

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Pennsylvania for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I have no requests for time at this moment, and conclude with a final urging to my colleagues to supporting this very worthy legislation for a very, very worthy recipient.

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

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

Madam Speaker, let me again thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH]. It has been a real pleasure to work with him on these bills and any number of activities that we have had to deal with over the course of this session thus far. I really do appreciate the level of cooperation and the spirit of bipartisanship. That is talked a lot around here, but in actuality is practiced by the gentleman from New York, and I want to publicly thank him for his efforts as we have worked together in these matters.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my staff, Denise Wilson and also Neal Snyder, for their work on these bills and other matters related to postal affairs.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. MCHUGH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2564.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1345

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2564, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### REREFERRAL OF H.R. 1249 TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure be discharged from further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1249, and that H.R. 1249 be rereferred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### REGARDING MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL FORESTS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 151) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should manage its public domain national forests to maximize the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere among many other objectives and that the United States should serve as an example and as a world leader in actively managing its public domain national forests in a manner that substantially reduces the amount of carbon dioxide added to the atmosphere, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 151

Whereas carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, can be removed from the atmosphere by trees through photosynthesis and stored in wood;

Whereas releases of carbon dioxide can be prevented by the use of wood products as substitutes for products whose manufacture consumes fossil fuels and releases substantial amounts of carbon dioxide; and

Whereas managing our forests by planting and growing our forest resources will remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the United States—*

(1) should manage its forests to maximize the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere among many other objectives; and

(2) should serve as an example and as a world leader in managing its forest in a manner that substantially reduces the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA], each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In December, representatives of 150 nations will gather in Kyoto, Japan, to sign a successor treaty to the United Nations 1992 framework convention on climate change. Today, as we anticipate this important event, we will debate a nonbinding measure putting the House on record as supporting proper management of our Nation's forests to maximize the reduction of greenhouse gases, among other important objectives. This resolution is similar to the Byrd-Hagel resolution passed by the Senate earlier this year that put them on record opposing any treaty that would cause serious economic harm to the United States.

Everyone agrees that we must have clean environment, but we must do it

in a way that does not impair or harm our economy. This resolution represents the fact we can have both a healthy environment and a vibrant economy.

By the Clinton-Gore administration's own economic model, the effect of mandatory reductions of greenhouse gases would be devastating to this economy of ours. The United States has an obligation to defend the rights of people who inhabit our planet. It seems that officials representing the United States in the climate change treaty negotiations have lost sight of that duty. Science has proven to us that carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, can be taken out of the atmosphere by properly managing our forests. Carbon dioxide is kept out of the atmosphere by harvesting the forest before it begins to decompose or burn, thus storing the carbon in wood products that are environmentally friendly, as well as providing an economic benefit to society.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which may commit the United States to mandatory greenhouse gas reductions, could lead to enormous burdens and costs on the American people, the economy, and our way of life. The key issue is whether the Clinton-Gore administration will commit the United States to mandatory reductions of carbon dioxide.

Mandatory reductions will cost taxpayers billions of dollars and will cost many Americans their jobs. There are alternatives to mandatory reductions of carbon emissions. The alternative we bring before the Congress today is to properly manage our forests in order to take from the atmosphere carbon dioxide.

This means using the controls on greenhouse gases that Mother Nature gives to us rather than controls that Government mandates for us to follow. For that reason, we would move to agree on House Concurrent Resolution 151 and urge our colleagues to give it their full support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

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

As cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 151, I am proud to rise today in strong support of this important measure introduced by our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG]. The chairman's legislation sends a crucial message. Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions constitute a serious problem of global dimension. We can begin, in part, to address and control gas emissions and the growing crisis of global warming by proper and prudent management of our national forests and Federal lands.

Madam Speaker, coming from the South Pacific, I am particularly sensitive to the related phenomena of