

growth if energy prices continue to rise. The lesson from the 1970s is that oil price cartels do not last. It helps that the U.S. economy is less energy intensive than it was in the 1970s and less vulnerable to energy price increases. The president's decision to increase subsidies to help low-income families to cope with temporarily higher heating oil prices was wise. If necessary, the Administration should use national oil reserves to counter any extraordinary short-term surge in prices that threatens to cut off economic growth.

This longest economic expansion in modern history has in the last few years finally begun to bring real income growth to low- and middle-income Americans. Maintaining that growth is essential for America's private sector to remain competitive and its public sector to have the revenues it needs to finance social investment.

The risk of jeopardizing these goals far outweighs any small risk of a sudden and historically unprecedented outbreak of demand-driven inflation.

H.R. — THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to amend and reauthorize the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act.

Since its creation in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been very successful in establishing public and private partnerships to conserve fish, wildlife, and plants using Federal funds matched by private donations. On average, the Foundation has brought in more than two private sector dollars for every Federal dollar appropriated. With these funds, the Foundation has financed more than 3,500 on-the-ground conservation projects throughout the United States and abroad. Together with partnerships and challenge grants, the Foundation has provided \$441 million for conservation projects. Their record is impressive.

To fund these projects, the Foundation has entered into partnerships with a wide range of State and local agencies, academic institutions, conservation groups, and businesses. In a time of diverse interests and an ever-increasing strain on our natural resources, the ability to forge productive and workable partnerships between all sectors of society is of paramount importance. The Foundation possesses this ability, and makes unparalleled use of it to award grants in five major categories: conservation education, wetlands and private lands protection, neotropical migratory bird conservation, fisheries conservation and management, and wildlife and habitat management.

In the past, legislation to reauthorize the Foundation generated unnecessary and misguided criticism. Such criticism has been surprising considering the noncontroversial nature and mission of the Foundation and its solid history of bipartisan support in Congress. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation represents one of Congress' finest conservation innovations, and embodies what we should

strive to achieve every day—the intelligent and economical conservation of our fish, wildlife and plants.

This legislation is very similar to legislation introduced by the late Senator JOHN CHAFFEE and passed by the Senate by unanimous consent. It is strongly supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as well as both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Mr. Speaker, in the interest of time, I will submit additional comments describing the legislation and explaining the changes it makes to existing law.

In closing, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is an important element in our national effort to build partnerships to conserve our common natural heritage. I urge my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

OBJECTIVES OF LEGISLATION

This legislation makes several significant changes to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (Foundation) establishment legislation. First, it expands board membership from the current number of 15 to 25. Second, the bill expands the Foundation's jurisdiction to include additional agencies within the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce to further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plants and natural resources. Third, it authorizes annual appropriations through fiscal year 2006 to the Department of the Interior for \$30 million and to the Department of Commerce for \$10 million. The Foundation's current authorization expired on September 30, 1998.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 2 would amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act by providing authority for the Foundation to accept and administer private gifts of property in connection with the work of agencies within the Department of the Interior and the Department of Commerce. Under current law, the Foundation is only authorized to accept and administer private gifts of property in connection with the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA.

Section 3 would increase the Foundation's Board of Directors from 15 to 25 members, including the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Administrator of NOAA).

Section 4 would authorize the Foundation to have its principal offices in the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan area. This section would also establish conditions for the Foundation to acquire and convey property (dependent upon agency approval) and invest and deposit Federal funds. Section 4 would revise provisions relating to agency approval of acquisitions of property and of conveyances and grants. It also would set forth limitations relating to the Foundation's conveyances of real property and overhead expenditures.

Section 5 would authorize appropriations of \$40 million per year to implement the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act Amendments of 2000 through fiscal year 2006 of which \$30 million would go to the Department of the Interior and \$10 million would go to the Department of Commerce. This section would also authorize the Foundation to accept funds from a Federal agency under any other Federal law to further its conservation and management activities. In addition, it would prohibit grant recipients from using Federal appropriations under this Act to engage in activities relating to lobbying or litigation.

Section 6 would clarify that nothing within this Bill authorizes the Foundation to perform activities that are within the jurisdiction of the National Park Foundation by Public Law 90-209 (16 U.S.C. 19e et seq.).

HONORING THE CORLEONE SOCIETY [UNIONE SPORTIVA CORLEONE]

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the members of the Corleone Society (Unione Sportiva Corleone) and their 25th Annual Dinner-Dance this week. I also take this opportunity to recognize Paolo Muratore and his 16 years of leadership as the President of the Corleone Society.

In 1973 a group of friends, originally from the Italian city of Corleone, met to celebrate a traditional holiday from their native town. During this event they decided to form the Corleone Society (Unione Sportiva Corleone) in order to extend their culture and traditions to the United States of America. The people of Corleone, a city of 15,000 inhabitants, have chosen a lion clutching a flaming heart as a symbol of their nobility and generosity. Since 1973 until today the members of the Corleone Society have contributed to the enrichment of our culture with the traditions and values of the city of Corleone in Sicily.

For 25 years the members of the Corleone Society have gathered together to celebrate their traditions and emphasize their commitment to noble causes. They award scholarships to support talented students in their educational endeavors. At the same time, they are dedicated to improving the health and welfare of children worldwide. The Corleone Society offers its patronage to orphanages and it sponsors sick children from abroad to receive medical treatment in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the indispensable services and contributions the Corleone Society has given to so many in the United States and around the world.

CENSUS DEBATE

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 16, 2000

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to express my shock and disappointment at the tenor and content of the Special Order that was coordinated by the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Census last night.

But before I go on please please everyone in America fill out your census forms and mail them in.

For months now Republicans and Democrats have been promoting the census. No political cheap shots, no debates over sampling. But after the Democrats ambush last night, it's time to take the gloves off.

As we all know, this is the most critical time for the census and for making sure that everyone participates. But the Democrats have obviously decided that promoting the census is