can get meaningful employment either in our offices or in other places around the community.

In a time of limited resources, Mr. Speaker, it is also an opportunity for us to provide this job at no additional costs to our congressional payrolls. I think it is a win-win-win situation, as I said, for everybody involved.

I came to the floor today to make our Members aware of this program. As I mentioned, it is called the Chapter 31 Program. Later this week I will be sending a dear colleague letter to all of our Members here in the House suggesting that they look into the program. They can very easily give my staff a call in my office so we can put them in touch with the right people in the VA who, to tell you the truth, handle everything for us.

It is a great program. It is one that our constituents should know about. It is one that will help us run our offices more effectively and more efficiently. Finally, it is the right thing to do for some veterans back in our districts.

I would suggest that with the dear colleague letter that goes out from our office later this week, if anybody needs any attention from us or any help, we stand ready to do that, as does the VA.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this afternoon to make my office available.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1119, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998 AND 1999

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report