

they have invested in the project, and the local community will lose the prospect of significant job creation and added revenues. According to the project sponsor, construction of the River Mountain project will create 585 jobs and generate \$1 billion for the local economy. If we do not act, the local community will lose these jobs and these revenues.

These extension bills have not proved controversial in the past. H.R. 4081 was approved by the Committee on Commerce by unanimous voice vote. I would ask its full support.

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

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 4081, legislation to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act applicable to construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Arkansas.

H.R. 4081 would authorize FERC, upon the request of the licensee and in accordance with the requirements of section 13 of the Federal Power Act, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction for three consecutive two-year periods. FERC does not object to the enactment of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is not controversial. A companion Senate bill has been approved by their Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. DAN SCHAEFER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4081.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4081.

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

There was no objection.

AFRICA SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4283) to support sustainable and

broad-based agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4283

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Africa: Seeds of Hope Act of 1998”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings and declaration of policy.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Sec. 101. Africa Food Security Initiative.

Sec. 102. Microenterprise assistance.

Sec. 103. Support for producer-owned cooperative marketing associations.

Sec. 104. Agricultural and rural development activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

Sec. 105. Agricultural research and extension activities.

TITLE II—WORLDWIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Nonemergency Food Assistance Programs

Sec. 201. Nonemergency food assistance programs.

Subtitle B—Bill Emerson Humanitarian International Food Security Trust Act of 1998

Sec. 211. Short title.

Sec. 212. Amendments to the Food Security Commodity Reserve Act of 1996.

Subtitle C—International Fund for Agricultural Development

Sec. 221. Review of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Report.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The economic, security, and humanitarian interests of the United States and the nations of sub-Saharan Africa would be enhanced by sustainable, broad-based public and private sector agricultural and rural development in each of the African nations. The United States should support such development.

(2) According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the number of undernourished people in Africa has more than doubled, from approximately 100,000,000 in the late 1960s to 215,000,000 in 1998, and is projected to increase to 265,000,000 by the year 2010. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the term “under nutrition” means inadequate consumption of nutrients, often adversely affecting children’s physical and mental development, undermining their future as productive and creative members of their communities.

(3)(A) Currently, agricultural production in Africa employs about two-thirds of the workforce but produces less than one-fourth of the gross domestic product in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Bank Group.

(B) Africa’s food imports are projected to rise from less than 8,000,000 metric tons in 1990 to more than 25,000,000 metric tons by the year 2020.

(4) African women produce up to 80 percent of the total food supply in Africa according to the International Food Policy Research Institute.

(5) The most effective way to improve conditions of the poor is to increase the produc-

tivity of the agricultural sector. Productivity increases can be fostered by increasing research and education in agriculture and rural development.

(6)(A) In November 1996, the World Food Summit set a goal of reducing hunger worldwide by 50 percent by the year 2015 and encouraged national governments to develop domestic food plans and to support international aid efforts.

(B) Since then, several agencies of the United Nations, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), whose mission is to provide the rural poor and women in the developing world with cost-effective ways of overcoming hunger, poverty, and malnutrition, have undertaken a cooperative initiative on Africa.

(7) Although the World Bank Group recently has launched a major initiative to support agricultural and rural development, only 10 percent, or \$1,200,000,000, of its total lending to sub-Saharan Africa for fiscal years 1993 to 1997 was devoted to agriculture.

(8)(A) The future prosperity of the United States food processing and agricultural sector is increasingly dependent on exports and the liberalization of global trade.

(B) Africa represents a huge potential market for United States food and agricultural products.

(9)(A) Increased private sector investment in African countries and expanded trade between the United States and Africa can greatly help African countries achieve food self-sufficiency and graduate from dependency on international assistance.

(B) Development assistance, technical assistance, and training from bilateral governmental and multilateral entities, as well as nongovernmental organizations and land-grant universities, can facilitate and encourage commercial development in Africa, such as improving rural roads, agricultural research and extension, and providing access to credit and other resources.

(10)(A) Several United States private voluntary organizations have demonstrated success in empowering Africans through direct business ownership and helping African agricultural producers more efficiently and directly market their products.

(B) Rural business associations, owned and controlled by farmer shareholders, also greatly aid agricultural producers to increase their household incomes.

(11)(A) Over a decade ago, the Development Fund for Africa (DFA) was enacted into law “to help the poor majority of men and women in sub-Saharan Africa to participate in a process of long-term development through economic growth that is equitable, participatory, environmentally sustainable, and self-reliant.”

(B) In recent years, political change and economic recovery in Africa have amplified the importance of this policy objective while generating new opportunities for its advancement.

(C) Despite these developments, funding for the Development Fund for Africa has declined from a high of \$811,000,000 for 1993 to approximately \$635,000,000 for 1997.

(12)(A) United States bilateral development and humanitarian assistance to sub-Saharan Africa is approximately one-tenth of 1 percent of the total annual budget of the United States Government.

(B) Funding for agricultural development worldwide by the United States Agency for International Development has declined from 36 percent of its total budget in 1988 to 15 percent in 1997.

(13) The United States Agency for International Development has initiated an Africa Food Security Initiative in an effort to improve child nutrition and increase agricultural income in Africa.