

This bill is the necessary implementing legislation for Annex VI of that Convention. This legislation will provide the Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency the authority that they need to develop U.S. standards and enforce these requirements on the thousands of U.S.- and foreign-flag vessels that enter the United States each year from overseas.

Everyone here recognizes the challenge that the world faces in combating global climate change. We must pursue all avenues in the effort to turn around the rising temperatures on this planet. I am pleased that the International Maritime Organization stepped up to the plate and developed amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships to regulate air pollution from ships.

Last year, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure favorably reported H.R. 5811, the MARPOL Annex VI Implementation Act of 2006. This bill was subsequently added as an amendment to H.R. 5681, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2006, and passed the House on October 28, 2006.

The bill that Mr. CUMMINGS and I introduce today is very similar to H.R. 5811. Pursuant to requests by the Administration, the bill allows the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the Coast Guard to enforce the standards. The Coast Guard acknowledges that the EPA has far more experience than it does on air quality emission standards. However, it is important for the EPA to develop the standards jointly with Coast Guard because of the Coast Guard's expertise regarding vessel safety issues.

I am hopeful that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will report this bill to the House very quickly and that the House will have an opportunity to consider the bill in the coming weeks.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our new Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Mr. CUMMINGS, for his contributions in developing this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Maritime Pollution Prevention Act of 2007.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 5, 2007*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained on Wednesday, January 24, 2007, and missed rollcall no. 56. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT OF 2007

### HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 5, 2007*

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security purchases \$10 billion worth of goods and services per year. Un-

fortunately, the Department's procurement process is rife with problems that need to be addressed. Whether buying ice to aid disaster victims or cameras and sensors to secure our borders, the Department has struggled. The bill I am introducing today is a first step toward addressing some of the Department's most pressing needs in this area. It is an outgrowth of the excellent bi-partisan work spearheaded during the last Congress by then-Chairman MIKE ROGERS of Alabama and then-Ranking Member KENDRICK MEEK in the Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Specifically, this bill requires regular procurement training for the Department's acquisition employees and the development of courses for both new and experienced employees. To assist the Chief Procurement Officer in developing policies and curriculum for the training, it establishes a "Council on Procurement Training" made up of eight component-level chief procurement officers in the Department. In order to ensure that training occurs as required, the Chief Procurement Officer is required annually to submit a report on training activities to the Secretary.

Selection of able and responsible contractors is, of course, crucial to any procurement success. To that end, this bill puts new requirements on the Department to review the past performance of all offerors seeking contracts. And to ensure that all contractors are on an equal playing field, it requires offerors to provide information concerning any role the offeror or its employees played in developing a contract solicitation or similar document. Further, if an offeror is delinquent or in default on any payment of tax, the bill requires offerors to disclose this information.

The bill also directly addresses one area that requires particular attention, the use of purchase cards. A Government Accountability Office (GAO) review released this past July revealed a disturbing lack of guidance and controls over their use. It highlighted potential incidents of fraud, waste, and abuse that could run into the millions of dollars. To address this problem, the bill directs the Department to develop and quickly disseminate Department-wide guidance concerning the use of such cards. Finally, the bill directs the GAO to issue a report on the contracting processes of the Department within six months of enactment.

This bill will not solve all of the problems of the Department's procurement operations. It will, however, start the process of reform that is badly needed.

#### MEASURE Y: IRAQ WAR ADVISORY

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 5, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in agreement with the wishes of 19,290 voters in Mendocino County, California concerning the United States military engagement in Iraq.

On November 8, 2006, Measure Y: Iraq War Advisory was on the ballot in Mendocino County. The measure asked the following: Should the United States end the military occupation of Iraq and bring the troops home now? It passed by 67.17 percent of the vote.

Madam Speaker, the voters who approved Measure Y know what has been evident for some time—we need to begin redeployment of the United States military forces out of Iraq. As of today, 3,056 brave American servicemen and women have been killed in Iraq and over 23,000 have been wounded. We must redeploy our troops as quickly and safely as possible while putting an emphasis on diplomacy and shifting security responsibilities to the Iraqi people.

The President has already spent close to half a trillion dollars on war spending and he has called for more troops and more money, but the results of our efforts have been to endanger American lives, and worsen living conditions for Iraqis. It is time to bring our troops home. The will of the American people is indisputable. They want a swift end to the U.S. involvement in Iraq.

Madam Speaker, in accordance with the wish of my constituents, I submit this advisory into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE EDUCATE ACT

### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 5, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the EDUCATE Act that Congressman VAN HOLLEN introduced today on behalf of myself and Congressman MIKE FERGUSON. I believe that this bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation that will be introduced in this chamber this year because it speaks to the Federal Government keeping a promise to children.

When Congress passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975, we made a commitment to our country's special education students. By providing only half of the promised funding in recent years, the Federal Government has passed on another unfunded mandate to States and local school districts and failed to honor our promise that students with special education needs deserve the best education possible.

Despite the fact that current law requires the Federal Government to match State IDEA costs at 40 percent, the President's budget in recent years has included funding for less than half of the Federal Government's IDEA obligation. Budgeting shortfalls at the federal level and the rising cost of special education have forced local school districts to assume a larger percentage of the funding burden. As a result, they have had to seek out alternative funding sources such as higher taxes or diverting monies from other educational initiatives in order to comply with IDEA requirements.

Now I know that many of my colleagues have been angered with the funding that IDEA has received in the past few years, and a few of them have introduced their own legislation to correct this funding shortfall. But I believe that the EDUCATE Act is the most fiscally responsible funding solution that has been offered. In the current fiscal climate and with the PAYGO requirements that have been put in place, this legislation offers the most responsible means of achieving our goals. It will do no good if we succeed in providing these children with a quality education and then leave them a country in financial ruin.