

gentlewoman suggested, in three days, on September 30. H.R. 2942, as amended, will temporarily extend Chapter 12 for another 3 months so that this critical option for America's family farmers does not expire.

Mr. Speaker, Chapter 12 allows family farmers the option to reorganize debt rather than having to liquidate when declaring bankruptcy. The logic is that a farmer should not be forced to sell his tractor and his plow and his planter and his tools of production when he is reorganizing, trying to make sure that he is paying off those debts, because if we force him to sell those tools of production, then we have almost taken away any possible opportunity for him to reorganize and pay his debts.

I am very pleased that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman GEKAS) and this body is taking action on this legislation today. With three days to go before expiration, time is very short. Senator GRASSLEY and other Senators are aggressively pursuing this effort over in the Senate and moving ahead on this legislation.

I realize that many of us would prefer to see Chapter 12 extended permanently. I trust that as the general bankruptcy reform is debated, a permanent fix for Chapter 12 is going to be accomplished, because that is what is in the bill that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman GEKAS) and the committee and this body sent over to the Senate. This legislation is needed to assure producers that this risk management tool is available.

Again, I thank both sides of the aisle, both sides of the Capitol Building, and especially the chairman for moving ahead on this legislation.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2942. I would also note my cosponsorship of this legislation and legislation introduced by several Members, including the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH), which would either extend or make permanent these Chapter 12 bankruptcy provisions. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania for expediting it, as well as the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee. I appreciate the supportive comments of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Chapter 12 bankruptcy has been a necessary and responsible and viable option for family farmers nationwide. It has allowed family farmers to reorganize their assets in a manner which balances the interests of the creditors and the future success of the involved farmer.

If Chapter 12 bankruptcy provisions are not extended for family farmers, it

will have a drastic effect on the agricultural sector, already reeling from low commodity prices. Not only will many family farmers have to end their operations, but also land values will plunge downward. Such a decrease in land values will affect both the ability of the family farmer to earn a living and the manner in which banks making agricultural loans conduct their lending activities.

This gentleman represents a premier agriculture district, and, as a member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, I am concerned about those agricultural loans out there and their customers.

This is a very important piece of legislation. Like my colleagues, like the words expressed by the gentleman from Michigan, I would very much like to see this permanently extended. But the House passed this earlier, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania indicated, by actually 313 to 108, with my support. Unfortunately, the other body failed to act on the Bankruptcy Reform Act. Therefore, a 3 month extension is absolutely necessary for our family farmers and other small agri-business families.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 2942, which provides a 3 month extension.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2942, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to extend for 3 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is enacted."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TRUST FUND BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection and pursuant to section 1 of the act to create a Library of Congress Trust Fund Board (2 U.S.C. 154), amended by Section 1 of Public Law 102-246, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member on the part of the House to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a 5 year term:

Mr. Edwin L. Cox, Dallas, Texas.

There was no objection.

REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NATIONAL UNION FOR TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-132)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 27, 1999.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report accompanying the bill (H.R. 2605) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2605, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2605) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the previous order of the House, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see prior proceedings of the House of today.)

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Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this bill being called up without our having a chance to see it, I have no option but to oppose it and therefore demand the time in opposition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Under a unanimous consent