Ms. HOOLEY mentioned that they opened periods of the season, but those periods don't allow enough time to fish, nor is the season open in the places where there are fish. They just have no fish to catch.

Barbara Stickel from Morro Bay says in May, when their portion of the season was open, they were able to fish for 5 days. They caught zero fish.

□ 1245

They are $48,000 in the hole just trying to fish those 5 days. They have no idea what they are going to do or how they are going to make ends meet.

And it is not just the fishers. It is the related businesses as well. Larry Reuter, a salmon buyer from San Jose, California, says in 2004 he bought 21,000 pounds of salmon from commercial fishermen. This year, he was only able to buy 4,000 pounds. He has already suffered an $80,000 loss to his business, and this year he is paying $27.99 a pound. Before, he had never paid more than $7.

Up at the Klamath Lodge in Del Norte County, Paula Zimmerman says that they were booked solid during the spring season, but they have had massive cancellations because of the closure. Already this year, they have lost $21,000. That may not seem like a lot to those of us inside the Beltway, but for someone who is barely making ends meet, it is everything. This is the money that they need to live on through the winter months. They cannot go on.

Mr. Chairman and Members, thank you for hearing us out on this issue. This is an extremely important issue. Our failure to act would be nothing less than immoral.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the Committee also for working with my colleagues.

I ask unanimous consent to vacate the requests for recorded votes on the five amendments on which proceedings were postponed, to the end that each of them stand adopted by the voice vote thereon.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Accordingly, the amendments by Messrs. REYES, GARRETT of New Jersey, LYNCH, and BROWN of Ohio, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas stand adopted by voice vote.

The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida) assumed the Chair.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 5603. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The Committee resumed its sitting.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

In addition, for necessary retired pay expenses under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plan, and for payments for the medical care of retired personnel and their dependents under the Dependents Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. ch. 55), such sums as may be necessary.

PROCUREMENT, ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION

For procurement, acquisition and construction of capital assets, including alteration and modification costs, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, $996,703,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided for the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System, funds shall only be made available on a dollar for dollar matching basis with funds provided for the same purpose by the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That except to the extent expressly prohibited by any other law, the Department of Defense may delegate procurement functions related to the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System to officials of the Department of Commerce pursuant to section 2311 of title 10, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any deviation from the amounts designated for specific activities in the report accompanying this Act, or any use of deobligated balances of funds provided under this heading in previous years, shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY

For necessary expenses associated with the restoration of Pacific salmon populations, $20,000,000: *Provided*, That this amount shall be available to fund grants to the States of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Alaska, and to the Columbia River and Pacific Coastal Tribes for projects necessary for restoration of salmon and steelhead populations that are listed as threatened or endangered, or identified by a State as at-risk to be so-listed, for maintaining populations necessary for exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights or native subsistence fishing, or for conservation of Pacific coastal salmon and steelhead habitat: *Provided further*, That funds disbursed to States shall be subject to a matching requirement of funds or documented in-kind contributions of at least thirty-three percent of the Federal funds: *Provided further*, That non-Federal funds provided pursuant to the second proviso be used in direct support of this program.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Of amounts collected pursuant to section 308 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1456a), not to exceed $3,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''Operations, Research, and Facilities'' account to offset the costs of implementing such Act.

FISHERIES FINANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the costs of direct loans, $287,000, as authorized by the Merchant Marine Act of 1936: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990: *Provided further*, That these funds are only available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $5,000,000 for Individual Fishing Quota loans, and not to exceed $59,000,000 for traditional direct loans, of which $19,000,000 may be used for direct loans to the United States menhaden fishery: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for direct loans for any new fishing vessel that will increase the harvesting capacity in any United States fishery.

OTHER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

For expenses necessary for the departmental management of the Department of Commerce provided for by law, including not to exceed $5,000 for official entertainment, $52,760,000, of which $5,900,000 shall be for blast mitigation at the Herbert C. Hoover Building and $990,000 shall be for necessary expenses of the National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordination Council.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 17 offered by Mr. PALLONE:

Page 50, line 21, insert ''(decreased by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)'' after ''$52,760,000''.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would provide $1 million for the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences for the purpose of preparing a study on which U.S. coastal population centers are most at risk from the impacts of sea level rise due to global warming. These impacts could include inundation, coastal flooding, more intense storms, such as hurricanes, saline intrusion and a host of other damaging effects.

Last November, scientists at Princeton University released a report that found that under a worst case global warming scenario, more than 3 percent of my home State of New Jersey could be underwater by the end of the century. A full 9 percent of the State would be subject to constant coastal flooding, and so-called 100-year storms would occur every 5 years.

But, of course, New Jersey is by no means the only area facing this threat. More than half of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of an ocean, many in cities that are at or just above sea level. What seems like a small rise in sea level, just a foot or two, could have dramatic effects on the magnitude of storm surges or other flooding events,

causing catastrophic and costly damage in some of our largest cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle and Boston.

I think a mere $1 million offset from the administrative expenses of the Department of Commerce is but a small price to pay for us to get a better idea of what coastal areas would be most affected by sea level rise due to global warming.

And I would point out, Mr. Chairman, just look at what happened last week in Washington, D.C. I heard on the radio this morning that we actually faced here what is called a 300-year storm. So, in fact, what needs to be done is that cities around the country need to be able to prepare for this.

We had a forum on global warming in my district a few weeks ago. A number of the mayors came there. They reacted to some of the information that is out there and are already preparing plans. So this is just really a preventative measure that I think would be really crucial for a lot of our coastal districts around the country, including the city of Washington, D.C.

I would ask my colleagues whose districts would be affected by sea level rise and others from around the country, who will also see impacts from global warming, to join me in voting to fund this small but critical study.

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment increases and decreases the amount for the Department of Commerce's Departmental Management Account. There is no net effect on the funding level of the account.

I have no objection to the gentleman's amendment. The committee accepts the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments that were made by my colleague, but I have two speakers who would like to speak.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of Congressman PALLONE's amendment to provide funding to the National Academy of Sciences to study the impacts of global warming on our coastal areas.

Coastal communities are at serious risk from global warming. We must better understand the specific threats faced by each coastal community to give ourselves a chance to prepare.

As the Earth warms, the sea level is rising. Scientists tell us that global warming likely caused 4 to 8 inches of sea level rise in the last century. Over the next 100 years, we may see up to 3 additional feet of sea level rise.

Warmer water fuels more intense hurricanes and tropical storms. Coral reefs are being damaged by both warmer water and increased ocean acidity from carbon dioxide.

Coastal communities need to know what they are up against. The effects of sea level rise include coastal erosion, land loss, disappearing beaches, saltwater intrusion into underground drinking water supplies, higher storm surges, damages to houses and roads, and harm to fisheries. And we have already seen the devastation that hurricanes and tropical storms could wreak on our coastal communities.

Coastal communities, such as Los Angeles, will be affected by changes inland. One-third of our precious water supplies come from the Sierra snowpack.

Of course, we must do much more than just try to adapt to massive temperature rises. The costs of that are far too high. We must dramatically cut our greenhouse gas emissions over the next few decades to avoid highly dangerous and irreversible warming. That is why last week, together with Congressman PALLONE and other colleagues, I introduced the Safe Climate Act. The Safe Climate Act reflects what science says we need to do to protect our children and grandchildren from disastrous climate changes.

While prompt action is necessary to avert the worst effects of climate change, this administration and the Congress are refusing to act. In the meantime, our coastal communities are at risk.

The Pallone amendment is a simple, commonsense measure to assess some of these vulnerabilities. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island, the Ocean State.

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding and for drawing attention to the important issue of climate change.

Last week, the National Academy of Sciences concluded that ''the last few decades of the 20th century were warmer than any comparable period in the last 400 years.''

We can no longer ignore the fact that human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, have increased carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and contributed to changes in the Earth's climate.

The Pallone amendment recognizes that climate change threatens our coastal communities. In States like Rhode Island, which has about 400 miles of coastline and a significant portion of the population lives along the coast, the impact of rising sea levels would be downright disastrous. Beach erosion would lead to greater flooding and endanger our tourism-based economy, while the destruction of wetlands would eradicate wildlife habitat and reduce the natural buffer against storm surges.

Mr. Chairman, global warming threatens to have a devastating impact on our Nation's environment and economy, and Congress must take swift action. We can start by funding important research into climate change impacts on our communities. And I urge my colleagues to support the Pallone amendment.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Pallone Amendment. This amendment directs the Department of Commerce to provide $1 million for the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of U.S. coastal areas facing the greatest impacts from global warming. My district of Guam, as an island in the Western Pacific, is in its entirety a coastal community. Guam is one of the several American communities directly facing the challenges associated with global climate change.

The islands in Oceania, including Guam, are particularly vulnerable to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise. Increased scientific and public policy cooperation on this issue would stand to benefit our island and coastal communities. The off-shore territories should not be neglected in the national effort to identify and address the challenges associated with this phenomenon.

We can identify and mitigate the effects of climate change by studying its impacts on our islands and coastlines. This amendment proposes a quality initial investment towards achieving this end. Our country can save money in the future and work towards protecting our lands and natural resources with this $1 million investment.

I support the Pallone Amendment. Its provisions are critical to helping us understand what areas of our country are most at risk. The study that would be funded by this amendment would yield the information we need to make more informed public policy decisions for the preservation of our country's coastlines.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE, and our colleague from Washington, Mr. INSLEE, for their leadership on this issue. I urge support for their amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $22,531,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations and funds made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act shall be available for the activities specified in the Act of October 26, 1949 (15 U.S.C. 1514), to the extent and in the manner prescribed by the Act, and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3324, may be used for advanced payments not otherwise authorized only upon the certification of officials designated by the Secretary of Commerce that such payments are in the public interest.

SEC. 202. During the current fiscal year, appropriations made available to the Department of Commerce by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31

U.S.C. 1343 and 1344; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by law (5 U.S.C. 5901–5902).

SEC. 203. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of Commerce in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance of the acquisition or disposal of any capital asset (including land, structures, and equipment) not specifically provided for in this or any other Appropriations Act.

SEC. 204. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this title resulting from personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this title or from actions taken for the care and protection of loan collateral or grant property shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SEC. 205. Section 214 of division B of Public Law 108–447 (118 Stat. 2884–86) is amended by (1) inserting ''and subject to subsection (f),'' following ''program,'' in section (a); and (2) striking subsection (f) and inserting:

''(f) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this section, up to $4,000,000 annually.''.

SEC. 206. (a) Section 318 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1445c), is amended by (1) inserting ''and subject to subsection (e),'' following ''program,'' in subsection (a); and (2) striking subsection (e) and inserting:

''(e) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce up to $500,000 annually, to carry out the provisions of this section.''.

(b) Section 210 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–553) is repealed.

SEC. 207. Any funds provided in this Act under ''Department of Commerce'' used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2007''.

TITLE III—SCIENCE

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

For necessary expenses of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in carrying out the purposes of the National Science and Technology Policy, Organization, and Priorities Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6601–6671), hire of passenger motor vehicles, and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, not to exceed $2,500 for official reception and representation expenses, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $5,369,000: *Provided*, That the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish an Ethics Advisory Group for the National Nanotechnology Initiative focused on questions of human dignity: *Provided further*, That the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives by March 31, 2007, on specific actions planned and taken in response to the work of the National Science and Technology Council and the Academic Competitiveness Council with regard to improving science and math education in the United States.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

SCIENCE, AERONAUTICS AND EXPLORATION

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of science, aeronautics and exploration research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; maintenance; construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization, and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and restoration, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law; environmental compliance and restoration; space flight, spacecraft control and communications activities including operations, production, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $35,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $10,482,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which $5,404,800,000 shall be for science, $3,827,600,000 shall be for exploration systems, $824,400,000 shall be for aeronautics research, and $425,200,000 shall be for cross-agency support programs: *Provided*, That any funds provided under this heading used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

EXPLORATION CAPABILITIES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, in the conduct and support of exploration capabilities research and development activities, including research, development, operations, support and services; maintenance; construction of facilities including repair, rehabilitation, revitalization and modification of facilities, construction of new facilities and additions to existing facilities, facility planning and design, and acquisition or condemnation of real property, as authorized by law; environmental compliance and restoration; space flight, spacecraft control and communications activities including operations, production, and services; program management; personnel and related costs, including uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; travel expenses; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $35,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and purchase, lease, charter, maintenance and operation of mission and administrative aircraft, $6,193,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which $1,777,900,000 shall be for the International Space Station, $4,056,700,000 shall be for the Space Shuttle, and $358,900,000 shall be for space and flight suport: *Provided*, That any funds provided under this heading used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $33,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Notwithstanding the limitation on the availability of funds appropriated for ''Science, Aeronautics and Exploration'', or ''Exploration Capabilities'' by this appropriations Act, when any activity has been initiated by the incurrence of obligations for construction of facilities or environmental compliance and restoration activities as authorized by law, such amount available for such activity shall remain available until expended. This provision does not apply to the amounts appropriated for institutional minor revitalization and construction of facilities, and institutional facility planning and design.

Notwithstanding the limitation on the availability of funds appropriated for ''Science, Aeronautics and Exploration'', or ''Exploration Capabilities'' by this appropriations Act, the amounts appropriated for construction of facilities shall remain available until September 30, 2009.

□ 1300

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California for a colloquy with the chairman.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I have a colloquy with the chairman of the committee, Mr. WOLF.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see language in the SSJC appropriations report giving directives to NOAA and the Secretary of Commerce regarding the salmon in the Klamath River.

Though the river does not flow directly through my district, my salmon fishermen and related industries are greatly impacted. The National Marine Fisheries Service severely restricted the 2006 salmon season, after significantly cutting the 2005 season. This has caused undue financial hardships for local fishing communities, causing the Governors of both California and Oregon to declare it a fishery disaster.

There is definitely an immediate need to provide emergency funding to those impacted. However, we need to start addressing long-term needs to restore the habitat and rebuild the salmon population so that we do not find ourselves with a crisis every year. It would take a relatively small amount to curb much greater economic losses in the future.

Would the chairman be willing to work toward increasing the amount of funding from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund to be used for the Klamath River restoration projects and salmon recovery? This important granting fund has already been reduced by almost $47 million below what the President requested in the fiscal year '06 enacted levels, so I further ask the chairman to work to restore funding during the conference committee.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would yield, I understand your concerns, Mr. FARR. I agree there is a need to seek a long-term solution to the problems in the Klamath Basin and

appreciate your leadership on this issue. I commit, as we have spoken, to improve the levels of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund in conference for restoration and also for recovery.

Mr. FARR. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for your cooperation and for all the hard work on this important bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

Funds for announced prizes otherwise authorized shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until the prize is claimed or the offer is withdrawn.

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers. Any transfer pursuant to this provision shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861–1875), and the Act to establish a National Medal of Science (42 U.S.C. 1880–1881); services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; maintenance and operation of aircraft and purchase of flight services for research support; acquisition of aircraft; and authorized travel; $4,665,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, of which not to exceed $485,000,000 shall remain available until expended for Polar research and operations support, and for reimbursement to other Federal agencies for operational and science support and logistical and other related activities for the United States Antarctic program: *Provided*, That receipts for scientific support services and materials furnished by the National Research Centers and other National Science Foundation supported research facilities may be credited to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading may be available for innovation inducement prizes: *Provided further*, That section 11(f) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1870(f)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end ", except that funds may be donated for specific prize competitions.".

MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for the acquisition, construction, commissioning, and upgrading of major research equipment, facilities, and other such capital assets pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, including authorized travel, $237,250,000, to remain available until expended.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

For necessary expenses in carrying out science and engineering education and human resources programs and activities pursuant to the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861–1875), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, authorized travel, and rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, $832,432,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1861–1875); services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $9,000 for official reception and representation expenses; uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services; $268,610,000: *Provided*, That contracts may be entered into under "Salaries and Expenses" in fiscal year 2007 for maintenance and operation of facilities, and for other services, to be provided during the next fiscal year.

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) involved in carrying out section 4 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1863) and Public Law 86–209 (42 U.S.C. 1880 et seq.), $3,910,000: *Provided*, That not more than $9,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $11,860,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

This title may be cited as the "Science Appropriations Act, 2007".

TITLE IV—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Department of State and the Foreign Service not otherwise provided for, including employment, without regard to civil service and classification laws, of persons on a temporary basis (not to exceed $700,000 of this appropriation), as authorized by section 801 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948; representation to certain international organizations in which the United States participates pursuant to treaties ratified pursuant to the advice and consent of the Senate or specific Acts of Congress; arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament activities as authorized; acquisition by exchange or purchase of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by law; and for expenses of general administration, $3,709,914,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not to exceed $4,000,000 may be transferred to, and merged with, funds in the "Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service" appropriations account, to be available only for emergency evacuations and terrorism rewards: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not less than $351,000,000 shall be available only for public diplomacy international information programs: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $3,000,000 shall be available only for the operations of the Office on Right-Sizing the United States Government Overseas Presence: *Provided further*, That funds available under this heading may be available for a United States Government interagency task force to examine, coordinate and oversee United States participation in the United Nations headquarters renovation project: *Provided further*, That no funds may be obligated or expended for processing licenses for the export of satellites of United States origin (including commercial satellites and satellite components) to the People's Republic of China unless, at least 15 days in advance, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified of such proposed action: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading are available, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1108(g), for the field examination of programs and activities in the United States funded from any account contained in this title.

In addition, not to exceed $1,513,000 shall be derived from fees collected from other executive agencies for lease or use of facilities located at the International Center in accordance with section 4 of the International Center Act; in addition, as authorized by section 5 of such Act, $490,000, to be derived from the reserve authorized by that section, to be used for the purposes set out in that section; in addition, as authorized by section 810 of the United States Information and Educational Exchange Act, not to exceed $6,000,000, to remain available until expended, may be credited to this appropriation from fees or other payments received from English teaching, library, motion pictures, and publication programs and from fees from educational advising and counseling and exchange visitor programs; and, in addition, not to exceed $15,000, which shall be derived from reimbursements, surcharges, and fees for use of Blair House facilities.

In addition, for the costs of worldwide security upgrades, $795,170,000, to remain available until expended.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND

For necessary expenses of the Capital Investment Fund, $58,143,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized: *Provided*, That section 135(e) of Public Law 103–236 shall not apply to funds available under this heading.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, $32,508,000, notwithstanding section 209(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–465), as it relates to post inspections.

EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

For expenses of educational and cultural exchange programs, as authorized, $436,275,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, may be credited to this appropriation from fees or other payments received from or in connection with English teaching, educational advising and counseling programs, and exchange visitor programs as authorized.

REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES

For representation allowances as authorized, $8,175,000.

PROTECTION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS AND OFFICIALS

For expenses, not otherwise provided, to enable the Secretary of State to provide for extraordinary protective services, as authorized, $9,270,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

EMBASSY SECURITY, CONSTRUCTION, AND MAINTENANCE

For necessary expenses for carrying out the Foreign Service Buildings Act of 1926 (22 U.S.C. 292–303), preserving, maintaining, repairing, and planning for buildings that are owned or directly leased by the Department of State, renovating, in addition to funds otherwise available, the Harry S Truman Building, and carrying out the Diplomatic Security Construction Program as authorized, $605,652,000, to remain available until expended as authorized, of which not to exceed $25,000 may be used for domestic and

overseas representation as authorized: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be available for acquisition of furniture, furnishings, or generators for other departments and agencies.

In addition, for the costs of worldwide security upgrades, acquisition, and construction as authorized, $899,368,000, to remain available until expended.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For expenses necessary to enable the Secretary of State to meet unforeseen emergencies arising in the Diplomatic and Consular Service, $4,940,000, to remain available until expended as authorized, of which not to exceed $1,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with the ''Repatriation Loans Program Account'', subject to the same terms and conditions.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $695,000, as authorized: *Provided,* That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $590,000, which may be transferred to and merged with funds in the ''Diplomatic and Consular Programs'' account.

PAYMENT TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN

For necessary expenses to carry out the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96–8), $15,826,000.

PAYMENT TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY FUND

For payment to the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund, as authorized by law, $125,000,000.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary to meet annual obligations of membership in international multilateral organizations, pursuant to treaties ratified pursuant to the advice and consent of the Senate, conventions or specific Acts of Congress, $1,151,318,000: *Provided,* That the Secretary of State shall, at the time of the submission of the President's budget to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, transmit to the Committees on Appropriations the most recent biennial budget prepared by the United Nations for the operations of the United Nations: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of State shall notify the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days in advance (or in an emergency, as far in advance as is practicable) of any United Nations action to increase funding for any United Nations program without identifying an offsetting decrease elsewhere in the United Nations budget and cause the United Nations budget for the biennium 2006–2007 to exceed $3,798,912,500: *Provided further,* That any payment of arrearages under this title shall be directed toward special activities that are mutually agreed upon by the United States and the respective international organization: *Provided further,* That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be available for a United States contribution to an international organization for the United States share of interest costs made known to the United States Government by such organization for loans incurred on or after October 1, 1984, through external borrowings.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES

For necessary expenses to pay assessed and other expenses of international peacekeeping activities directed to the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security, $1,135,327,000, of which 15 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided,* That none of the funds made available under this Act shall be obligated or expended for any new or expanded United Nations peacekeeping mission unless, at least 15 days in advance of voting for the new or expanded mission in the United Nations Security Council (or in an emergency as far in advance as is practicable): (1) the Committees on Appropriations and other appropriate committees of the Congress are notified of the estimated cost and length of the mission, the national interest that will be served, and the planned exit strategy; (2) the Committees on Appropriations and other appropriate committees of the Congress are notified that the United Nations has taken appropriate measures to prevent United Nations employees, contractor personnel, and peacekeeping forces serving in any United Nations peacekeeping mission from trafficking in persons, exploiting victims of trafficking, or committing acts of illegal sexual exploitation, and to hold accountable individuals who engage in such acts while participating in the peacekeeping mission; and (3) a reprogramming of funds pursuant to section 605 of this Act is submitted, and the procedures therein followed, setting forth the source of funds that will be used to pay for the cost of the new or expanded mission: *Provided further,* That funds shall be available for peacekeeping expenses only upon a certification by the Secretary of State to the appropriate committees of the Congress that American manufacturers and suppliers are being given opportunities to provide equipment, services, and material for United Nations peacekeeping activities equal to those being given to foreign manufacturers and suppliers.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, to meet obligations of the United States arising under treaties, or specific Acts of Congress, as follows:

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

For necessary expenses for the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, and to comply with laws applicable to the United States Section, including not to exceed $6,000 for representation; as follows:

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses, not otherwise provided for, $28,453,000.

CONSTRUCTION

For detailed plan preparation and construction of authorized projects, $9,237,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized.

AMERICAN SECTIONS, INTERNATIONAL COMMISSIONS

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided, for the International Joint Commission and the International Boundary Commission, United States and Canada, as authorized by treaties between the United States and Canada or Great Britain, and for the Border Environment Cooperation Commission as authorized by Public Law 103–182, $9,587,000, of which not to exceed $9,000 shall be available for representation expenses incurred by the International Joint Commission.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

For necessary expenses for international fisheries commissions, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by law, $20,651,000: *Provided,* That the United States' share of such expenses may be advanced to the respective commissions pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3324.

OTHER

PAYMENT TO THE ASIA FOUNDATION

For a grant to the Asia Foundation, as authorized by the Asia Foundation Act (22 U.S.C. 4402), $13,821,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized.

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses of the Center for Middle Eastern-Western Dialogue Trust Fund, the total amount of the interest and earnings accruing to such Fund on or before September 30, 2007, to remain available until expended.

EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

For necessary expenses of Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships, Incorporated, as authorized by sections 4 and 5 of the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Act of 1990 (20 U.S.C. 5204–5205), all interest and earnings accruing to the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship Program Trust Fund on or before September 30, 2007, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be used to pay any salary or other compensation, or to enter into any contract providing for the payment thereof, in excess of the rate authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5376; or for purposes which are not in accordance with OMB Circulars A–110 (Uniform Administrative Requirements) and A–122 (Cost Principles for Non-profit Organizations), including the restrictions on compensation for personal services.

ISRAELI ARAB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For necessary expenses of the Israeli Arab Scholarship Program as authorized by section 214 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993 (22 U.S.C. 2452), all interest and earnings accruing to the Israeli Arab Scholarship Fund on or before September 30, 2007, to remain available until expended.

EAST-WEST CENTER

To enable the Secretary of State to provide for carrying out the provisions of the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West Act of 1960, by grant to the Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West in the State of Hawaii, $3,000,000: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated herein shall be used to pay any salary, or enter into any contract providing for the payment thereof, in excess of the rate authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5376.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

For grants made by the Department of State to the National Endowment for Democracy as authorized by the National Endowment for Democracy Act, $50,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RELATED AGENCY

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS

For expenses necessary to enable the Broadcasting Board of Governors, as authorized, to carry out international communication activities, including the purchase, rent, construction, and improvement of facilities for radio and television transmission and reception and purchase, lease, and installation of necessary equipment, including aircraft, for radio and television transmission and reception to Cuba, and to make and supervise grants for radio and television broadcasting to the Middle East, $651,279,000, of which $5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided,* That of the total amount in this heading, not to exceed $16,000 may be used for official receptions within the United States as authorized, not to exceed $35,000 may be used for representation

abroad as authorized, and not to exceed $39,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; and in addition, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $2,000,000 in receipts from advertising and revenue from business ventures, not to exceed $500,000 in receipts from cooperating international organizations, and not to exceed $1,000,000 in receipts from privatization efforts of the Voice of America and the International Broadcasting Bureau, to remain available until expended for carrying out authorized purposes.

BROADCASTING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

For the purchase, rent, construction, and improvement of facilities for radio and television transmission and reception, and purchase and installation of necessary equipment for radio and television transmission and reception as authorized, $7,624,000, to remain available until expended, as authorized.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

SEC. 401. Funds appropriated under this title shall be available, except as otherwise provided, for allowances and differentials as authorized by subchapter 59 of title 5, United States Code; for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and for hire of passenger transportation pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1343(b).

SEC. 402. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Department of State in this title may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Broadcasting Board of Governors in this title may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided further*, That any transfer pursuant to this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SEC. 403. None of the funds made available in this title may be used by the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors to provide equipment, technical support, consulting services, or any other form of assistance to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

SEC. 404. (a) The Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons, established under section 105(f) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7103(f)) to coordinate agency activities regarding policies (including grants and grant policies) involving the international trafficking in persons, shall coordinate all such policies related to the activities of traffickers and victims of severe forms of trafficking.

(b) None of the funds provided in this or any other Act shall be expended to perform functions that duplicate coordinating responsibilities of the Operating Group.

(c) The Operating Group shall continue to report only to the authorities that appointed them pursuant to section 105(f).

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for any United Nations undertaking when it is made known to the Federal official having authority to obligate or expend such funds that: (1) the United Nations undertaking is a peacekeeping mission; (2) such undertaking will involve United States Armed Forces under the command or operational control of a foreign national; and (3) the President's military advisors have not submitted to the President a recommendation that such involvement is in the national security interests of the United States and the President has not submitted to the Congress such a recommendation.

SEC. 406. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this title shall be expended for any purpose for which appropriations are prohibited by section 609 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999.

(b) The requirements in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 609 of that Act shall continue to apply during fiscal year 2007.

SEC. 407. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this title shall be expended for any purpose for which appropriations are prohibited by section 616 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999.

(b) The requirements in subsections (b) and (c) of section 616 of that Act shall continue to apply during fiscal year 2007.

SEC. 408. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a project to construct a diplomatic facility of the United States may not include office space or other accommodations for an employee of a Federal agency or department if the Secretary of State determines that such department or agency has not provided to the Department of State the full amount of funding required by subsection (e) of section 604 of the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(7) of Public Law 106–113 and contained in appendix G of that Act; 113 Stat. 1501A–453), as amended by section 629 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.

(b) Notwithstanding the prohibition in subsection (a), a project to construct a diplomatic facility of the United States may include office space or other accommodations for members of the Marine Corps.

SEC. 409. Ceilings and earmarks contained in this title shall not be applicable to funds or authorities appropriated or otherwise made available by any subsequent Act unless such Act specifically so directs. Earmarks or minimum funding requirements contained in any other Act shall not be applicable to funds appropriated by this title.

SEC. 410. Any funds provided in this Act under ''Department of State'' used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

SEC. 411. (a) Subsection (f) of section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(f) INELIGIBILITY.—An officer'' and inserting the following:

''(f) INELIGIBILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an officer''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) EXCEPTION IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Secretary may pay a reward to an officer or employee of a foreign government (or any entity thereof) who, while in the performance of his or her official duties, furnishes information described in such subsection, if the Secretary determines that such payment satisfies the following conditions:

''(A) Such payment is appropriate in light of the exceptional or high-profile nature of the information furnished pursuant to such subsection.

''(B) Such payment may aid in furnishing further information described in such subsection.

''(C) Such payment is formally requested by such agency.''.

(b) Subsection (b) of such section (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting ''or to an officer or employee of a foreign government in accordance with subsection (f)(2)'' after ''individual''.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of State and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2007''.

TITLE V—RELATED AGENCIES

ANTITRUST MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Antitrust Modernization Commission, as authorized by Public Law 107–273, $462,000, to remain available until expended.

COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S HERITAGE ABROAD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses for the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, $493,000, as authorized by section 1303 of Public Law 99–83.

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Civil Rights, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, $8,933,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to employ in excess of four full-time individuals under Schedule C of the Excepted Service exclusive of one special assistant for each Commissioner: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated in this paragraph shall be used to reimburse Commissioners for more than 75 billable days, with the exception of the chairperson, who is permitted 125 billable days.

COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, as authorized by title II of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–292), $3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as authorized by Public Law 94–304, $2,110,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China, as authorized, $2,000,000, including not more than $3,000 for the purpose of official representation, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as authorized by title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (29 U.S.C. 206(d) and 621–634), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343(b); non-monetary awards to private citizens; and not to exceed $28,000,000 for payments to State and local enforcement agencies for services to the Commission pursuant to title VII of the Civil Rights Act of

1964, sections 6 and 14 of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991, $322,807,000: *Provided*, That the Commission is authorized to make available for official reception and representation expenses not to exceed $2,500 from available funds: *Provided further*, That the Commission may take no action to implement any workforce repositioning, restructuring, or reorganization until such time as the Committees on Appropriations have been notified of such proposals, in accordance with the reprogramming provisions of section 605 of this Act.

Mr. WOLF (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 83, line 7, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Communications Commission, as authorized by law, including uniforms and allowances therefor, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; not to exceed $4,000 for official reception and representation expenses; purchase and hire of motor vehicles; special counsel fees; and services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $294,261,000: *Provided*, That offsetting collections shall be assessed and collected pursuant to section 9 of title I of the Communications Act of 1934, of which $293,261,000 shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2007 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2007 appropriation estimated at $1,000,000: *Provided further*, That any offsetting collections received in excess of $293,261,000 in fiscal year 2007 shall remain available until expended, but shall not be available for obligation until October 1, 2007: *Provided further*, That remaining offsetting collections from prior years collected in excess of the amount specified for collection in each such year and otherwise becoming available on October 1, 2006, shall not be available for obligation: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(B), proceeds from the use of a competitive bidding system that may be retained and made available for obligation shall not exceed $85,000,000 for fiscal year 2007: *Provided further*, That, in addition, not to exceed $3,000,000 may be transferred from the Universal Service Fund in fiscal year 2007, to remain available until expended, to monitor the Universal Service Fund program to prevent and remedy waste, fraud and abuse, and to conduct audits and investigations by the Office of Inspector General.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. MURPHY:

Page 83, line 17, insert ''(increased by $50,000) (decreased by $50,000)'' after the aggregate dollar amount.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chairman, first, I thank the distinguished chairman, Chairman WOLF, for his work on this bill.

This amendment is intended to highlight the dangerous practice of caller ID fraud or ''call spoofing'' and hope the FCC moves quickly and takes immediate action to protect the public from this. It is a deceptive practice being used to defraud people of their money and deceive citizens into releasing private information.

There are now several Web sites where anyone can change their outgoing phone number to any number that they choose on a temporary basis. This practice is not just for harmless pranks but has tremendous identity theft and other security implications.

For example, the AARP bulletin recently reported that people received false calls claiming they missed jury duty and were asked for their Social Security numbers. The phone number of the local courthouse had shown up on their caller ID.

Criminals have engaged in caller ID fraud to gather private consumer information from businesses that rely on caller ID for authentication, such as financial companies that perform wire transfers. Cell phone voice mailboxes often only require verification that an incoming call is from the user's cell phone number.

Lastly, in 2005, SWAT teams surrounded an empty building in New Brunswick, New Jersey, after police received a call from a woman who said she was being held hostage in an apartment. She was not in the apartment, and the woman had intentionally used a false caller ID.

False caller ID information can be used to bypass safety systems made to prevent domestic violence and harassment. Imagine what can happen when predators use false caller ID numbers to prey upon children and senior citizens. I might add that these phone spoofing Web sites also offer to disguise the voice of the caller and to record the call.

The House has already expressed its will on this matter, unanimously passing H.R. 5126 earlier this month; and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of that bill. I have another bill, H.R. 5304, that would go a step further by amending criminal law to protect Americans from this practice.

We cannot keep waiting to deal with this insidious problem and must ask the FCC to move forward quickly.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I think it is a good amendment. Hopefully, the FCC will take note of what Mr. MURPHY is doing. I would urge a ''yes'' vote on the amendment.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my colleague, Mr. MURPHY, and his amendment. It is appropriate for our colleague from Pennsylvania to be offering this amendment because he is himself a victim of this insidiousness.

I also want to thank Chairman BARTON, who with me, introduced the Truth in Caller ID Act that passed the House not long ago. I also want to thank and recognize Mr. UPTON, Mr. DINGELL and Mr. MARKEY for their significant contributions to that bill.

I commend our colleague from Pennsylvania for offering this amendment. It will highlight to the FCC that the House of Representatives takes this problem very seriously. We have swiftly passed legislation that is now pending in the Senate. And so we expect the FCC to do whatever it can now—and to move expeditiously once the Truth in Caller ID Act is signed into law.

Not long ago, I was like most Americans—completely unaware that is was so easy for someone to alter their caller ID. Caller ID spoofing is not your grandfather's prank call.

This technology has limited uses that I find legitimate, such as for law enforcement and protecting battered women.

This technology has unlimited uses that I find completely unacceptable. This technology enables people to pretend to be a bank, a doctor's office, a court house, or even a member of Congress. Nefarious people are . . . I say are using this technology to get a hold of private information and engage in identity theft.

The Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce held a hearing on this matter. We heard stories of people receiving phone calls from their local court houses saying they had missed jury duty and that to confirm a make up the caller needed the person's social security number. Well who wouldn't be flustered when seeing a local court house phone number on the caller ID and being told you had missed jury duty. So these innocent people gave out their social security numbers.

We heard of people make fake calls to police departments claiming to be victims of home intrusion and being held at gun point. The Newark Star Ledger reported on July 12, 2005 that Mr. Wadu Jackson plead guilty to placing ''a fake 911 call that drew dozens of police sharpshooters to a New Brunswick home in March in a mistake belief that a teenage girl was being held hostage.

I know of three of our colleagues in the House who have been victims of caller ID spoofing. Not in the personal lives, but in their professional lives as Members of Congress. They have had people call and leave obnoxious messages that indicate the call is coming from the member's district office.

I can only believe that this was an early effort at testing this technology to interfere with the electoral process of our nation.

I think we do a service to our constituents today by highlighting and alerting them to this problem. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Murphy/Schmidt amendment to H.R. 5672, and I commend Mr. MURPHY for his good work on this important issue.

I introduced legislation on the issue of manipulation of caller identification information, and I know first-hand there is a need to end the practice of "call spoofing."

With the increasing frequency of identity theft, we must do all that we can to end opportunities for falsification of this data.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 89, line 9, be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 89, line 9, is as follows:

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Trade Commission, including uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and not to exceed $300,000 shall be available for use to contract with a person or persons for collection services in accordance with the terms of 31 U.S.C. 3718: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $129,000,000 of offsetting collections derived from fees collected for premerger notification filings under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 18a), regardless of the year of collection, shall be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, $23,000,000 in offsetting collections derived from fees sufficient to implement and enforce the Telemarketing Sales Rule, promulgated under the Telephone Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (15 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), shall be credited to this account, and be retained and used for necessary expenses in this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2007, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2007 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $61,079,000: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available to the Federal Trade Commission may be used to enforce subsection (e) of section 43 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t) or section 151(b)(2) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991 (12 U.S.C. 1831t note).

HELP COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the HELP Commission, $1,250,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That section 637(f)(1) of the HELP Commission Act (Public Law 108–199, division B) is amended by inserting "and 3 months" after "2 years".

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

For payment to the Legal Services Corporation to carry out the purposes of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, $313,860,000, of which $296,990,000 is for basic field programs and required independent audits; $2,970,000 is for the Office of Inspector General, of which such amounts as may be necessary may be used to conduct additional audits of recipients; $12,661,000 is for management and administration; and $1,239,000 is for client self-help and information technology.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

None of the funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be expended for any purpose prohibited or limited by, or contrary to any of the provisions of, sections 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, and 506 of Public Law 105–119, and all funds appropriated in this Act to the Legal Services Corporation shall be subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in such sections, except that all references in sections 502 and 503 to 1997 and 1998 shall be deemed to refer instead to 2006 and 2007, respectively.

MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Marine Mammal Commission as authorized by title II of Public Law 92–522, $2,000,000.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Securities and Exchange Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, the rental of space (to include multiple year leases) in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and not to exceed $3,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $900,517,000, to remain available until expended; of which not to exceed $10,000 may be used toward funding a permanent secretariat for the International Organization of Securities Commissions; and of which not to exceed $100,000 shall be available for expenses for consultations and meetings hosted by the Commission with foreign governmental and other regulatory officials, members of their delegations, appropriate representatives and staff to exchange views concerning developments relating to securities matters, development and implementation of cooperation agreements concerning securities matters and provision of technical assistance for the development of foreign securities markets, such expenses to include necessary logistic and administrative expenses and the expenses of Commission staff and foreign invitees in attendance at such consultations and meetings including: (1) such incidental expenses as meals taken in the course of such attendance; (2) any travel and transportation to or from such meetings; and (3) any other related lodging or subsistence: *Provided*, That fees and charges authorized by sections 6(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77f(b)), and 13(e), 14(g) and 31 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(e), 78n(g), and 78ee), shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $880,517,000 of such offsetting collections shall be available until expended for necessary expenses of this account: *Provided further*, That $20,000,000 shall be derived from available balances of funds previously appropriated to the Securities and Exchange Commission: *Provided further*, That the total amount appropriated under this heading from the general fund for fiscal year 2007 shall be reduced as such offsetting fees are received so as to result in a final total fiscal year 2007 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $0.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the Small Business Administration as authorized by Public Law 108–447, including hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1343 and 1344, and not to exceed $3,500 for official reception and representation expenses, $303,550,000, of which $10,000,000 shall be available for microloan technical assistance, and of which $1,000,000 shall be transferred to and merged with appropriations for "Business Loans Program Account" and shall remain available until expended for the cost of direct loans: *Provided*, That the Administrator is authorized to charge fees to cover the cost of publications developed by the Small Business Administration, and certain loan program activities, including fees authorized by section 5(b) of the Small Business Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, revenues received from all such activities shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended, for carrying out these purposes without further appropriations: *Provided further*, That any funds provided under this heading used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, $500,000 shall be for the National Veterans Business Development Corporation.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mrs. DAVIS of California:

Page 90, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by $1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment today along with my colleagues, Mr. EVANS of Illinois and Ms. HERSETH of South Dakota, on behalf of our veterans seeking to start and operate their own businesses.

I have been interested in this issue for a number of years after visiting with our servicemembers in Afghanistan. I recall one brave servicemember who told me his dream was to learn about entrepreneurship and start his own business after his tour of duty. So it is up to us to make sure our veterans have access to the training, assistance and capital to start a business.

Mr. Chairman, Congress passed legislation in 1999 establishing the National Veterans Business Development Corporation to provide all of these crucial aspects of entrepreneurship to veterans. As a result, the Veterans Corporation has provided training to over 8,000 veterans and has helped over 550 veterans start businesses during 2006 alone.

Charmaine Burnett is one of those thousands of success stories. She is a service-disabled veteran of the Gulf War living in California, and her construction services company has been awarded several contracts in recent months. She attributes her success in part to the assistance she received from the Veterans Corporation.

Unfortunately, at $500,000, H.R. 5672 does not provide sufficient funding for the Veterans Corporation to train and continue its services to veterans when they need it the most.

Mr. Chairman, why would we cut this funding to veterans when they need it most? The corporation will have to cut back and reduce services for veterans entrepreneurship when many of our servicemembers are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our amendment increases funding for the Veterans Corporation by a mere $1 million to match its level for fiscal year 2006. Our veterans need this funding.

This amendment is completely budget neutral. It does not increase spending and does not take away from other important programs within the SBA.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and to support business ownership for America's veterans.

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Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentlewoman's amendment. I know the Veterans Corporation is working to get itself revitalized, and I hope we can have this thing authorized. I think the more effort that can be done would help us, particularly as we move into the outyears.

Mr. Chairman, I accept the gentlewoman's amendment.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that acceptance, and I know that the veterans will as well.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from California has 3 minutes remaining.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH).

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

In light of the chairman's support, I will submit my comments for the RECORD in support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my support for this important amendment offered by the gentlelady Ms. DAVIS of CA to the Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill to increase by $1 million the amount of funding in this bill to the National Veterans Business Development Corporation—also known as The Veterans Corporation.

Our amendment increases funding for The Veterans Corporation from $500,000 to $1.5 million to match Fiscal Year 2006 levels. Without level funding, The Veterans Corporation will be forced to cut back and reduce entrepreneurship assistance to our veterans.

As the Ranking Member of the Veterans' Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, which maintains jurisdiction over veterans' employment and re-employment matters, I have been working to explore the perceptions, activities, employment practices, and entrepreneurship opportunities for former servicemembers.

In my view, which I know is shared by many of my colleagues, the men and women serving in the military today are very professional, highly trained, and extremely motivated. I am confident that many of these men and women would add value to our economy if given the opportunity to start their own businesses. In my district—the State of South Dakota—more than 17,000 veteran owned small businesses are operating—generating a combined income of more than $816 million.

Mr. Chairman, as the Administration has repeatedly stated, this is a key transitional year for members of our Armed Forces serving overseas. Increasing numbers of servicemen and women are expected to return home from Iraq and Afghanistan—including thousands of National Guard and Reservists. The men and women in uniform who defend this country and make our economic and political systems possible, indeed, have earned our best efforts and a fair opportunity to successfully transition from military service to civilian life and employment.

The Veterans Corporation is working to help these veterans, who would like to enter the world of entrepreneurship, have the opportunity to successfully do so. I ask my colleagues to support these veterans by supporting this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, $13,722,000.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman. I likewise thank you for your leadership and the chairman's leadership, and I would like to enter into a colloquy. It is, I think, appropriate to do so as there is a pending launch going forward in the Nation's space program, space shuttle program, to talk about the next generation of scientists and astronauts.

Mr. Chairman, in 1992, Dr. Mae C. Jemison became the first woman of color to travel into space. After retiring from NASA, she worked as an active advocate of science education, especially for minorities and economically disadvantaged students.

Dr. Jemison is a doctor by training, and she is a pioneer in aeronautics. And through the creation of the Dr. Mae C. Jemison Grant Program, we hope to provide other minorities and women in America with the opportunity to succeed in science and engineering.

Frankly, what we want to do is to create the next generation of our scientists and our astronauts. I would say to you that, unfortunately, we are woefully noncompetitive. The Dr. Mae C. Jemison Grant Program is intended to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to NASA's education programs.

The program facilitates NASA's ability to work with institutions serving minorities to bring more women of color into the field of space and aeronautics. We must pursue this program to safeguard equal opportunities in fields of study and professions that have far too low of a minority ratio.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that as this particular program is authorized in the NASA authorization bill, we will find it in our good graces to be able to fund it. My question, as I yield to the gentleman, is, would the gentleman agree with me to work with me to find a way to recognize and to fund this particular program?

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman. She certainly has raised a very important issue. I pledge to explore this issue further.

It is my understanding that NASA anticipates, because they have a strong education program, building this program using the funding appropriated to the agency for education programs. I do recognize that the Dr. Mae C. Jemison Grant Program is a program charged to NASA, and we look forward to the launch of the program and the benefits that will result.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time. Let me say that it is my hope, Mr. Chairman, that we do recognize this as a grant program and that as you have indicated, that this program be funded under the education programs in NASA, and to be specifically funded, and as indicated in the RECORD, I had an amendment to offer.

At this time, I will not be offering the amendment. And therefore, I hope to accept the assurances and be able to move forward on this program so that it can be funded

Mr. WOLF. Thank you.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 1½ minutes.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into a colloquy with Chairman WOLF, of the Science, State, Justice, Commerce Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I had offered to introduce an amendment today to make a

modest increase of $2.2 million for the Space Environment Center, returning its funding to the President's requested level of $7.2 million.

However, Mr. Chairman, after discussing this with your staff, I have decided not to offer the amendment but would like to engage you in a colloquy.

Mr. WOLF. Sure.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, the Space Environment Center is a part of NOAA's National Weather Service, and it is the only civil provider of space weather warnings. These warnings enable government and private sector operators to take actions to minimize disruptions in service and damage to critical infrastructure.

Last year, the Space Environment Center received a $4 million cut, a cut of about 44 percent from its $7 million budget. NOAA, in order to prevent degradation of services reprogrammed funds from other programs to continue the operations of the Space Environment Center.

But in this cycle, if the Center receives $5 million as proposed in the bill, it will be forced to make substantial cuts in its staffing.

As a national critical system, should the capabilities of the center go down, the Air Force currently provides data as a back-up. However, with this proposed budget, the center will not be able to maintain a liaison position with the Air Force, potentially harming its operations and the continuity of its services.

So, in that spirit, with that background, Mr. Chairman, I have two questions. Would you agree that the space weather warnings are a vital service to many of our space-based assets and that more funding is needed for the Space Environment Center? And if so, would you be willing to work in conference to increase funding for the center?

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. I agree with the gentleman that the warnings provided by the Space Environment Center are important to protect their satellites and other space-based industries. And I will be happy to work with the gentleman as the bill moves forward through conference to try to find increased funding for the Space Environment Center.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman's response and willingness to work on this issue. I thank my colleague, Mr. MOLLOHAN, from the great State of West Virginia for yielding time to me.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SURETY BOND GUARANTEES REVOLVING FUND

For additional capital for the Surety Bond Guarantees Revolving Fund, authorized by the Small Business Investment Act, as amended, $2,824,000, to remain available until expended.

BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2007 commitments to guarantee loans under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, shall not exceed $7,500,000,000: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2007 commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, shall not exceed $17,500,000,000: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2007 commitments to guarantee loans for debentures under section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, shall not exceed $3,000,000,000: *Provided further*, That during fiscal year 2007 guarantees of trust certificates authorized by section 5(g) of the Small Business Act shall not exceed a principal amount of $12,000,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $123,706,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for Salaries and Expenses.

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, $85,140,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, $113,850,000, of which $495,000 is for the Office of Inspector General of the Small Business Administration for audits and reviews of disaster loans and the disaster loan program and shall be transferred to and merged with appropriations for the Office of Inspector General; of which $104,445,000 is for direct administrative expenses of loan making and servicing to carry out the direct loan program, to remain available until expended, and which may be transferred to and merged with appropriations for Salaries and Expenses; and of which $8,910,000 is for indirect administrative expenses, which may be transferred to and merged with appropriations for Salaries and Expenses: *Provided*, That any amount in excess of $8,910,000 to be transferred to and merged with appropriations for Salaries and Expenses for indirect administrative expenses shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation made available for the current fiscal year for the Small Business Administration in this Act may be transferred between such appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 10 percent by any such transfers: *Provided*, That any transfer pursuant to this paragraph shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the State Justice Institute, as authorized by the State Justice Institute Authorization Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–572), $2,000,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed $2,500 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, $4,000,000, including not more than $5,000 for the purpose of official representation, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That for purposes of costs relating to printing and binding, the Commission shall be deemed, effective on the date of its establishment, to be a committee of Congress: *Provided further*, That compensation for the executive director of the Commission may not exceed the rate payable for level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code: *Provided further*, That section 1238(c)(1) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, is amended by striking ''June'' and inserting ''November'': *Provided further*, That travel by members of the Commission and its staff shall be arranged and conducted under the rules and procedures applying to travel by members of the House of Representatives and its staff: *Provided further*, That section 635(b) of Public Law 109–108 is repealed.

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the United States Institute of Peace as authorized in the United States Institute of Peace Act, $26,979,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 601. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes not authorized by the Congress.

SEC. 602. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 603. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 604. If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances shall be held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of each provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 605. (a) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2007, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that: (1) creates new programs; (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity; (3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted; (4) relocates an office or employees; (5) reorganizes or renames offices; (6) reorganizes programs or activities; or (7) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; unless the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

(b) None of the funds provided under this Act, or provided under previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2007, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the

United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming of funds in excess of $750,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that: (1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities; (2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or (3) results from any general savings, including savings from a reduction in personnel, which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress are notified 15 days in advance of such reprogramming of funds.

SEC. 606. Hereafter, none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce any guidelines of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission covering harassment based on religion, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which such funds are made available that such guidelines do not differ in any respect from the proposed guidelines published by the Commission on October 1, 1993 (58 Fed. Reg. 51266).

SEC. 607. If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a ''Made in America'' inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, the person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds made available in this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in sections 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I raise a point of order against section 607. This provision violates clause 2(b) of House rule XXI. It proposes to change existing law and therefore constitutes legislation on an appropriation bill in violation of House rules.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say, Mr. DAVIS has convinced me of the merit of his argument. I would never object to him. Since it makes a lot of sense, I concede.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is conceded and sustained, and the section is stricken from the bill.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

SEC. 608. The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Small Business Administration shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives a quarterly accounting of the cumulative balances of any unobligated funds that were received by such agency during any previous fiscal year.

SEC. 609. Any costs incurred by a department or agency funded under this Act resulting from personnel actions taken in response to funding reductions included in this Act shall be absorbed within the total budgetary resources available to such department or agency: *Provided*, That the authority to transfer funds between appropriations accounts as may be necessary to carry out this section is provided in addition to authorities included elsewhere in this Act: *Provided further*, That use of funds to carry out this section shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 605 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section.

SEC. 610. None of the funds provided by this Act shall be available to promote the sale or export of tobacco or tobacco products, or to seek the reduction or removal by any foreign country of restrictions on the marketing of tobacco or tobacco products, except for restrictions which are not applied equally to all tobacco or tobacco products of the same type.

SEC. 611. None of the funds appropriated pursuant to this Act or any other provision of law may be used for—

(1) the implementation of any tax or fee in connection with the implementation of subsection 922(t) of title 18, United States Code; and

(2) any system to implement subsection 922(t) of title 18, United States Code, that does not require and result in the destruction of any identifying information submitted by or on behalf of any person who has been determined not to be prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm no more than 24 hours after the system advises a Federal firearms licensee that possession or receipt of a firearm by the prospective transferee would not violate subsection (g) or (n) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, or State law.

SEC. 612. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Justice to obligate more than $625,000,000 during fiscal year 2007 from the fund established by section 1402 of chapter XIV of title II of Public Law 98–473 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

SEC. 613. None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

SEC. 614. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 615. The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Small Business Administration shall, not later than two months after the date of the enactment of this Act, certify that telecommuting opportunities have increased over levels certified to the Committees on Appropriations for fiscal year 2006: *Provided*, That, of the total amounts appropriated to the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Small Business Administration, $5,000,000 shall be available to each only upon such certification: *Provided further*, That each Department or agency shall provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations on the status of telecommuting programs, including the number and percentage of Federal employees eligible for, and participating in, such programs: *Provided further*, That each Department or agency shall maintain a ''Telework Coordinator'' to be responsible for overseeing the implementation and operations of telecommuting programs, and serve as a point of contact on such programs for the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 616. Any funds provided in this Act under ''National Science Foundation'' used to implement E-Government Initiatives shall be subject to the procedures set forth in section 605 of this Act.

SEC. 617. (a) Tracing studies conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are released without adequate disclaimers regarding the limitations of the data.

(b) The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives shall include in all such data releases, language similar to the following that would make clear that trace data cannot be used to draw broad conclusions about firearms-related crime:

(1) Firearm traces are designed to assist law enforcement authorities in conducting investigations by tracking the sale and possession of specific firearms. Law enforcement agencies may request firearms traces for any reason, and those reasons are not necessarily reported to the Federal Government. Not all firearms used in crime are traced and not all firearms traced are used in crime.

(2) Firearms selected for tracing are not chosen for purposes of determining which types, makes or models of firearms are used for illicit purposes. The firearms selected do not constitute a random sample and should not be considered representative of the larger universe of all firearms used by criminals, or any subset of that universe. Firearms are normally traced to the first retail seller, and sources reported for firearms traced do not necessarily represent the sources or methods by which firearms in general are acquired for use in crime.

SEC. 618. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to issue patents on claims directed to or encompassing a human organism.

SEC. 619. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used in any way whatsoever to support or justify the use of torture by any official or contract employee of the United States Government.

SEC. 620. For an additional amount under the heading ''Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses'', $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, shall be for initiatives related to small business development and entrepreneurship, including programmatic and construction activities: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this section shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the statement of managers accompanying this Act.

SEC. 621. Of the amounts made available in this Act, $674,155,851 from ''Department of State''; $45,635,505 from ''Department of Justice''; $20,678,269 from ''Department of Commerce''; $771,279 from ''United States Trade Representative''; $1,238,808 from ''Broadcasting Board of Governors''; $377,722 from ''National Aeronautics and Space Administration''; and $120,173 from ''National Science Foundation'' shall be available for the purposes of implementing the Capital Security Cost Sharing program.

SEC. 622. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or treaty, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Act may be expended or obligated by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States to pay administrative expenses or to compensate an officer or employee of the United States in connection with requiring an export license for the export to Canada of components, parts, accessories or attachments for firearms listed in Category I, section 121.1 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations

(International Trafficking in Arms Regulations (ITAR), part 121, as it existed on April 1, 2005) with a total value not exceeding $500 wholesale in any transaction, provided that the conditions of subsection (b) of this section are met by the exporting party for such articles.

(b) The foregoing exemption from obtaining an export license—

(1) does not exempt an exporter from filing any Shipper's Export Declaration or notification letter required by law, or from being otherwise eligible under the laws of the United States to possess, ship, transport, or export the articles enumerated in subsection (a); and

(2) does not permit the export without a license of—

(A) fully automatic firearms and components and parts for such firearms, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada;

(B) barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms for any firearm listed in Category I, other than for end use by the Federal Government, or a Provincial or Municipal Government of Canada; or

(C) articles for export from Canada to another foreign destination.

(c) In accordance with this section, the District Directors of Customs and postmasters shall permit the permanent or temporary export without a license of any unclassified articles specified in subsection (a) to Canada for end use in Canada or return to the United States, or temporary import of Canadian-origin items from Canada for end use in the United States or return to Canada for a Canadian citizen.

(d) The President may require export licenses under this section on a temporary basis if the President determines, upon publication first in the Federal Register, that the Government of Canada has implemented or maintained inadequate import controls for the articles specified in subsection (a), such that a significant diversion of such articles has and continues to take place for use in international terrorism or in the escalation of a conflict in another nation. The President shall terminate the requirements of a license when reasons for the temporary requirements have ceased.

SEC. 623. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States receiving appropriated funds under this Act or any other Act shall obligate or expend in any way such funds to pay administrative expenses or the compensation of any officer or employee of the United States to deny any application submitted pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778(b)(1)(B) and qualified pursuant to 27 CFR Sec. 478.112 or .113, for a permit to import United States origin ''curios or relics'' firearms, parts, or ammunition.

SEC. 624. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to include in any new bilateral or multilateral trade agreement the text of—

(1) paragraph 2 of article 16.7 of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement;

(2) paragraph 4 of article 17.9 of the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement; or

(3) paragraph 4 of article 15.9 of the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement.

SEC. 625. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay expenses for any United States delegation to any specialized agency, body, or commission of the United Nations if such commission is chaired or presided over by a country, the government of which the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)), has provided support for acts of international terrorism.

SEC. 626. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out any diplomatic operations in Libya or accept the credentials of any representative of the Government of Libya until such time as the President certifies to Congress that Libya has taken irrevocable steps to pay, in its entirety, the total amount of the settlement commitment of $10,000,000 to the surviving families of each decedent of Pan Am Flight 103 and certifies to Congress that Libya will continue to work in good faith to resolve the outstanding cases of United States victims of terrorism sponsored or supported by Libya, including the settlement of the La Belle Discotheque bombing.

SEC. 627. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used in contravention of the Federal buildings performance and reporting requirements of Executive Order 13123, part 3 of title V of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8251 et seq.), or subtitle A of title I of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (including the amendments made thereby).

SEC. 628. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Government of the United States to enter into a basing rights agreement between the United States and Iraq.

□ 1330

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. OBEY:

At the end of title VI, insert the following:

SEC. ____. (a) MINIMUM WAGE.—Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and not less than $5.15 an hour'' and inserting ''not less than $5.15 an hour''; and

(2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', not less than $5.85 an hour beginning on January 1, 2007, not less than $6.55 an hour beginning on January 1, 2008, and not less than $7.25 an hour beginning on January 1, 2009''.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM WAGE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.—(1) Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206) shall apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1))—

(A) shall be $3.55 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) shall be increased by $0.50 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938), beginning 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act and every 6 months thereafter until the minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this subsection is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman reserves a point of order.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it has been 9 years since this country has adjusted the minimum wage. During that time, the food prices have gone up almost 25 percent. Health care costs overall have gone up over 40 percent. Insurance has almost doubled. Gasoline prices have doubled. Energy prices have gone out of sight, and yet people are still struggling along on the same minimum wage that they were paid 9 years ago.

To try to do something about that, we offered an amendment to the Labor-Health-Education-Social Services bill in the full committee. Every Democrat voted for that amendment, and so did seven Republicans. But after that happened and the amendment had passed, the Labor-Health-Education appropriations bill was blocked from consideration by the leadership of this House and by the Rules Committee.

Therefore, when this bill came before the full committee, we attempted once again to adjust the minimum wage in three increments of 70 cents each, because we believe that no one who works 40 hours a week ought to go home in poverty. We, this time, did not receive the support of those same seven Republicans. Five of them voted against us. The other two missed the vote, and so that amendment was lost.

We, therefore, asked the Rules Committee to make in order an amendment on this bill which would adjust that minimum wage, and that is what I am trying to do today.

I recognize that if the point of order is lodged against this amendment, that we will once again be blocked from our effort to provide an increase in the minimum wage, but I just want to say to those who say this is not the proper vehicle and we should try to do it on some other bill, that for 9 years we have been waiting for the majority party to find the right vehicle to accomplish this. And for 9 years, nothing has happened.

The issue comes down to this: Whose side are you on? Are you willing to help adjust that minimum wage upward or are you not? This is one effort to find out.

For those who think this is just a political or an academic exercise, I told the House on the debate on the rule that I recall, after my parents were divorced and my mother was trying to get along on the minimum wage, and I remember how it was to run out of money before you ran out of days on the calendar each month. So she would find some household item that she could take down to Etzkin's Pawn Shop and pawn to get the family through the week.

The outrage is that today that minimum wage has far less purchasing power than it did when she was earning

it years ago. I think that is an absolute disgrace.

The wealthiest 1 percent of people in this country have 33 percent of the Nation's wealth. The poorest 40 percent of the people in this country are struggling to hang on to 3 percent of the Nation's wealth. That kind of gap is wrong.

This is one of the few things the Congress can do to directly impact the size of that gap. I think we have an economic obligation. I think we have a moral obligation to make this happen, and I am not interested in playing jurisdictional dunghill niceties about which committee is supposed to handle this bill. This bill ought to be out on the floor. This amendment ought to pass.

I would ask that the majority party not offer a point of order against the amendment so that we can finally bring some justice to people who are struggling in the shadows of life, who are struggling on life's underside. We can make their lives just a little bit more pleasant by passing this amendment, and I would think that, given the fact that the Congress has just in this House determined to accept a COLA for itself, I would think that we would have significantly less embarrassment if we would recognize that it takes 4 months for someone working at the minimum wage to make the same amount of money that Congress will gain by way of a COLA. It is outrageous to adjust congressional COLAs and not adjust the minimum wage. So I would urge that no one lodge a point of order against this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Wisconsin has expired.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I believe it is an appropriate issue to debate, but the appropriate forum for debate is with the authorizing committees and with an opportunity for both sides on the issue to present their cases.

Today's pending legislation is not a place for the debate, and I would hope that the authorizing committee would schedule hearings and bring forward a bill and let the House work its will. That is the way we do it. Authorizers hold hearings, look at the impact, come back, report out a bill, and let the committee and the House work its will.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I do make a point of order against the amendment because it proposes to change existing law and constitutes legislation in an appropriation bill. Therefore, it violates clause 2 of rule XXI.

The rule states in pertinent part, an amendment to a general appropriation bill shall not be in order if it changes existing law. The amendment directly amends the existing law, and I ask for a ruling from the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the rules of the House normally indicate that this legislation would be handled by the authorizing committee, but I would note that on the appropriation conference report just several months ago, the majority leader in the Senate added 40 pages of authorizing language to the Defense bill, language which protected the pharmaceutical industry in this country from suit.

And it would seem to me that if it is legitimate for the majority leader of the Senate to do that, in order to protect a privileged industry in this country, that we could find a way in the House rules to protect the interests of the lowest-income wage earners in the country, but I must reluctantly concede the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is conceded and sustained. The amendment is out of order.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word, and I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for a colloquy with the chairman.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today to engage in a colloquy with the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. WOLF. I understand and know quite frankly that the chairman has been a long-time advocate of public diplomacy and democracy through educational and cultural exchanges, and I would like to express my very strong support of his work. I truly appreciate his willingness to highlight these issues today of mutual concern.

So, Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today to raise an issue that is important for our hemispheric foreign policy. For quite a few years, many in this body have stressed the importance of improving relations with Latin America and the Caribbean by strengthening educational exchange initiatives.

Many American students who spend time studying abroad are among our Nation's greatest assets, and this is especially true with regards to our hemispheric neighbors.

Many elected leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean spent some time studying here in the United States. They applied the skills and the values that they learned in the United States upon returning to their home countries.

For instance, in the wake of recent natural disasters, many Caribbean leaders who studied here were able to draw on their experience and networks of contacts when facing challenges.

The need for strengthening the human capital and democratic values is ever pressing as natural disasters, perhaps among the most severe destabilizing force, constantly wreak havoc on the region.

Hurricanes, floods, landslides, earthquakes are becoming more frequent. It takes years and sometimes decades to recover, and I know that we can all personally attest to how a natural disaster shakes a nation's foundation to its very core.

Educational exchange opportunities are an investment with the greatest return. By developing human capital, we are securing our hemisphere by planting the seeds of democracy and success.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the gentlewoman from California that I agree that educational exchange initiatives are an important component of our hemispheric foreign policy.

The fact is, as you were speaking, I thought of my daughter Rebecca who was in an exchange program and actually taught down in Honduras, Tegucigalpa, for 2 years. The relationships, the friendships, and the opportunities she made were life changing. I think you make a very powerful point.

I appreciate the gentlewoman's intention in raising this issue, and I want to assure her that I will be mindful of this issue as this bill moves forward.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will further yield, I want to thank the gentleman for his attention to this issue and so many issues that are important to our country. I look forward to working together in standing up for democracy and improving relations with our hemispheric neighbors.

I want to thank you again, and I want to thank you for yielding me the time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word, and I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the other Members for a colloquy.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do rise for purposes of engaging in a colloquy with you.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to thank you and the ranking member, Mr. MOLLOHAN, for restoring funding for several critical Voice of America language services that were slated for reductions, including the Greek and Turkish services.

As cochair of the Hellenic Caucus and a strong supporter of resolving the Cyprus issue, I believe finding innovative ways to bring the two sides closer are necessary. The Greek and Turkish VOA services have proposed a new joint program initiative promoting the end of the division in Cyprus by engaging both Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities in a revised process using radio and television. This program would entail reporting on bicommunal developments, conducting

interviews with prominent figures and airing them as part of radio and TV dialogues, or bridges, if you will, between the two communities. As H.R. 5672 moves through the appropriations process, I hope, Mr. Chairman, you will work with members of the Hellenic and Turkish Caucuses to find the funding needed to initiate this new joint program.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Chairman, I, too, want to join my colleagues in expressing gratitude to Chairman WOLF for agreeing to enter into the colloquy.

I also want to thank the chairman and the ranking member, Mr. MOLLOHAN, for restoring full funding for Voice of America services, including funding for Turkey and Greece. I strongly believe this programming, which reaches millions, remains critical to peace, stability and democracy in the Middle East, Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans regions.

Mr. Chairman, for the first time, the Turkey Caucus and the Hellenic Caucus have joined forces to foster reconciliation on the island of Cyprus. Creating a distinct and separate VOA program for Cyprus provides advocates for reunification a unique opportunity to bring both sides back to the negotiating table.

We believe that the United States must play an active role in resolving differences between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and the Voice of America Cyprus would be a positive step forward.

Thank you very much.

□ 1345

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to add my support to what has already been said about the importance of developing a joint program initiative by the Greek and Turkish language services at the Voice of America to promote an end to the division of Cyprus and to help engage the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities in a revived process aimed at their reunification.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, way too long, and we all want this division to come to an end. I believe that this type of initiative would go a long way in making that happen by keeping the lines of communication between the two communities open.

I am especially pleased to join my fellow cochair and cofounder of the Hellenic Caucus, Representative BILIRAKIS, as well as the cochairs of the Turkish Caucus, Representatives WEXLER and WHITFIELD, in showing our collective support for this effort.

I would also like to thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member MOLLOHAN for restoring the cuts to valuable programs at the Voice of America, including the Greek and Turkey services, and I look forward to working with them on this new and exciting project for Cyprus.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield once again?

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you again, Mr. Chairman.

This is really a pretty special thing when you come to think about it. This is the first time that we are working together with the Turkish Caucus on an issue which we all agree has enormous potential to benefit the relations and close the gap between the two communities; and I hope, sir, that you will work with us to find, along with Mr. MOLLOHAN, to find funding for this critical Cyprus reconciliation joint initiative.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank both you, Mr. BILIRAKIS, as well as Mr. WEXLER and Mrs. MALONEY of New York. It really does offer an opportunity. It is kind of an historic moment, in some respects, for this reconciliation opportunity.

So I support the efforts aimed at bringing a solution to the Cyprus issue and agree that new avenues should be explored. I really commend you for doing this. I share your concerns and really will be pleased to work with my colleagues to explore what might be done to gain support for this new joint initiative to someday bring peace and reconciliation to the area.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman WOLF and Mr. MOLLOHAN for their consideration and for yielding us the time, and I look forward to working with both of you in the future.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE VII—RESCISSIONS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION TRUST FUND

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, $8,000,000 are rescinded.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER COMPLIANCE FUND

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, $39,000,000 are rescinded.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, $152,787,000 are rescinded.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading from prior year appropriations, $127,500,000 are rescinded.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading from prior year appropriations, $127,500,000 are rescinded.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY STEEL GUARANTEED LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading from prior year appropriations, $38,607,000 are rescinded.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN-WESTERN DIALOGUE TRUST FUND

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds available under this heading, $10,000,000 are rescinded.

RELATED AGENCIES

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, $6,100,000 are rescinded.

BUSINESS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, $5,000,000 are rescinded.

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(RESCISSION)

Of the unobligated balances available under this heading, $3,700,000 are rescinded.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. TANCREDO

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 25 offered by Mr. TANCREDO:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enforce any of the provisions in the Memorandum to all Department and Agency Executive Secretaries dated, February 2, 2001, and entitled ''Guidelines on Relations With Taiwan''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bipartisan amendment would prevent the State Department from expending any funds to enforce several arbitrary and archaic ''guidelines'' that inhibit or altogether prevent United States officials from communicating with their counterparts in Taiwan.

These restrictions range from just silly to downright absurd.

These so-called guidelines, among other things, do not permit meetings with Taiwanese diplomats or elected officials in Department of State buildings, the White House, or the Old Executive Office Building.

They prevent executive branch personnel from the foreign affairs agencies and those above the rank of GS–14 from attending Taiwan's annual holiday reception in Washington.

They prevent executive branch personnel from attending meetings at Twin Oaks, which is the former residence of Taiwan's ambassador here in Washington.

They prevent travel to Taiwan by any officials above a certain rank from the Defense Department and the State Department.

They explicitly prohibit executive branch personnel from corresponding directly with Taiwanese officials. Instead, the guidelines mandate that communications be sent through a third party.

The guidelines even stipulate that ''indirect'' communications not be printed on official letterhead, and they prohibit U.S. personnel from using the official title of the Taiwanese official to whom the letter is being sent.

Executive branch officials are even directed ''not to refer to Taiwan's democratically elected government as a 'government.''' Instead, they are directed to use the strange term ''Taiwan authorities.''

Mr. Chairman, these guidelines needlessly complicate our ability to effectively communicate with our friends in Taiwan. As a result, Taipei and Washington often find themselves talking past each other through the international media instead of communicating face-to-face. It makes absolutely no sense and helps no one.

Mr. Chairman, these self-imposed guidelines raise serious questions about who is really in charge and calling the shots when it comes to the U.S. policy in Taiwan. Is it the Congress or is it the Communist governments in Beijing?

I ask for an ''aye'' vote on the amendment.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I will accept the amendment, but I just wanted to highlight how ludicrous it is, and I think the gentleman has pointed it out, but to have those requirements on Taiwan when China is spying against us. In this bill is funding for the FBI to keep the Chinese from spying against us.

There is no persecution in Taiwan. On Monday, we had a meeting with the Cardinal Kung Foundation, and they pointed out that there are now 40, 40 Catholic bishops and priests in jail in China. There are zero in jail in Taiwan. This is serious, and I am glad the gentleman offered this.

There are 4,000 to 6,000 evangelicals, house church leaders, men and women, in prison in China today. The latest figure as of Monday. There are zero in Taiwan. There are Buddhist monks and nuns in Tibet being persecuted, and President Hu was the one who put the policy together. It is against the law to have a picture of the Dalai Lama. But there are no Tibetan monks or nuns being persecuted in Taiwan.

Maybe we should have the Taiwan regulations apply to the embassy in Beijing and reverse it.

Lastly, just so people know this, there is great persecution against the Uighers, the Muslims in China. And to show you how close this comes to home, Mr. LANTOS and my office worked to have Reba Kadeer released, she was in prison for 5 years, by agreeing to meet with a congressional delegation. She went through a difficult time. Five years in solitary confinement. She got out. Now there was a staff codel to meet with her kids 3 weeks ago, and they have now arrested her three children and they are in jail. One was beaten and pummeled.

The Chinese security police sent out agents to northern Virginia to spy on her, and they took the license plates down of their cars and their public security police.

So I think the only difference I have with the gentleman's amendment is that these restrictions that are on Taiwan should have been on the American embassy in Beijing. It is just the opposite. It is like that Simon and Garfunkel song, The Boxer: Man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest.

There is tremendous growing persecution in China of the Catholic church. Some of these bishops are in their 80s. One, Bishop Su, has not been seen since 8 years ago. He gave Holy Communion to Congressman CHRIS SMITH. I repeat: 4,000 to 6,000 evangelicals, Buddhist monks and nuns, and now the Uighers.

So I am glad the gentleman offered this amendment, and I urge it to be strongly passed.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Chairman, I do not see Mr. ANDREWS, who was coauthor. Therefore, I will simply say that I would hope that we invalidate these nonsensical guidelines, allow our government to communicate directly with Taiwan's democratically elected government the same way we communicate with other friendly governments.

I ask for an ''aye'' vote.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Tancredo-Andrews-Chabot-Brown amendment.

As my colleagues know, Taiwan is one of our strongest and most loyal allies. It is also a democracy that has a multi-party political system that recognizes individual liberty and respects human rights.

Just across the Taiwan Strait is the People's Republic of China. It is not a democracy. It has an abysmal human rights record. It does not recognize the rule of law. It practices religious persecution. It warehouses political prisoners. It carries out a coercive abortion policy. And it has more than 800 missiles pointed at Taiwan.

Our government treats the PRC and Taiwan differently. Now, in a logical world, we would work closely with our democratic ally. We would treat our friend with the respect it deserves. We would welcome the leaders of Taiwan with open arms and conduct frequent high-level exchanges. But we don't do that.

What we do, under the umbrella of our so-called One China policy, is just the opposite. We invite high level military officials from the People's Liberation Army to visit the Pentagon. We welcome the communist dictator to the White House with a twenty-one gun salute.

We treat our democratic friends from Taiwan quite a bit differently. In fact, the democratically elected President of Taiwan is not permitted to come to Washington, D.C. Nor is the Vice-President, the Defense Minister, or the Foreign Minister.

Just a few weeks ago, only two weeks after Communist China's dictator, Hu Jintao, was welcomed to the White House, Taiwan's democratically-elected leader, President Chen Shui-bian was told he could not make transit stops in the United States on his way to Paraguay and Costa Rica. Instead, he was told that he could refuel his aircraft in Alaska and be on his way. Some way to treat a friend.

What kind of message are we sending here?

The Tancredo-Andrews-Chabot-Brown amendment would not change our ''One China'' policy . . . although I would not be averse to that. It simply lifts a number of tired, old guidelines that deter or prevent high level U.S. officials from communicating with their counterparts from Taiwan. We should treat Taiwan like we treat our other allies. It is dangerous to do otherwise.

Mr. Chairman, let's do the right thing. Let's scrap these counterproductive guidelines. Adopt the Tancredo-Andrews-Chabot-Brown amendment.

Mr. TANCREDO. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN) for a colloquy with the chairman.

Ms. BEAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for agreeing to engage in a colloquy on Internet safety.

Mr. Chairman, many of our constituents enjoy access to the valuable resources available on the Internet, and yet many are growingly feeling under siege from the increasing dangers lurking on the Internet. Cyber criminals use spyware, phishing schemes, sales schemes, and on-line identity theft, wreaking havoc on American lives each year. These threats include a growing number of predators exploiting popular networking Web sites in search of young victims. Unfortunately, despite intense media attention, many parents and children are unaware of these risks or how best to protect themselves.

The FTC estimates that its Bureau of Consumer Protection devotes at least 10 percent and likely more of its resources to these Internet safety and security initiatives. As the role of the Internet continues to grow even more in the daily lives of Americans, more crimes are moving to the net. The FTC expects that, as these trends continue,

it will need to devote a growing share of its resources to preventing and pursuing cyber crimes under its jurisdiction.

I respectfully request of the chairman that the committee continue to work with the FTC to ensure that these efforts receive the resources they need to vigorously promote Internet safety public awareness and make prevention of cyber crimes a national priority.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MOLLOHAN. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her hard work to promote Internet safety.

Just recently, Congressman KIRK, who has been a leader on this, has raised this in our hearings a number of times.

Congressman KIRK and I urged the FTC to issue a national consumer alert to parents and children about the risk of sites like MySpace. I would say if any mother or father is listening, to have your children involved in MySpace is a mistake. So what I think you are trying to do and what Mr. KIRK is doing is very good.

I share the gentlewoman's concerns and commit to continue looking into the matter to ensure the FTC is devoting sufficient resources to fight Internet predators and protect children.

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman from West Virginia will continue to yield, I want to offer my sincere thanks to the chairman for his leadership on the issue of Internet safety and look forward to working with him in the future in our efforts to protect American families.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be read.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Tooling and Machining Association in Rochester, New York.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1400

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, yesterday we had quite a discussion on this bill. There were efforts to move money from paying for the census, for example, to other areas of the bill or other priorities. There was a lot of talk about limited resources and the limited amount of money in this bill and the need to take money from one area to put into another.

I would submit that one area that we can take some money from that is overfunded, grossly overfunded, in this bill is in some of these earmarks. Now, I will maybe highlight 10 of them today, but there are literally hundreds in the bill that we could take the money from to fund our constitutional obligation, for example, to conduct the census every 10 years.

But I will start today with 250,000 for the Rochester, New York, Tooling and Machining Association for a workforce development program; that is an earmark. This amendment would strip that funding. The Rochester Tool and Machining Association is one chapter of a larger international tooling and machining association, which is the national representative of the custom precision manufacturing industry in the United States.

They maintain a legislative alert center on their Web site so their members can lobby Congress on issues that matter to them. They also retain a lobbying firm to advance their interests with the Federal Government. It would seem that they are doing yeoman's work for their members, as is their Rochester chapter. Their Rochester chapter offers technical training and education to its members.

They assert on their Web site that manufacturing job opportunities are not declining and that manufacturing accounts for 24 percent of the private sector jobs in New York State. They go on to claim that the size of the workforce is declining and that there are insufficient skilled workers to fill these available jobs, which I can only assume is what this earmark is for.

What we have here is simple supply and demand, not enough skilled workers for too many jobs, an equation that is normally balanced by the free market, until this earmark. For those who buy into the idea that it is the Federal Government's responsibility to plan and shape the supply and demands of our workforce, my objection to this earmark will not resonate with you.

But for those who have witnessed the profound failures of central planning in countries around the world during the 1970s and the 1980s, I hope that you will understand that this earmark is a mini-economic boost by a Federal, centralized government, to increase the supply of one industry's workers over another industry.

I would submit that if there is such a demand for skilled manufacturers, as the association claims, then wages will increase, and the workforce will adapt, and they will learn ways and skills necessary to earn those wages. Let the market decide which industries succeed or fail, not politicians in Washington.

I would like to hear the justification for the Federal function in this case, but then I ask, why are we picking winners and losers through the earmarking process? Why is this industry, this sector, these workers, more deserving than others? I don't think Congress should be picking favorites like this.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS).

Mr. REYNOLDS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona. It is the responsibility of all Members of this distinguished body to faithfully represent the interests and well being of their constituents.

I come to this Chamber again today to once again support the needs of my home district, where job creation continues to be the number one priority of western New York. The Federal investment included by the Appropriations Committee for the Rochester Tooling and Machining Association is welcome news for western New York.

I appreciate that the chairman of the committee recognizes, as I do, that this project is worthy of Federal involvement through the Small Business Administration and will be used to meet the ultimate objective of creating and retaining good high-paying jobs for the hardworking Americans I represent.

The Rochester Tooling and Machining Association is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the development and improvement of tooling, machining and contract manufacturing industries in Monroe County and western New York. They have been the region's leading association for the tooling and machining cluster for over 60 years.

With more than 500 tooling and machine companies in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse communities, employing approximately 16,000 people, these companies clearly have a significant economic impact in my region. The goal in this project is to assist these firms with necessary training in advanced manufacturing methods which will enhance their competitive position by reducing costs and maximizing efficiencies.

The association plans to implement programs in lean manufacturing and Six Sigma training, which will streamline business manufacturing and business practices and cut down on unnecessary expenses. By implementing proven business training techniques, we can ensure our manufacturers increase their competitiveness in today's global marketplace.

This project will be a big boost to the marketability of our manufacturing sector and help with new business activity for the region, which will lead to

job retention and, hopefully, job creation. The stated goal of the Small Business Administration is to ''maintain and strengthen the Nation's economy by aiding, counseling and assisting and protecting the interests of small businesses.'' This funding is completely in line with those principles.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I would simply say, again, we all say it is our job to represent our constituents, and it certainly is. But we are in a deficit situation. We have a massive deficit and a massive Federal debt.

What if every Member of Congress said, I am going to represent my constituents by getting every Federal dollar that I can back into my district, regardless of the deficit, regardless of the debt.

That is pretty much where we are at right now. When you had, I think last year was $27 billion in earmarks, where does it end? When do we say enough is enough? When do we say, I am not going to pick this industry over that one?

That workforce may be worthy of this kind of help, but what makes it more worthy than another one? Why do we just continue with the spoils system where if you happen to get with this group and they happen to be lucky enough to get your earmark, they get funded, but nobody else does? We simply can't continue this.

I urge support of the amendment.

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

Mr. WOLF. I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona.

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Arthur Avenue Retail Market.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I am a big fan of Italian food. My district is home to a great Italian restaurant, Anzio's Landing. You can order many of your favorite dishes, good Italian bread, and there are many former New Yorkers in my district, and they know it well. But if the owner of this restaurant, whom I know well, if he approached me to get a Federal earmark to modernize his restaurant, I would have to tell him ''fuhgetaboudit.''

Today I am bringing this amendment to learn whether the rest of the House will agree with me on that premise. The bill before us today asks us to spend $150,000 in Federal taxpayer dollars to the Arthur Avenue Retail Market, an Italian grocery market in a neighborhood labeled Bronx's Little Italy. Over a dozen merchants currently reside in the market, including Joe Liberatore's Garden of Plenty, Peter's Meat Market and Mike's Deli, a two-generation family-owned business that sells antipasti, breads, meats, pasta, and imported cheeses. The market is also home to the La Casa Grande Tobacco Company, which offers hand-rolled cigars.

In 2004, the market received $300,000 in earmarked Federal dollars for renovations. The market received another $400,000 in Federal transportation appropriation dollars for a new parking facility in 2005. We are back.

In 1940, Mayor LaGuardia built an indoor Arthur Avenue Market to take street vendors out of the cold. This is where this originated.

In the 1980s, the merchants of the market formed a co-op and paid for renovations to that market. Now, there are long lines at the market on weekends to get great Italian bread, cheese and salami.

I would ask the sponsor of this amendment why close to $700,000 has been spent on this Italian grocery market and why another $150,000 in taxpayer funds is needed.

There is a lot of Federal prosciutto to bring back to the District, or that is, a lot of Federal prosciutto to bring back to the District for a private Italian grocery market. I think we need to slice off some of this appropriations bill. If there is a place to slice, this is certainly it.

What possible Federal purpose does this earmark serve? Does the taxpayer even get a free Italian cookie assortment? If we allow our tax money to go to this grocery market, what benefit is there for the Federal taxpayer? There are certainly plenty of private benefits, but what Federal benefit? How do we justify this?

I would argue that this is one cannoli the taxpayer doesn't want to take a bite out of.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Arizona's use of certain ethnic words like ''cannoli'' and ''prosciutto'' indicate that he takes this more lightly than he should. This is a serious thing that he is trying to do here. I know he is on this mission to destroy every bit of dollar that is sent by Members of Congress.

Let me start off by saying that I am a firm believer that Members know the needs of their districts best, and I am proud to be on the floor today to talk about this project so important to the Bronx.

The Arthur Avenue Retail Market is one of the most prominent, well frequented and historic business locations in my district. It represents a little bit of Italy in the midst of the Bronx. This space serves as an incubator for food-related businesses.

It is, however, not a grocery store, but, instead, a building owned by the City of New York. I think that is important to note. These dollars don't go into these businessmen's pockets or businesses for that matter; it goes into a building owned by the City of New York.

In 1940, during the time of Mayor LaGuardia, Arthur Avenue Market, the first enclosed retail market in the Bronx, was built to house street vendors who were crowding the sidewalks of the borough's Belmont community. Today, it is a local landmark.

So let me be perfectly clear. This is not a privately owned real estate venture but a public market which gives many new merchants a starting point as they work towards full economic participation in the country. This is a place where merchants running their own small businesses sell specialty products to people from the surrounding areas to visitors from throughout the tristate area and to local restaurants. As you know, I represent the poorest congressional district in our country, which is located in the middle of the richest city on Earth.

However, this market is a bright spot, and it is vital to the economic success of the Bronx. It is a place where vendors and other small business owners can fully participate in our economy. This small amount of funding that is being highlighted today is for continued facility improvements and maintenance to keep this historic market running.

Specifically, this funding, which will be used for refurbishments of the market, will include electrical and plumbing upgrades. The Arthur Avenue Retail Market owned by the City of New York is responsible for the maintenance.

The purpose of the Small Business Administration is to assist our small businesses. This is exactly what this market does, help small businesses in the Bronx to flourish and grow.

So I would ask my colleague, Mr. FLAKE, where his outrage was when lending institutions and insurance companies were taking billions of dollars from the borough of the Bronx in the 1970s and early 1980s through redlining and other forms of disinvestment. Where was he when one of the few commercial locations remained viable in spite of that?

I would also like to take the occasion to personally invite the gentleman

from Arizona to come to the 16th District. You said you had one Italian restaurant in your district. I feel sorry for you. You should have more than one. I can take you all over the Bronx where you could see people hard at work.

Lastly, on a more serious note, I wish you would be as outraged about other things as you are about this one. You voted to rebuild areas of Iraq with markets, schools and everything else you can think of, and yet you would pick on something like this, which helps a small group of businessmen stay vital in the Bronx.

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for the invitation. I likely will take him up on it. Maybe I will learn to say ''prosciutto'' properly.

But we simply get back to the point, where does it end? Where do we stop favoring one group, one industry over another? It is mentioned that this is a city-owned facility. Those who are residing there, who have their markets there, already received that kind of subsidy apparently from the city.

□ 1415

Now we are going in addition and giving them further subsidy. $400,000 last year for a parking garage, $300,000 in 2004 for similar upgrades, $150,000 more today. My guess is that there are Italian eateries or restaurants or markets elsewhere in the city that are getting no subsidy at all. How is it fair to them? How is it fair to them to favor one?

And I would say the same if it were in my district. It is not fair to subsidize one and not the other, and that is where we are with this earmarking process.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, this earmark limitation amendment would prohibit $200,000 in Federal funds from being provided to the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism.

Now, the mission of the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism is to ''increase the prosperity and population of the Oil Region'' of Pennsylvania. The point of the alliance is to ''entice people to live, work, learn and play in the valley that changed the world.''

I am certain this is an important organization to the oil region. These folks are working to ensure that the region's future is important as was its past. I have no problem with that. I don't think anyone does. Being the site of the world's first successful oil well in 1859, this area has played a crucial role in the country's history.

My only question is, why should the Federal Government pay to develop this area's business and tourism? Why this area and not other areas?

In April of this year, Governor Rendell congratulated the Pennsylvania tourism industry for having a record-breaking year last year.

The $25 billion tourism industry sold more hotel rooms than ever before and attracted more than 130 million visitors in 2005, making Pennsylvania the fifth most visited State in the Nation. Statewide, tourism accounts for more than 400,000 jobs and is the Commonwealth's second largest industry.

I have said it before, and I will continue to say it: when the Federal Government hands out earmarks like this, we are picking winners and losers. We are encouraging people to visit and to provide tourism to this area. They have to come from somewhere else. Why aren't we subsidizing those whom they choose not to go to? Where does it end? Where do we stop? Why do we simply have a spoils system where one Member of Congress can say, I am going to benefit them but not others?

In this case, the oil region of Pennsylvania receives funding to attract businesses to locate in the region, to try to get families to move there and to stay, and to try to attract tourist dollars.

As I mentioned, there are businesses and families and tourist dollars that won't be heading to other areas of Pennsylvania or surrounding States or anywhere else in the country. Many other localities throughout the country would like to receive as many tourism dollars as possible, but we are favoring one with this earmark.

Simply put, we shouldn't be doing this. The Federal Government shouldn't be picking winners and losers like this.

Mr. Chairman, with that, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I would begin by stating that if the gentleman from Arizona represented the Fifth District in Pennsylvania and the oil region alliance area, he wouldn't be offering this amendment. He represents an area where the average income is 40-some-thousand a year, where the region I represent that we are talking about today is 20-some-thousand, half, an area that used to be the home of Quaker State, just a decade ago, the home of Pennzoil, the home of Wolf's Head, Universal Cyclops. One of the finest steel mills in this country was in that region. I could list you the ex-corporations that used to employ my citizens.

He represents a district that has grown 40 percent in population in the last decade, where I have lost close to 20 percent in this region of population because of the loss of these industries.

Now, you can ignore them. You can let those areas, like he said, let the market work. When you lose the number of jobs that this region has lost, that is not a normal marketplace. And when you reach out and invest a few Federal or State dollars to help communities pull their way back up and build an economic base that will pay taxes into the State treasury, taxes in the Federal Treasury, now, if you let the marketplace work, you will fund unemployment benefits, you will fund welfare benefits and all the social programs, LIHEAP and all of those things to help people who don't have a decent job.

Folks, when we don't invest in areas that have lost major employers to restabilize their base, we are making a mistake as a country. We are making a mistake.

This marketplace is not exactly as he describes it. Let's see what his district is asking for. The Mesa area, on their Web page, they want $42 million for bus fleets this year, $54 million for light rail, $10 million for an airport, $18.6 for another airport, and $1 million for a community college, which we don't have, $30 million for a river restoration project, and $3.5 million for planning new projects.

A measly $200,000 investment in the area that had the greatest economic decline in Pennsylvania in the last decade and is struggling from the loss of not only oil but steel and glass and all other types of manufacturing. This little grant helps an organization not only in one county but four counties, helps local government leaders deal with these losses, help them better manage, train people to write for Federal and State grants, because little governments don't have grant writers.

I want to tell you, folks. This hard, calloused approach of not helping those who have been destroyed by corporate mergers and companies moving away is a mistake when we don't invest. This is

not pork. This is food for survival so people can regrow their economies and pay taxes back into this Treasury. It is about reinvesting in America and a part of America that was the stalwart of this country.

That area furnished us with the transportation system that we have today. When they discovered every oil company in the world has roots in the Oil City, Titusville, Franklin region, that is where they all started.

Folks, to abandon that area is not what America should be about. This is not pork. This is food to help an area survive and fend for themselves and grow and pay taxes into the Treasury.

It is easy for those who represent affluence, growing areas with great prosperity, who really don't need us. But those who are struggling need us, and we should be there to help them.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I would simply submit that every Member of Congress in 435 districts around the country can point to at least pockets in his or her district that need help, where there is high jobless rates or where there is high crime.

But where does it end? Where do we say, all right, we simply can't pass out earmarks like this and circumvent the normal authorization, appropriation, and oversight process? When does it become our job to say, all right, we are not going to go through that process and authorize these programs, appropriate and then have oversight. Instead, we are just going to slip an earmark in that we don't even know who sponsored until we offer it on the floor today. And if nobody was standing up here, we still wouldn't know.

There are hundreds and hundreds of earmarks in this bill that we wouldn't even know who is offering them or what they are for because the descriptions are often so vague as to what the earmark is supposed to fund.

So where does it end? Why can't every Member stand up and say, I have pockets in my district, if not my entire district, that need workforce development, that need facilities?

He mentioned my district has grown 40 percent in the past couple of years. It has. It has tremendous infrastructure needs. But if I were to come and say we need all the lists that he rattled off there, then the Treasury simply couldn't handle it.

We are put in this position to make decisions and to have priorities; and I would submit that when you have an earmarking process like that, we aren't going through it properly.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Fairplex Trade and Conference Center.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prevent any funding from going to the Fairplex Trade and Conference Center.

Fairplex is home to the Los Angeles County Fair, the largest county fair in the world. The fair is a great asset to California, contributing a major portion of the $11.6 million in State sales tax revenue generated by Fairplex and $176 million in spending.

The L.A. County Fair Association describes itself as self-supporting and boasts that it does not fall under the auspices of any county or State governmental body.

Surplus revenues that are generated by the fair and other activities are reinvested into the maintenance and development of the facility.

The association also states that Fairplex receives no government funding for the operation or maintenance of its facilities. However, Fairplex received $1 million in Federal funding for fiscal year 2006. If the money is not used for the operation or maintenance of this thriving independent facility, what is it used for?

Maybe the funding is intended for some other activities at the Fairplex, such as the Wally Parks NHRA Motor Sports Museum or the Frank Hawley Drag Racing School. Maybe these funds are for Fairplex Park, a major horse racing facility with a grandstand and air-conditioned clubhouse for satellite gambling.

There is no question that Fairplex delivers major economic benefits for L.A. County and the rest of California. But I do question, however, why the Federal Government is throwing money at an independent facility that generates over $334 million in economic activity nationwide. Fairplex does so well, in fact, that it donates more than $400,000 in cash and in kind to local organizations each year.

So why are we giving this earmark? That is the question.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to my friend from Arizona for raising one of the issues that he and I have worked closely on over the years.

As the Reading Clerk stated and as my friend from Arizona stated, this is the Fairplex Trade and Conference Center.

Mr. Chairman, 43 percent of the goods coming to and from the consumers and workers of the United States of America come through the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. One of the most important centers for trade, planning and strategic meetings has been held at the Fairplex.

It doesn't fall in my district. It is not in my district. It is in the district of my very distinguished colleague, Mrs. NAPOLITANO. But I will tell you, as we look at our quest of trying to open up new markets for U.S. goods and services all around the world and as we look at ensuring that American consumers can have access to the best quality product at the lowest possible price, the utilization of this trade and convention center is critically important.

But, Mr. Chairman, I have got to tell you that, as important as the issue of global trade is, I was really struck when last December I had the opportunity to listen to a friend of mine who happened to be at the Fairplex Trade and Convention Center, where it had taken place 2 weeks before that, unfortunately, of the eight planned voting sites for the Iraqi people who are here in the United States of America, looking forward, on December 15, to having the access to a voting station, one of those had, unfortunately, closed down.

□ 1430

And what happened? The people at the Fairplex Trade and Convention Center came forward, and literally at the drop of a hat, they were able to provide the chance for Iraqis who were in this country on December 15 of last year to exercise that right to vote. Their ability to be on the frontline to participate in the global war on terror is something that I think is vitally important.

I was listening on the phone as applause went up every single time that a ballot was placed into that voting box, and it was a great moment for us. And as, in the last 2 weeks, we have gotten word of the establishment of the completion of that cabinet with the defense and interior ministers there, it reminded me again of those votes that were cast at the Fairplex Trade and Convention Center that falls not in my district but in the district of Mrs. NAPOLITANO. This particular earmark is there helping us in the global war on terror and helping us remain competitive globally.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. WOLF. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The gentleman from Arizona and I have had some conversation over this particular issue earlier today, and I did try to impress upon him that this is not just an earmark. This isn't pork.

This is, in fact, funding that would come from the Small Business Administration account for construction of the $25 million trade center that is going to be located at the Pomona State Fairgrounds, which, by the way, is also a proposed staging area for the Los Angeles County emergency staging for terrorism. And this is vital to the city of Pomona and the whole surrounding community not only east of the Los Angeles area but the Inland Empire, as was mentioned by my colleague, Congressman DREIER.

This would create jobs and assist businesses in an economically depressed as well as disadvantaged community and, of course, as many of us already know, the number one crime city in the State of California. The unemployment rates are exceedingly high.

Now, this new addition to the fairgrounds, the Trade and Conference Center, will generate 1,700 full-time jobs, provide a large economic stimulus in the community where now a lot of people are out of work; businesses are moving partly because of NAFTA and others, let me tell you. But 90 small businesses are already signed and registered to work at this new facility or to be able to be exposed there. The Fairplex is a very well respected, nonprofit event center hosting yearly over 300 activities, including the Los Angeles County Fair, and attracts hundreds of thousands of people. It is used for Federal events and, as you just recently heard, for the Iraqi elections. And last but not least, it is also used for naturalization ceremonies.

I wish to thank my colleague, Chairman DREIER, for his support of the project that affects the many surrounding communities of southern Los Angeles. And as the Representative for Pomona, I am proud to support this bid of $750,000, which will benefit jobs and the economy in this area. And in helping this project move forward, I certainly thank you and look forward to the support for defeating the amendment.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I have great respect for the gentlewoman and for the gentleman who spoke, and I appreciate their efforts on behalf of this initiative. But, again, I have to say, where does it end? Where does it end when we say, this group, this organization, this facility is worthy of Federal dollars, and another is not? It simply isn't fair to continue to give earmarks like this in this manner.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Bronx Council on the Arts.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would ask Members of this body, how would you define irony?

I define it as providing a Federal earmark money to the Bronx Council on the Arts, which is an entity that is advertising an event on its Web site called, Pay to Play.

Pay to Play, according to the Bronx Council's Web site is ''a multimedia exhibition ala Abramoff, Scanlon, Cunningham, Halliburton and on and on and on.'' The Web site states that ''artists are asked to offer a bribe to participate in the show that will be on display alongside selected work. Please note that special consideration will be given to work that addresses corruption, greed, scandal, cover-ups, failures of democracy, the transparent veneer of public interest that masks rampant self-interest, and such other things.''

I am not saying the earmark for Bronx Council of the Arts fits any of these categories, but I am saying that it is sadly ironic that we are funding artistic parodies of congressional earmarking with earmarks.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would strike funding for the Bronx Council for marketing local arts initiatives. My staff and I were befuddled as to what the Bronx Council originally was. It appears that a Bronx Council got money last year in the same section of the bill, but the earmark was called, ''$150,000 for the Bronx Council for the Arts for its Arts Cultural Corridor Project to promote local arts initiatives.''

So we went from Bronx Council on the Arts to just the Bronx Council. We dropped the ''Arts Cultural Corridor Project,'' and we are no longer promoting local arts, but we are marketing them. I call this the Earmark Protection Program, changing the names of earmarks to make them so vague that no one can recognize them and no amendment can be drafted to strike them.

We often have trouble when we are offering these earmarks. We are told by the Parliamentarian that it has to refer to a specific facility or a specific initiative, and these earmarks this year, many of the names have been changed to be more vague, and it is difficult to know what they actually fund. As mentioned a few weeks ago, we had earmarks to simply fund a facility without reference to what that facility was. It is difficult to have amendments that are actually ruled in order to challenge them because, as the Parliamentarians will tell you, to successfully challenge an earmark, it requires an assumption that the agency that funds the earmark is familiar with the project. Otherwise, we might be legislating on an appropriation bill, which is a violation of our rules. The incentive, therefore, for Members looking to protect earmarks is to become more vague or silent about the project's goals and the project's oversight.

I would submit that we should get used to more earmarks entering this protection program in the near future to prevent them from being stripped from appropriation bills. I would welcome an explanation as to what this earmark actually does.

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise reluctantly in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield to the distinguished gentleman from New York to speak on this issue.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Chairman, I am sorry Dr. Weldon is reluctantly rising.

But, first of all, I notice that three of the gentleman's 10 amendments are directed at New York. I do not know what you are angry about; the Diamondbacks beat the Yankees in the World Series, so you shouldn't be that upset. But the fact of life is that the more you get up on these, sir, the more I realize that you do not know what you are talking about because you seem to spend so much time on either the wording or how it appears when, in fact, you do very little to understand what it is.

The Bronx Council on the Arts is a private, nonprofit membership organization that has been in existence for over 40 years and is the official cultural agency of Bronx County. It is recognized nationally as a leading art services organization, serving a multicultural constituency of more than 1.2 million residents.

Now, I know that the big problem the gentleman from Arizona has is the word ''arts'' because there seems to be some belief by a lot of Members of Congress, or some, that we should not in any way be involved in promoting the arts, and if the arts express themselves in a way that we do not like, then we shouldn't even go close to them. So I wish that I could just always not call it something like the arts, but I do because that is what it is.

In this case the word ''arts'' is used in conjunction with the words ''small business.'' This funding belongs in the small business account because it will be used to grow our small businesses that have arts-related portfolios. It will specifically promote an Artisans Initiative which will facilitate business

development among local Bronx artisans, especially newly arrived immigrants, and help them establish their own small business. It will help with their skills development and assist their product marketing. It will also be used to train Bronx artists to market their skills and to develop business plans.

Small businesses devoted to the arts have an important role to play. For example, the Bronx Council on the Arts has had success in training the unemployed and underemployed residents of New York City as professional art handlers. Some have gone on to start their own small business as independent contractors.

Let me conclude by saying that I represent, as you know, the poorest congressional district in the Nation. I make no excuses about getting the Federal Government to earmark dollars into that district. Let me repeat that again: I make no excuses about the fact that I earmark dollars to go into the poorest congressional district in the Nation, which is situated in the richest city on Earth.

If the gentleman from Arizona wants to have an impact on our deficit, an impact on how we spend dollars, then let him stand up there the next time we are paying for the war in Iraq, a waste of money that is going to build all kinds of facilities in Iraq, a war based on lies told to this Congress. Then you stand up there and you cut at least 1 billion from the over $400 billion that we are spending in Iraq already. But I never saw you get up and complain about the fact that we are building arts facilities in Iraq, that we are building supermarkets in Iraq, that we are promoting basketball in Iraq, that we are promoting baseball in Iraq. You haven't said a word. But a couple hundred thousand dollars to one group of American citizens, that is a problem for you.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a question, and I would like to yield to the gentleman to answer.

Is this the same council that received the earmark last year, just for my clarification?

Mr. SERRANO. Yes. And I told you it was and I used the name that is appropriate for it. Call it a typographical error.

Mr. FLAKE. I will do that. I thank the gentleman.

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Johnstown Area Regional Industries organization.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In last year's conference report on the SSJC appropriations bill, there was a $250,000 earmark for the JARI, which stands for Johnstown Area Regional Industries, Workforce Development Program. There was a separate $250,000 earmark for the JARI Small Business Technology Center. This year, there is a $500,000 earmark for the JARI Workforce Development Program and the Small Business Technology Center. We also found a separate $800,000 earmark for JARI for a Regional Business Incubator.

Aside from all other arguments that can be made against this kind of earmarking, I want to point out what appears to be a trend toward obfuscation in the language of earmarks. In drafting a limitation amendment to prevent funding to the JARI Regional Business Incubator, we used the earmark language exactly as it appears in the bill.

□ 1445

We then asked the Parliamentarians to review it to make sure it would be in order. We were informed that the ''region business incubator'' verbiage was too vague to be considered in order. So in drafting this amendment, we had no choice but to limit funding to JARI, period. The effect of this amendment would be to prohibit any funding from the bill going to the organization, whereas our initial intention was to limit the funding to the business incubator.

That is part of the problem we have here. All we have is the language in a report that is so vague or confusing that it is even difficult to draft an amendment to cover it.

Now I have no problem limiting any funding to the organization, let me tell you, but I also want to be clear that I have nothing against JARI. I wish the organization well in its efforts. I do, however, have a problem with the increasingly opaque process by which Congress hands out earmarks.

For the first half of this year, we debated ways to bring transparency to what we do here. When it comes to the earmarking process, Members have proposed a longer notice period before consideration of bills, making bills and reports more accessible, attaching Members' names to earmarks, compiling earmarks in tables, including earmarks in the text of legislation, and on and on and on. I think all these ideas are fine, and I have introduced my own proposal.

After a good deal of compromise, this House approved the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act last month. Yet here we are, just a few weeks later, and there has been no apparent effort to comply with the proposals that we made in the House and the entire House approved.

How can we explain this to our constituents? Was the lobbying and transparency legislation just for show? I certainly don't think it was, but it is starting to look that way to most Americans.

We need to demonstrate how serious we are about establishing transparency in Congress. We have made a strong effort, and there is nothing preventing us from making good on what we said. Waiting until this bill becomes law before we act would appear as though we are under compulsion to comply with the public demand for transparency. I think we need transparency now.

A small handful of our colleagues contend that we should not change the process until the other Chamber changes its process, that if we enact unilateral reforms in the House, we would shortchange ourselves.

Who is this about? Are we here to serve our country, the best interests of our country, or simply to look out for the interests of the House?

What are we waiting for? We are almost done with the appropriation process for the year, yet nothing has changed. Where are the names next to earmarks? Where is the transparency that we say that we want?

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would be very happy to yield to the distinguished gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I would simply point out that this organization operates in a part of the country that has suffered probably the most from government policies, particularly our trade policies, but also our environmental laws; and whatever arguments you could make for our, our free trade policies, they are in large part insensitive to the disproportionate negative impact they have on certain segments of our economy and certain geographical areas of our country.

The basic industry areas of the country where this organization operates

have suffered. It is one of those areas that has suffered disproportionately. The steel industry was a thriving industry there 20, 30 years ago. The Mon Valley, which is close to our area, is devastated and was practically the first steel industry to suffer. There is no steel industry in that area now.

In addition, environmental laws had negative impacts on the burning of fossil fuels. This general region was very prosperous producing the Nation's energy and has suffered greatly because of the impacts of environmental laws. I am not arguing the environmental law issue at all but just simply talking about the economic impact.

Well, these earmarks are contained in the Small Business Administration account, and that is the purpose of the Small Business Administration account, is to help small business. So the purpose of this funding is to look at workforce development, where there is tremendous unemployment as a result of trade laws, environmental laws, and government policy that have had a negative impact

This is self-help. This organization looks at workforce development, assisting in training needs for displaced workers, pursuing funding for mechanisms for training, assisting displaced workers, and working with the training facilities and the colleges and the universities to address those very difficult, midlife retraining challenges that the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program speaks to and that an organization like this can be very helpful in implementing.

The Incubator Project, is the other side of the coin. That is the development and diversification of small business. It is really pay me now or pay me later. As the previous gentleman from Pennsylvania said, you are either going to address the unemployment condition and try to retrain and try to get people back into the community, into the workforce through retraining, and at the same time promoting new industries, new small businesses for those people to work in, or you are going to be paying unemployment and you are going to be dealing with the issues of a deteriorating community.

This funding, which goes to all of those purposes, certainly is in keeping of the mission of the Small Business Administration.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I simply would like to point out that unless the gentleman who defended the earmark is the author of the earmark, and I don't believe that he is, this is an earmark in Pennsylvania. We still don't know who authored the earmark. There is nothing in the conference report that tells us, and we still don't know. Here we are about to vote on it, and we still don't know and we haven't had a defense of that earmark from the author of it, from the Member who authored it. There is something wrong with the process when this is what we are reduced to.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Wisconsin Procurement Initiative.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the committee report for this bill contains an earmark for the Wisconsin Procurement Initiative, and my amendment would limit funding for this item.

The committee report for last year's SSJC appropriations bill did not contain a similar earmark, but the conference report on this bill did include an earmark for the Wisconsin Procurement Institute for the same amount.

Though it is impossible to know by reading the report, it appears that this earmark is destined for the same institution. Again, we simply don't know. We have insufficient information, yet we are going to provide the funding without even knowing, without anybody even asking the question, is it the same thing to give money to the initiative or the institute?

It appears that this is one of several earmarks that have been funded in multiple years with similar but increasingly vague verbiage in the committee report.

The Wisconsin Procurement Institute was founded in 1987 by Les Aspin, a former Congressman and Secretary of Defense. The institute says its purpose is to "bridge the gap for Wisconsin companies interested in supplying their products and services to Federal, State and local agencies and prime contractors." The institute "guides, trains and provides hands-on assistance to firms in developing government business and improving process and technical capabilities to access and compete in the government workplace."

When I saw this earmark, it reminded me of the late-night commercials that you see from a fellow by the name of Matthew Lesko. He will stand up and run to the camera, and he has a suit with question marks all over it, and he has a car decorated the same way, and he will wave a book and say, "There is millions and millions of government dollars just for you, and if you pay me $19.95, I will tell you how can get these contracts, how you can get this money, how you can get these scholarships, how you can get these grants, how you can get these loans."

This seems to be a process similar to Matthew Lesko. You have an organization here whose job it is to secure projects from the Federal Government, and we are paying money to that organization to help them procure contracts from us. It just seems like a little double-dipping in that way. We are funding an organization whose purpose it is to help other organizations obtain Federal assistance, grants, contracts, et cetera.

According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the 2003 budget for the Wisconsin Procurement Institute was $340,000. This year's and last year's earmarks were for $400,000 each. It seems that we have doubled their budget, or their entire budget comes from the Federal Government. I am not sure which.

I am sure the Wisconsin Procurement Institute's budget is higher now than it was 3 years ago, but a significant portion must be funded by this earmark.

I certainly support the outsourcing of Federal functions that can be better performed by private companies, but there is something inherently wrong with funding an organization whose purpose it is to help others secure government funding. Just thinking about it makes your head spin.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have done it again. We have come here to talk about an earmark that I am sure will be approved by voice vote and then probably by roll call, and we still don't even know who sponsored it. We don't know if the institute is the same as the initiative. We don't know why the organization claims on its own Web site to have a budget of $340,000, yet has received earmarks in each of the past 2 years for $400,000 each.

It simply doesn't make sense. Are we exercising the proper oversight that we ought to? We said before, both sides

have said, the gentleman and ranking minority member have said we simply don't have the staff to police the kind of earmarking we are doing here. I readily agree. Yet we are continuing to do this. I don't know where we stop. I simply don't.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, let me be very clear. The Wisconsin Procurement Institute was indeed organized originally by Les Aspin when he was chairman of the Armed Services Committee in this House. It is an organization that helps many new companies who are new to the procurement process figure out how the Federal procurement process works.

Instead of providing money to individual companies, this money is used to create an institute to educate all kinds of companies so that they can compete for Federal business, especially in the procurement area and most especially in the defense area.

I would make one simple point: Right now, large corporations have the resources and they have the experience to seek Federal business, but many quality companies do not because they are unfamiliar with how the Federal procurement process works.

There are a number of organizations who rank States in terms of how much Federal money they get each year. Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan always rank near the bottom. Ninety percent of the difference between them and the number one State in the Union in terms of Federal money occurs because of a difference in the number of Federal employees and because of differences in defense contracts.

The gentleman comes from the State which is the number six State in the Union in terms of getting money out of procurement. You have large companies, such as Raytheon, which produce huge numbers of missiles, so that gives you a lot of Federal procurement dollars.

□ 1500

You also have many talented electronic companies like General Dynamics, a huge company that also gets a large amount of Federal dollars. You have large military installations such as Fort Hauchuca, which contains the Army intelligence operation.

In Federal procurement, unfortunately, the way it usually works is ''Them what has gets more!'' This initiative, the Wisconsin Procurement Institute, which I fully confess that I and the other Members of the Wisconsin Delegation support, this initiative is to help other corporations who are not experienced in the ins and outs of Federal procurement policy, so that we can end the insider advantage that the gentleman's constituents have.

What we are trying to do is to open up the process so that you can enable a large number of companies to come in and compete. I make no apology whatsoever for that. Wisconsin has a right to expect that its corporations should be able to compete, and so does every other State in the Union.

I would simply ask the gentleman, do not begrudge the efforts of Wisconsin to close the gap between our State and yours. Your State gets $7 billion more in Federal procurement than mine does.

This operation is a small operation to try to enhance the ability of companies in our State to close that gap somewhat. We have chosen not to provide money directly to companies but instead to provide an ability for companies to learn how the procurement process works.

We also, under this process, have created a Web site which will enable Federal agencies to review the talents and the qualities of many of the companies in Wisconsin so that if they are looking for particular projects or products they know where to go to find them.

I think that what that will do in the end is help enhance competition, and it will help save taxpayers money by cutting some new companies in on the deal that so many large companies in the gentleman's State enjoy.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund Fairmont State University.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit $900,000 in Federal funds from being used by Fairmont State University in West Virginia for a small business initiative.

Fairmont State University is located in Fairmont, the county seat of Marion County, which has a population of 20,000 and is located in north central West Virginia. Similar to other earmarks I have challenged in this appropriations season, this earmark is vague in its description, offering no more than a general sketch of the purpose of the funding and making true oversight nearly impossible.

In addition, this is not the first earmark to benefit the school. In recent years, Fairmont State University and its partners have regularly benefited from earmarks in this appropriation bill.

For example, the 2005 Justice Department budget included a grant for nearly half a million dollars for the Fairmont State partner program looking at decoding criminal digital documents. Similarly, the 2006 SSJC appropriation bill included over $2 million in earmarks assisting the school's aviation program and aerospace curriculum.

And I guess the third time is the charm. We are likely to continue this trend in 2007 with an earmark for $900,000 for a small business development initiative.

In fact, according to some estimates, northern West Virginia has received more than $480 million in earmarks in various appropriation bills over the last 10 years.

This earmark illustrates the problem with earmarks. Year after year, we approve these vaguely described projects by the thousands. Not only do taxpayers not know how the money is being spent, the current earmark process makes those types of patterns, the same area benefiting time and time again at the taxpayers' expense, difficult if not impossible to detect.

My question is, where does it end? Where does Congress start to say enough is enough and add accountability and transparency to this runaway train that earmarks have become? If not with earmarks like this, then I do not know when.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I appreciate the opportunity to speak in opposition to this amendment.

You know, it should be understood that a lot of those earmarks go to help those who are in the greatest need of help.

I am struck by the good fortune of the gentleman and his congressional district and his State, as recounted by the ranking member just a few moments ago. You are indeed very fortunate to have these large defense contractors, Raytheon and General Dynamics, and these large Federal installations like Fort Wachuka in your State. That is a real blessing.

It is particularly a blessing in an economy that marginalizes and that is not nurturing to certain sectors. But certainly I think the gentleman can understand that in the last 20, 25, 30 years, our economy, because of the increased internationalization of it, has been extremely harsh on certain segments and certain geographical areas, as I mentioned earlier.

Those areas that were steel manufacturing areas, those areas that were coal producing areas, those areas that were basically manufacturing, microcosms if you will, for rust belt America were particularly hard hit during this period; and the need in these areas is for economic diversification. And the gentleman may not have been engaged in that much, but this is a very difficult, hard thing to do.

Federal Government assistance, this appropriation, these earmarks, if you will, in the Small Business Administration go directly to help rejuvenate economies, creating a broader, a more flexible, a more dynamic economy through diversification.

It is not an easy process; and if you have not been involved with it, the gentleman probably is not sensitive to that as he might be. But current economic trends in these areas, in these kinds of areas indicate that the sectors that do have potential growth are the heritage, tourism, regional travel; and this program works with the West Virginia Department of Education Travel and Tourism to promote what is the fastest-growing segment of the economic base.

So that is the purpose of the earmark, and I strenuously oppose the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, all of the descriptions of Arizona make it sound like Shangri-La, that everything is going so well in Arizona that we have no need for any help with the economy or any sector of the economy. That is simply not the case. We are experiencing rapid growth. There are a lot of infrastructure needs that come with that. We are experiencing transition.

I grew up in northeastern Arizona. There are tremendous problems there with drought and other issues.

But I would defy any Member of Congress to say that his district is not in need of something. But if we all said, all right, we are just going to get it all, get it all for our districts, circumvent the authorization appropriation oversight function that Congress has always had and simply say we are going to earmark it and use kind of a spoil system as to who gets the earmarks, then it is simply going to drain the Treasury, and it is not fair to anyone.

I have universities in my district. Many of them compete for educational grants, for research grants, for other grants that are typically available in this appropriation bill and others that are being depleted. Those accounts for research funds are being depleted by earmarks.

Later today I believe we will be voting on an amendment or some clarification of the TEA–LU bill to replenish a research account or some kind of research account on roads whose account was depleted because of earmarks. So people in Arizona or elsewhere are not going to receive the funding that would come by formula back to them, because of the gas taxes they paid in, because of all of the earmarking that is going on.

So this is a problem. It is not a fair system. It is not a transparent system. If it were a transparent system, we would have names next to the earmarks when they come to the floor. We would have the ability to challenge it at any step. You would have language that is such that a limitation amendment could not be ruled out of order.

This is not a fair process. We need to change it.

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FLAKE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the Clerk will report the amendment.

There was no objection.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FLAKE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fund the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, June 27, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit funds in the bill from being used for the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association, which receives a $1 million earmark in this bill.

The Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association was created in 1987 to promote, expand, develop and market the existing and potential tourism industry in southern and eastern Kentucky.

According to our research, since 1987, the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association has received more than $18 million in Federal grants, loans, and earmarks. In fact, last year, in the fiscal year 2006 Science, State, Justice and Commerce appropriation bill, the Southern and Eastern Kentucky Development Association received a $3 million earmark.

Now I love traveling, as everyone here does; and I am all for seeing Kentucky tourism continue to grow. But again, here, how do we justify favoring this tourism association and not others?

We have one in Arizona. Virtually every State has one. Many regions in our State have their own tourism associations. How do we decide that one is worthy of earmarks and another one is not?

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, and I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

This association, as the gentleman said, was formed in 1987, this association of 42 of Kentucky's counties covering five out of the six congressional districts.

What sets these counties apart, however, is their extreme poverty. These are rural counties in an impoverished coal mining region of the State who have seen the jobs in the mines disappear through mechanization and otherwise; and these counties are searching for a way to live, to survive. They are too poor to do it on their own, to form an association to try to create tourism, train people, create the small jobs that it takes to run tourism entrepreneurships. So they banded together, 42 of them, into an association where they pool their resources.

The State of Kentucky helps fund this association, as well as the Federal Government and locals. But for this association, these counties would not be able to advertise and attract to the very, very beautiful part of the country, the mountains, the streams and the hills, the history. It is the home of country music. US 23 that runs north and south through eastern Kentucky is known as Country Music Highway, a National Scenic Byway now, thanks to this association.

They are the ones that promoted that National Scenic Byway. There are two others, the Red River Gorge Scenic Byway, National Scenic Byway, and the Daniel Boone Trail. The Cumberland Gap is a part of this area.

□ 1515

So this association works to promote the region. It is providing jobs to those who otherwise would be drawing Federal handouts, Federal welfare. We are trying to work to get people a job rather than take a check from the Federal Government. I look upon this as not a handout but a hand up, and these communities are now beginning to realize income that provides real jobs for people that would otherwise be drawing welfare.

Now, is it unique that we would look to the Federal Government to help a region help itself grow into something better and provide the jobs? No, it is not unique. I would support today the earmarks over the years for the central