

Terrorism does not have to be directed towards people; it can be directed at our modes of transportation, our communications infrastructure, or even our food supply.

The United States Department of Agriculture, along with the Food and Drug Administration, is in charge of ensuring that Americans have a safe and abundant food supply.

I would like to make it absolutely clear that because of USDA and FDA Americans enjoy the benefit of the safest food supply in the world. However, USDA and FDA have not had to clearly focus on how to prevent terrorism, bioterrorism, agriterrorism, or whatever term one prefers to use in describing the threats to America's food supply.

Prevention is the key and long-term planning should be the goal to continued food safety. Congress needs to take positive steps to help USDA perform what we ask of it.

Today, I am dropping a bill to help with prevention and long-term planning. H.R. 3293 authorizes money to be spent on USDA's agricultural research laboratories so that there is adequate plant and animal research being performed to combat bioterrorism. Some of USDA's most important research facilities need to be modernized in order for the U.S. to stand ready for our new fight.

The bill also provides money for the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, for research to make sure that USDA, the Department of Agriculture, and other law enforcement and emergency preparedness organizations cooperate and have the proper techniques in place in the event of bioterrorism events.

Further, Oklahoma State is authorized to receive a grant to establish a food safety research center. OSU is the ideal location for a food safety center that is needed in our new struggle. This proposed food safety center will utilize state-of-the-art detection methods to determine the critical points in the food chain, from production, harvest, processing, and distribution, to consumption, where interventions could be applied to eliminate the known hazards for humans.

The Secretary of Agriculture will develop rapid response field test kits that can quickly be deployed to State and local agencies to determine if an act of bioterrorism has occurred. These are intended for quick discovery and to confirm outbreaks of plant or animal diseases, pathogens, or other bioterrorism agents.

The intramural agricultural bioterrorism research and development section of this bill will make USDA's ARS programs focus on enhancing regulatory agencies' response time, encouraging academic and private sector partners to work together to maximize research benefits, strengthening the links with the intelligence community to learn what research needs are most

important, and encouraging ARS to work with international operations to control the spread of plant and animal diseases.

The consortium for countermeasures against agricultural bioterrorism is truly valuable. Those colleges and universities that turn out animal and plant doctors will coordinate with the Federal agencies, such as USDA, to develop the long-term program needed to combat bioterrorism.

Furthermore, competitive grants will be provided through USDA which are directed towards the protection of the domestic food supply. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, will be authorized to receive more funds to increase inspections at points of origin and to improve surveillance at points of entry. They will also be required to develop new and better techniques of working with State and local agencies to control the outbreaks of plant and animal diseases.

The Food Safety Inspection Service, FSIS, will be charged with enhancing its ability to inspect the safety of meat and poultry products. Like APHIS, FSIS will be expected to work with State and local agencies to create the best possible means of sharing information and technology in order to reach the best results possible.

This legislation is designed for the long-term benefit of producers and consumers alike. Please support H.R. 3293.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHOWS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HISTORIC COMPROMISE ON AVIATION SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today is a glorious day for us. It is a glorious day for the American people because today we have reached a historic compromise and have finally addressed aviation security, a full 8 weeks after the tragic events of September 11.

We now have a victory for the American people, the flying public, and the flight crews that will be traveling during this upcoming holiday season. We will be scrapping a system that is broken.

Today, public safety is threatened by an unprecedented event: War has been declared on the American people by Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network. The Federal Government must protect our country during these times of peril.

Security at the Nation's airports is no longer a private-sector matter; it is in fact part of the front line of our Nation's defense. Congress needs to treat this as a question of national security by putting in place an effective Federal law enforcement system.

Mr. Speaker, America is experiencing a crisis of confidence in its aviation system. The status quo of private security firms in no way will provide the aviation security necessary to protect the traveling public. Simply put, the private contractors who currently have the responsibility for screening passengers and baggage failed on September 11, and for that matter, they have failed for the past three decades.

The private contractors entrusted with overseeing security for our aviation system are the same companies who pay very low wages, have a turnover of over 400 percent, and have failed to detect dangerous objects that were recently revealed by the GAO and the Department of Transportation during their testing.

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In fact, 68 percent of the teams sent by the DOT Inspector General repeatedly found a breach of security.