

Again, we thank you for your commitment to the issues surrounding the people in our country who rely on programs like Food Stamps and TEFAP. We strongly urge the conference report to include permanent funding at no less than the House-passed levels for the food stamp and TEFAP programs. We look forward to working with you to maintain all of the critical improvements in these programs in the final Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

McGovern, James; DeLauro, Rosa; Woolsey, Lynn; Lee, Barbara; Solis, Hilda; Kilpatrick, Carolyn Cheeks; Moore, Dennis; Green, Al; Lewis, John; Filner, Bob; Moore, Gwen; Crowley, Joe; Neal, Richard; Grijalva, Raul; Maloney, Carolyn; Kildee, Dale; Nadler, Jerry; Jackson-Lee, Sheila; Kennedy, Patrick; Markey, Ed; Ellison, Keith; Capps, Lois; Towns, Ed; McDermott, Jim; Watt, Mel; Johnson, Hank; Becerra, Xavier; Hare, Phil; Shea-Porter, Carol; Arcuri, Mike; Tauscher, Ellen; Jefferson, William; Wu, David; Sutton, Betty; Frank, Barney.

Davis, Danny; Allen, Tom; Cuellar, Henry; Gonzalez, Charles; Carnahan, Russ; Christensen, Donna; Waters, Maxine; Guitierrez, Luis; Clarke, Yvette; Hinchey, Maurice; Serrano, Jose; DeFazio, Peter; Hirono, Mazie; Ryan, Tim; Clay, William Lacy; Schakowsky, Jan; McNulty, Mike; Weiner, Anthony; Brown, Corrine; Berman, Howard; Jones, Stephanie Tubbs; Doyle, Mike; Butterfield, G.K.; Olver, John; Michaud, Michael; Courtney, Joe; Davis, Susan; Levin, Sander; Matsui, Doris; Yarmuth, John; Murphy, Chris; Fattah, Chaka; Jackson, Jesse; Slaughter, Louise; Doggett, Lloyd; Schiff, Adam; Stark, Pete; Loeb sack, Dave; Lynch, Stephen; Langevin, Jim; Oberstar, James; Rush, Bobby; Meek, Kendrick.

Rothman, Steven; Berkley, Shelly; Miller, Brad; Wynn, Al; Kaptur, Marcy; Lowey, Nita; Welch, Peter; Thompson, Bennie; Farr, Sam; Hinojosa, Ruben; Sestak, Joe; Udall, Tom; Engel, Elliot; McCollum, Betty; Norton, Eleanor Holmes; Cummings, Elijah; Wilson, Charles; Pastor, Ed; Ortiz, Solomon; Murphy, Patrick; Miller, George; Delahunt, William; Sanchez, Linda; Sires, Albio; Larson, John; Baldwin, Tammy; Reyes, Silvestre; Wexler, Robert; Watson, Diane; Hodes, Paul; Honda, Michael; Velazquez, Nydia; Braley, Bruce; Price, David; Cardoza, Dennis; Napolitano, Grace; Larsen, Rick; Inslee, Jay; Pallone, Frank; Dingell, John; McNerny, Jerry; Tsongas, Niki; Scott, Bobby.

Cohen, Steve; Gillibrand, Kirsten; Van Hollen, Chris; Murtha, John; Andrews, Rob; Cleaver, Emanuel; Brady, Robert; Conyers, John; Sanchez, Loretta; Sherman, Brad; Roybal-Allard, Lucille; Costello, Jerry; Lofgren, Zoe; Walz, Tim; Sarbanes, John; Hooley, Darlene; Bishop, Sanford; DeGette, Diana; Hall, John; Holt, Rush; Bishop, Tim Payne; Donald Pascrell, Bill Eshoo, Anna Higgins, Brian McCarthy, Carolyn; Davis, Artur; Schwartz, Allyson; Shuler, Heath; Costa, Jim; Castor, Kathy; Waxman, Henry.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Mem-

bers will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

#### REJECT ANOTHER SHORT-TERM EXTENSION TO THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I hadn't planned on coming down here tonight, but this is a sad and distressing day for this House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect you know, some may not, but there are companies in America that are patriotic and they want to help our Nation fight against those who would do us harm. But amazingly, Mr. Speaker, they feel that they can't. And why? They believe that if they do, they will be sued. That is right, Mr. Speaker. Companies in America believe, and have been given counsel by their attorneys, that if they help the United States Government assist in making our Nation safer, they will be sued. The threat of trial lawyers are preventing our Nation from protecting itself.

Outrageous you say? So do I. So do I.

If Congress doesn't act this week, this week, critical tools that allow our intelligence officers to monitor terrorist communications overseas will expire. Yesterday, the Senate approved a bipartisan bill, a bipartisan bill by a vote of 68-29, to close the terrorist loophole in our intelligence law. The Senate bill represents a remarkable compromise between Congress and the administration.

It rightly restores the original intent of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, by ensuring that intelligence officials can conduct surveillance on foreign targets without a court order while still protecting the civil liberties of the American people.

It also grants liability protection to telecommunication companies that helped our government after September 11. Allowing these companies to be subject to frivolous lawsuits threatens their cooperation in the future and would cripple America's counterterrorism efforts. This, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, appears to be what the House Democrat majority desires.

Every American will become exposed to greater threats. Every American: moms, dads, sons, daughters. Every single American is exposed to greater threats because this majority refuses to consider a long-term solution to the problems facing our intelligence community.

I haven't read, Mr. Speaker, that terrorists have placed an expiration date on their plots to destroy our way of life. Congress shouldn't put an expiration date on our intelligence community's ability to protect our Nation.

This bill expires this week. We must act. Mr. Speaker, elections have consequences, and it appears that the Democrat left majority now in charge is beholden to trial lawyers. I just didn't think that they would put those trial lawyers ahead of national security.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day. I can only hope that the American people are paying attention.

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

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

□ 1830

#### IRAQ NUMBER 250

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WALZ of Minnesota). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a moment that I had hoped would never come. I am rising for the 250th time to oppose the occupation of Iraq. It's a sad task, because 250 times means that the occupation has dragged on and on nearly 5 years.

I had hoped that my first speech would be my last, or my 50th or even my 100th, but the administration continued to follow its blind and destructive path year after year. As the saying goes, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good people do nothing."

So, to be sure, I have raised my voice time and time again on this floor to protest the administration's folly and hold it accountable for its reckless actions and its reckless policies.

The American people have raised their voices, also, Mr. Speaker. They have said that they want an end to this occupation and a responsible redeployment of our troops. But our leaders in the White House, who first turned a deaf ear to the people of the world when they invaded Iraq, continue to turn a deaf ear to their very own people in the United States of America.

What makes this occasion even sadder for me is that I will have to rise many more times before the occupation ends because the administration has made it absolutely clear that it will continue its occupation right to the bitter end of its term in office.

And I fear that the occupation may go on long after that. A leading Republican Presidential candidate said that he has no problem with the occupation lasting 100 years. No problem. And this same candidate said the other day, and