

I want to stand for the reopener, I want to stand for the more robust investment we passed in the House, and I want to see this 30-day extension, this record-breaking extension passed.

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

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

I was listening to the gentleman speak on the issue about the needs for a user fee, and he is absolutely right. Again, I hope the American public will speak out, because every day that it goes up higher, I believe last year it was \$2.55 for the premium gas, it is now \$2.25 for regular, none of that goes into the highway construction. It goes overseas. Unless people like supporting those countries who are not friendly to us, those countries that take our dollars and use them for terrorism purposes, maybe unknowingly, I hope the American public will wake up and say enough is enough. If we have to spend this on fuel, then let us spend it in America.

So I compliment the gentleman for his comments and the concept that we will continue to talk about, which are the needs. Again, I want to stress, not the "wants," contrary to what you may read, but the "needs." So I do compliment the gentleman.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Surface Transportation Extension Act before us today. I realize another extension is needed to keep the process moving forward. But I think we need to stop voting on extensions and solve the greater issue of passing a 6-year transportation reauthorization bill with enough funding behind it to put people back to work all across America.

The transportation infrastructure is critical to America for several reasons. First, our entire interstate highway system was created by President Eisenhower as a national security safety measure and that remains a priority today. Second, Americans rely on roads, bridges and tunnels to live their lives each and every day. We use them to get to and from work, to travel on vacation, and to visit friends and family. Third, and most important today, building and maintaining our transportation infrastructure means creating jobs all across America—over 2 million jobs that cannot be outsourced. Jobs to the cities, counties, towns and states throughout this nation that are vitally needed.

The construction industry is a key pillar to any economic recovery providing the much needed stimulus for thousands of related industry jobs. Unlike other important issues, transportation requires long-term planning and investments to keep the nation moving efficiently and safely. Short term extensions interrupt that planning. Two-year funding commitments threaten to destroy plans. This nation needs Congress to act now, to pass the bipartisan compromise of a \$318 billion funding level for a six-year bill. Anything less will only short change the nation and keep Americans out of work.

Pushing for a conference report that provides the bill America needs should not be about partisan politics. As a former county executive, I understand what transportation fund-

ing means to people outside of the beltway. A six year \$318 billion transportation reauthorization bill is supported by local leaders nationwide. It has been endorsed by the National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, United Conference of Mayors, American Public Works Association, Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, National Association of County Engineers, National Association of Development Organizations, and the National Association of Regional Councils.

Finally, it is important to remember that a large price tag on transportation reauthorization does not mean adding to the deficit. This bill is funded through the Highway Trust Fund and any measures not fully offset in the Senate version can be addressed in conference. If Members—both Democrat and Republican, both House and Senate—are serious about jump starting the economy for working Americans and putting Americans back to work we must enact the six year \$318 billion reauthorization now.

I urge leadership on both sides of the aisle in both chambers to set the politics aside and do what is right for America. Let's bring this conference report to the floor immediately. Let's pass it and send it to the President.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4635.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the "yeas" and "nays".

The "yeas" and "nays" were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4635, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4053) to improve the workings of international organizations and multilateral institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4053

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States International Leadership Act of 2004".

#### TITLE I—UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

##### SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Decisions at many international organizations and other multilateral institutions, including membership and key positions, remain subject to determinations made by regional groups where democratic states are often in the minority and where there is intensive cooperation among repressive regimes. As a result, the United States has often been blocked in its attempts to take action in these institutions to advance its goals and objectives, including at the United Nations Human Rights Commission (where a representative of Libya was elected as chairman and the United States temporarily lost a seat).

(2) In order to address these shortcomings, the United States must actively work to improve the workings of international organizations and multilateral institutions, particularly by creating a caucus of democratic countries that will advance United States interests. In the second Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Seoul, Korea, on November 10-20, 2002, numerous countries recommended working together as a democracy caucus in international organizations such as the United Nations and ensuring that international and regional institutions develop and apply democratic standards for member states.

##### SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEMOCRACY CAUCUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President of the United States, acting through the Secretary of State and the relevant United States chiefs of mission, shall seek to establish a democracy caucus at the United Nations, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, and at other broad-based international organizations.

(b) PURPOSES OF THE CAUCUS.—A democracy caucus at an international organization should—

(1) forge common positions, including, as appropriate, at the ministerial level, on matters of concern before the organization and work within and across regional lines to promote agreed positions;

(2) work to revise an increasingly outmoded system of regional voting and decision making; and

(3) set up a rotational leadership scheme to provide member states an opportunity, for a set period of time, to serve as the designated president of the caucus, responsible for serving as its voice in each organization.

##### SEC. 103. ANNUAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES.

The Secretary of State, acting through the principal officers responsible for advising the Secretary on international organizations, shall ensure that a high-level delegation from the United States Government, on an annual basis, is sent to consult with key foreign governments in every region in order to promote the United States agenda at key international fora, such as the United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization, and the International Whaling Commission.

##### SEC. 104. LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) UNITED STATES POLICY.—The President, acting through the Secretary of State and the relevant United States chiefs of mission, shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to—

(1) where appropriate, reform the criteria for leadership and, in appropriate cases for membership, at all United Nations bodies