

This contract award has rightly created outrage all across the United States. It is just another example, and perhaps the best example, of how our own government is putting the United States at an economic disadvantage. At a time of economic insecurity, it is mind-boggling that the Department of Defense would send at a minimum 19,000 jobs overseas.

We should have an American tanker built by an American company with American workers. Instead, the Air Force awarded this contract for a French tanker built by Europeans. How could this happen? Well, first, the Department of Defense has created an unlevel playing field that favored foreign companies. We should have known something was wrong when the replacement for Marine I, the President's helicopter, was awarded to a European company. If that wasn't enough, we should have known it was fixed in favor of foreign companies when the Army awarded a French company the contract to build the light utility helicopter. The light utility helicopter is for domestic use here in America, awarded to a French company. And, now, the third big contract in a row goes to a French company to build a French tanker.

First it was the Presidential helicopter went to a foreign company, then it was the light utility helicopter went to a foreign company, and now our air-refueling tanker. We need an American tanker built by American companies with American workers. The Air Force rules do not consider the loss of American jobs. The Air Force rules do not consider illegal subsidies given to foreign companies. The Air Force rules do not consider that NATO allies, the French company, do not have to comply with the same American regulations as American contractors do. The Air Force does not consider the loss of Federal revenue, because French workers do not pay American taxes. But the Air Force will have to consider the outrage of outsourcing our national defense.

The Air Force will have to consider that we need an American tanker built by American companies with American workers. To help the Department of Defense and the Air Force understand this nationwide outrage, I have set up an online petition that all Americans can participate in.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to go to the Web site, [www.House.gov/Tiahrt](http://www.House.gov/Tiahrt), and sign a petition expressing their own outrage at outsourcing our national security and outsourcing American jobs.

We need an American tanker built by an American company with American workers.

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

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

## SUPPORTING H.R. 1922

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

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1922, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Act of 2007. And I would like to also thank Chairman RAHALL and Subcommittee Chairman GRIJALVA and my good friend, Congressman RON KLEIN, for helping me get this bill passed today in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1922 is an important piece of legislation, as it will establish the Jupiter Lighthouse and the surrounding 126 acres as an outstanding natural area, only the second in the country and the only one east of the Mississippi.

□ 1930

An outstanding natural area is a congressional designation to protect the unique, scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational contributions of a natural area to this and future generations.

One of the reasons why I enthusiastically support the designation is because Florida's rich and diverse history is sometimes overlooked by the millions of tourists who visit from all across America. Of course, it's not hard to see why. With our pristine coastline, trendsetting hotels and restaurants, and ample eco-tourist activities, a typical family vacation in south Florida can pass, and very quickly without having the chance to see all other amazing aspects of Florida's ecology, culture, and history.

The Jupiter Lighthouse area is one such example. It is a local and regional icon, and with this new designation, the United States Congress can say that Florida's rich history should be celebrated as an integral part of our larger American history.

Situated where the Loxahatchee River and the Indian River Lagoon meet, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse area is home to a wide range of endangered species of flora and fauna, and it is one of the true scenic gems of south Florida.

The lighthouse also tells a rich story of Florida's history and prehistory. Native Americans first used the area around the Jupiter Lighthouse over 4,000 years ago, and Europeans made contact with it in the 17th century. As trade increased in the 1800s, the need for the lighthouse became more urgent as shipwrecks increased off Florida's coast and, in particular, off the dangerous reefs near Jupiter.

The United States Congress responded in 1853 by providing \$35,000 to establish a lighthouse in Jupiter. Despite an intervening war with the Seminole Nation, the lighthouse was finally completed in 1860, the first built along Florida's coastline. I think it's fitting that 155 years later the same distinguished body is poised to make

the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse an outstanding natural area. Doing so will preserve the natural and cultural significance of the area for future generations and will reaffirm that Florida's history is an important part of American history.

Again, I'd like to thank my colleagues for passing this important legislation.

## FOREIGN SHORTFALLS IN IRAQ AID PLEDGES

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House and to the American people a disturbing situation involving a shortfall in Iraq aid pledges. I also brought this issue to the attention of Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, for whom I have great respect, during a hearing last month of the House Armed Services Committee.

On January 30 of 2008, USA Today reported that allied countries have paid only 16 percent of their pledge. Their pledge was \$15.8 billion, and they have only paid \$2.5 billion.

The article further reports, and I quote, "The biggest shortfall in pledges by 41 donor countries are from Iraq's oil rich neighbors and U.S. allies," namely, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Yet, the United States has already spent \$29 billion to help rebuild Iraq, and Congress has approved an additional \$16.5 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is troubling that some of the countries that may benefit from a secure and stable Iraq, particularly its neighbors in the region, are not providing the money they pledged to help achieve the goal to rebuild Iraq.

Unlike the United States, which is borrowing money from foreign governments to pay its bills, many of Iraq's neighbors are running record surpluses because of profits flowing into their government coffers by their national oil companies. These countries have the economic resources to meet their commitments.

In a letter on February 8, 2008, I expressed these concerns to Secretary Condoleezza Rice and to President Bush.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2008.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, DC

DEAR MADAM SECRETARY: I am writing to express my concern over information reported January 30, 2008, in the USA Today article, "Allies fall short on Iraq aid pledges." According to the article, during and after an October 2003 conference in Madrid, allied countries pledged \$15.8 billion to help rebuild Iraq. Now almost five years later, allied countries have paid only 16%, or \$2.5 billion, of those pledges. The article also states: "The biggest shortfalls in pledges by 41 donor countries are from Iraq's oil-rich neighbors and U.S. allies."