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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 23, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY BERKLEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

END THE OCS MORATORIUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Good morning, Madam Speaker.

A question for all of us: Why would the most powerful economy in the world leave so much of its own energy sources untapped?

Alone among all the countries, the United States has placed a substantial amount of its oil and natural gas potential off limits. Other countries have the potential to drill just off their shores, but United States' firms face strict restrictions on drilling in most offshore areas even as American drivers face sharply higher prices at the gas pump.

Domestic oil and gas production has failed to keep pace with the growing demand both domestically and abroad,

but it's not because we're not lacking for domestic energy. Since the 1990s, the Federal Government has placed severe restrictions on new energy development, particularly in some of our most promising areas.

As this graph shows, Congress has placed over 85 percent of our Outer Continental Shelf off limits. Back then, oil and natural gas were cheap, and the need for additional energy was not considered significant. Also, the 1989 *Exxon Valdez* oil tanker spill led to the heightened environmental concerns about offshore energy production.

Environmental concerns took precedence over future economic considerations. Soon, access to 85 percent of federally controlled offshore areas had been restricted, including the Pacific and Atlantic coasts and portions of the area off the shores of Alaska and off the eastern Gulf of Mexico. No one knows how much energy lies in those areas, but many agree there is enough to bring stability to energy markets and to make a real difference in oil and natural gas prices for many years to come.

According to a recent Interior Department study, restricted offshore areas are known to contain—and this is a fact—15 billion barrels of oil and 60 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, but literally, when they go to estimate beyond the hard facts, the estimate goes up to 86 billion barrels of oil and even higher and to 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough oil to replace all of our imports for the next 27 years at current rates. In fact, it may be even higher given that most of the off-limit areas have not been thoroughly explored.

New technology and what we estimate based upon the 1980s is probably not correct. Our policies need to catch up with our times. Oil and natural gas prices have tripled since the 1990s. Demand continues to increase by a steady 1.5 percent per year. Imports have in-

creased. Political stability in oil-producing nations has decreased. Domestic production has flattened, all while our ability to extract resources without environmental damage has increased dramatically.

With all of this energy out there, with demands at all-time highs and with prices remaining high, what has taken so long?

The biggest problem has been environmental concerns, being worried about a spill. What would it do to the tourist industry, for example, in the gulf coast areas? The National Academy of Sciences says, "Improved production technology and safety training of personnel have dramatically reduced both blowouts and daily operational spills."

The danger of such spills has been greatly reduced. Of the more than 7 billion barrels of oil pumped offshore in the past 25 years, 0.001 percent—that is one thousandth of 1 percent—has been spilled. In fact, even during Katrina and Rita, during winds that reached 170 miles per hour and during lashing waves that took out a quarter of America's domestic energy production, no significant spills were reported. Furthermore, Cuba wants to let the Chinese drill in some of the very parts of the gulf that American producers are forbidden to touch, some as close as 45 miles off the Florida coast.

Do we truly believe the environmental safeguards of Chinese energy firms are better than ours?

It's time we stop assuming that all energy exploration is bad. Most takes place too far from the coast to be seen, and we haven't even had a spill from offshore drilling in over 40 years, neither has Canada, which permits drilling off its Atlantic and Pacific coasts and in the Great Lakes where some rigs are closer to U.S. shores than American producers are permitted to drill.

Madam Speaker, America's energy problems are partially self-imposed,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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and that needs to end. Congress overreacted in the 1990s, and it needs to undo that damage. Our need for affordable energy will not decrease, and the time has come to lift the restrictions on offshore energy production and to let U.S. producers do what they can do to meet our growing energy demands. It's time for this Congress to get serious about bridging the growing gap between supply and demand. Opening the Outer Continental Shelf to environmentally sound exploration could be just the way to do it.

GAS PRICES AND ENERGY SUPPLY IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, here it is, Monday, at 12:38 p.m. We find the House back in order for another week. What will we be doing this week?

Well, Madam Speaker, we're going to pass a bill that recognizes the achievements of America's high school valedictorians of the class of 2008. We're going to pass a bill honoring the life and musical accomplishments and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth. We're going to pass a bill that recognizes Pittsfield, Massachusetts as being the home of the earliest known reference to the word "baseball" in the United States. We're going to pass a bill supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions of African American singers. We're going to pass a bill expressing the sense of Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from the territories of the United States. We're going to pass a bill naming a veterans' outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington. We're going to pass a bill naming a veterans' center in Tampa, Florida. We're going to pass a bill recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States. We're going to pass a bill expressing support for the designation of September 2008 as the Gospel Music Heritage Month. We're going to pass a bill naming a post office in Indianola, Mississippi. We're going to pass a bill honoring the life of Robert Mondavi.

Madam Speaker, all of those are important things, and they would be fine for us to do if we were dealing with the number one issue of Americans across this Nation, and that is the issue of gas prices and energy supply in the United States.

Last week, the Speaker told us that we would be dealing with the issue this week, possibly, although it's not on the list—but possibly—and there may be four bills that they'll bring forward, that the majority party will bring forward. One is to increase regulation. That ought to do a lot to increase supply. One is to require that oil compa-

nies holding Federal leases use them or lose them. That will not do much to increase supply because it's already the law of the land. We're going to pass a bill to pay transit fares—bus tickets—for folks. It's not a bad idea, maybe, but what will that do for supply? We're going to pass an antiprice-gouging measure that the House has already passed on a number of occasions. That's not doing a thing for supply.

Facts are troubling things, and the fact right now is that this House of Representatives is doing nothing, nothing to increase the supply of gasoline for the United States, nothing to increase American energy for Americans. Consequently, what we see are record gas prices continuing—\$4.08 over the weekend, \$4.10, I understand, today. There are a couple of other interesting facts, Madam Speaker.

The United States has expanded its dependence on foreign members of OPEC by a full 7 percent in 2007 alone.

Another fact, Madam Speaker, is that the United States is the only developed nation in the world that forbids safe energy production on its Outer Continental Shelf, deep sea exploration. The only nation in the world.

Another fact, Madam Speaker, is that the U.S. Minerals Management Service estimates that America's Outer Continental Shelf contains nearly 86 billion barrels of oil, enough oil to replace OPEC imports for 50 years.

Another fact, Madam Speaker, is that, when bills to increase the supply of gas for Americans and American energy for Americans have come to the floor of this House, 81 percent of the time, Republicans have supported those bills; 83 percent of the time, Democrats have opposed those bills.

So the law of supply and demand is clear. If you increase supply, you decrease the cost, and you decrease the price at the pump. So, yes, we need to conserve. Yes, we need to make certain that we find alternative fuel sources for the future, but right now, in the short term, in the near term, it's incumbent upon this House to make certain that we increase supply.

American energy for Americans.

There are easy ways to do that. What we demand is that the House be allowed to vote.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Hope for the future, Lord God, is very much a part of the American character. Bless this society which places such a high value on personal freedom. Help all Americans to see that freedom is not only a treasured gift but a summons to personal responsibility.

May the Members of Congress set an example for the rest of the Nation by working diligently this week to address responsibly the country's problems and seek the common good of the people.

In whatever they do or say, may they give You glory and honor both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 307. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Members' Congressional papers should be properly maintained and encouraging Members to take all necessary measures to manage and preserve these papers.

H. Con. Res. 335. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-181, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following individuals to be members of the Commission on War-time Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan:

Linda J. Gustitus of the District of Columbia.

Charles Tiefer of Maryland.

AMERICANS SPEAK UP

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Americans are speaking up about rising gas prices.

The polls show that well over 60 to 70 percent of Americans support exploration of American oil and natural gas reserves, and we are seeing a vocal outpouring of disappointment in Washington's refusal to take action.

For example, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has put a petition on his Web site asking Americans to send a message to Washington that we need to "Drill Here, Drill Now, and Pay Less." As of today, the petition has over 1.1 million signatures. Surely this is only a snapshot of the millions more in America who are feeling the pinch from rising energy prices. That is the bad news.

The good news is that House Republicans have a plan to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, invest in a future of renewable, cleaner energy resources, and ask the American people to participate through conservation. We have a plan, and the American people have the will to put that plan into action if House Democrats stop standing in the way.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

OFFSHORE ENERGY EXPLORATION IS LONG OVERDUE

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, the American people recognize that expanding our offshore energy exploration is long overdue. Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues have failed to reach this obvious conclusion, so let me offer them some help.

This is our country. This is our country's Outer Continental Shelf. There is oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf that belongs to us, the American people. As offshore oil production increases, our domestic oil supply increases. As oil supplies increase, prices will decline. Let me repeat that for my Democratic colleagues.

This is our country. This is our country's Outer Continental Shelf. There is oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf that belongs to us, the American people. As offshore oil production increases, our domestic oil supply increases. As supplies increase, prices will decline.

Hopefully, for the sake of the Americans that are suffering at the gas pump, our Democratic colleagues can learn what everybody else in the world has known all along: If you have energy resources, use them.

CONGRATULATING THE TOWN OF JONESVILLE ON ITS NEW TOWN HALL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate the people of Jonesville, North Carolina on the completion of their new town hall. Jonesville's new town hall will serve both as a government center and the hub for the town's tourism outreach efforts.

While I was unable to attend the grand opening event this past Friday due to Congress being in session, congratulations are in order for everyone in Jonesville who helped make this important project a success. I want to praise Mayor Lindbergh Swain for his leadership and also the people at USDA Rural Development for their help in securing critical financing for the new town hall.

This town hall, which replaces the town's more than half century old town hall, promises not only to give the town a new government seat but also to bolster the local tourist economy. Tourism is a growing segment of the local economy in Yadkin and surrounding counties, and this new facility is a wise investment in drawing new tourist dollars to Jonesville. I applaud Jonesville for its forward thinking mindset, and hope to visit the new town hall in the coming weeks.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, soon we will be breaking for the July 4 district work period. July 4, Independence Day. But what are we doing about making us, the American people, independent of foreign oil and foreign energy? If you look at the record in this House, absolutely nothing.

The first response we had from the majority was denial. They say this supply will do nothing. Well, of course it will do nothing unless you explore it and produce it.

Then they say energy will be produced by lawsuit. We have got a bill coming out of the Judiciary Committee. Sue, sue, sue, and somehow that is going to give you more energy.

The American people are smart. They understand that if we have a precious resource granted to us, we ought to use it.

Independence Day, July 4. Why can't we bring at least one bill to the floor that would begin to give us energy independence?

FIXING THE ENERGY PROBLEM

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, for 30 years, we have seen the development of new major gas and oil developments in our country thwarted. For 30 years, we have had no new nuclear reactors built in this country to provide us electricity. For 30 years, we have seen no new refineries being built in this country. For 30 years, we haven't even seen a hydroelectric dam being built in this country. And people ask why are we paying \$4 and \$5 a gallon for gasoline now?

Well, what has happened, of course, is we have put ourselves in a position where the discretionary income of our people is being robbed from them because we were acting irresponsibly for these last 30 years. Congressmen, elected representatives of the people, did not stand up to a radical element which opposed all of these energy alternatives for America and has left us vulnerable to our enemies overseas.

It is about time we speak up, we stand up, and we do what is right so we can fix this problem that was caused by inaction for the last 30 years.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS DEBT RELIEF ACT OF 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4044) to amend the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 to exempt from the means test in bankruptcy cases, for a limited period, qualifying reserve-component members who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 60 days, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4044

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.

Section 707(b)(2)(D) of title 11, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clauses (i) and (ii)—

(A) by indenting the left margin of such clauses 2 ems to the right, and

(B) by redesignating such clauses as subclauses (1) and (11), respectively,

(2) by striking "if the debtor is a disabled veteran" and inserting the following:

“if—

“(i) the debtor is a disabled veteran”,
 (3) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”, and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) while—

“(I) the debtor is—

“(aa) on, and during the 540-day period beginning immediately after the debtor is released from, a period of active duty (as defined in section 101(d)(1) of title 10) of not less than 90 days; or

“(bb) performing, and during the 540-day period beginning immediately after the debtor is no longer performing, a homeland defense activity (as defined in section 901(1) of title 32) performed for a period of not less than 90 days; and

“(II) if after September 11, 2001, the debtor while a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or a member of the National Guard, was called to such active duty or performed such homeland defense activity.”.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

(a) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY.**—Not later than 2 years after the effective date of this Act, the Comptroller General shall complete and transmit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate, a study of the use and the effects of the provisions of law amended (and as amended) by this Act. Such study shall address, at a minimum—

(1) whether and to what degree members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard avail themselves of the benefits of such provisions,

(2) whether and to what degree such members are debtors in cases under title 11 of the United States Code that are substantially related to service that qualifies such members for the benefits of such provisions,

(3) whether and to what degree such members are debtors in cases under such title that are materially related to such service, and

(4) the effects that the use by such members of section 707(b)(2)(D) of such title, as amended by this Act, has on the bankruptcy system, creditors, and the debt-incurrence practices of such members.

(b) **FACTORS.**—For purposes of subsection (a)—

(1) a case shall be considered to be substantially related to the service of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or a member of the National Guard that qualifies such member for the benefits of the provisions of law amended (and as amended) by this Act if more than 33 percent of the aggregate amount of the debts in such case is incurred as a direct or indirect result of such service,

(2) a case shall be considered to be materially related to the service of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or a member of the National Guard that qualifies such member for the benefits of such provisions if more than 10 percent of the aggregate amount of the debts in such case is incurred as a direct or indirect result of such service, and

(3) the term “effects” means—

(A) with respect to the bankruptcy system and creditors—

(i) the number of cases under title 11 of the United States Code in which members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard avail themselves of the benefits of such provisions,

(ii) the aggregate amount of debt in such cases,

(iii) the aggregate amount of debt of such members discharged in cases under chapter 7 of such title,

(iv) the aggregate amount of debt of such members in cases under chapter 7 of such title as of the time such cases are converted to cases under chapter 13 of such title,

(v) the amount of resources expended by the bankruptcy courts and by the bankruptcy trust-

ees, stated separately, in cases under title 11 of the United States Code in which such members avail themselves of the benefits of such provisions, and

(vi) whether and to what extent there is any indicia of abuse or potential abuse of such provisions, and

(B) with respect to debt-incurrence practices—
 (i) any increase in the average levels of debt incurred by such members before, during, or after such service,

(ii) any indicia of changes in debt-incurrence practices adopted by such members in anticipation of benefitting from such provisions in any potential case under such title; and

(iii) any indicia of abuse or potential abuse of such provisions reflected in the debt-incurrence of such members.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS.**—The amendments made by this Act shall apply only with respect to cases commenced under title 11 of the United States Code in the 3-year period beginning on the effective date of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Members of the House, the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act is a part of the idea of improving the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention Act signed into law by President Bush 3 years ago. It effectuated a comprehensive overhaul of bankruptcy, especially with regards to consumers. These consumer bankruptcy amendments included the establishment of a means testing mechanism to determine a debtor's ability to repay debts. Under this test, a chapter 7 bankruptcy case is presumed to be an abuse if it appears that a debtor has income in excess of certain thresholds.

The measure before us today would exempt certain qualifying National Guard members and Reserve members from the means test presumption of abuse. Come to think of it, I would like to exempt some other people as well.

But this legislation addresses the issue of fundamental fairness. Those who find themselves in financial difficulty as a result of service in the National Guard or being activated into it or the aftermath of their service, particularly overseas, should not face the additional burden of the means test.

Since September 11, 2001, almost one-half million members of the National

Guard and Reserves have been called to Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of them have even served multiple tours of duty. And so it is easy to understand that these unanticipated deployments disrupt their lives and their family members and leads to financial hardship. So we are happy for the gentlelady from Chicago, Illinois, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, who has included an effort that has attracted our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I am very happy to report this from the Judiciary Committee.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4044, the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008. I am happy that the House is considering today this bipartisan legislation.

As the gentleman from Michigan, the chairman of the committee mentioned, several years ago we passed the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. The purpose was to ensure that bankruptcy procedures were still allowed for those who needed them, and yet the abuses that we had seen in the years leading up to the bill would be reduced if not eliminated. It received bipartisan support.

Today's bill deals with a part of that scene that needs to be addressed and addressed immediately. Republicans strongly support the mission and appreciate the sacrifice of our dedicated reservists and guardsmen. As many people know, we rely far more on our National Guard and Reservists in the conflict that we have ongoing in the Middle East today than we have in previous conflicts. That was a conscious decision by the Congress of the United States over the last couple of decades.

As a result, many, many more dedicated reservists and guardsmen are assuming responsibility in areas of conflict. We agree that reservists and guardsmen who are plunged into bankruptcy by the demands of their service should be given a helping hand under the bankruptcy code.

In committee, Republicans labored long and hard to achieve a workable compromise that would help these serving men and women. The major issue for committee Republicans was simple—that the bill respond to bankruptcies attributable to a reservist's or guardsman's service.

This bill does not perfectly meet that concern. However, it is part of the art of compromise and it meets it sufficiently for committee Republicans to support passage.

It does this first by requiring an important study by the GAO. The study will examine the degree to which bankruptcies benefiting from the bill are indeed attributable to service, as we hope they will be.

The study thus will help us to be sure of whether reservists and guardsmen are using the relief granted by the bill when it is their service that leads to

bankruptcy. And the study must be completed promptly within 2 years of enactment.

Secondly, the bill includes a 3-year sunset. When we are asked to reauthorize the bill, we will have the GAO study and report. And we will know for sure how the bill is working, and if it needs to be modified, how it should be modified. It is not my expectation that it would be abused, but if it is, we would be able to address that at the time the reauthorization is considered.

With these requirements added, I am pleased to support passage of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California, one of the major sponsors of this bill, active sponsor of this bill, Mr. DANA ROHRABACHER.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, today marks the culmination of work that should have been finished long ago. On April 14, 2005, the House considered S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, which was a much needed and responsible reform. Then in the minority, my colleague, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, introduced a motion to recommit so that the bill would allow a targeted exemption from the bankruptcy means test for those National Guard and Reservists who had been called up after 9/11.

At the time of the floor debate, I was told by the Republican floor manager that the Schakowsky motion was redundant, that there was already such protection for our National Guard and Reservists under the Service Member's Civil Relief Act. Because of this, I voted against the motion and it failed on a party line vote, 220 yeas to 229 nays.

I soon found out that I and other Republican Members had been misinformed, apparently to prevent the then-minority from having any legislative success.

Yes, disabled veterans are exempt from the new bankruptcy means test, but not activated reservists and guardsmen, the men and women torn from their jobs and families, sent overseas to protect us were not to be given consideration under the Republican bankruptcy law unless they were disabled. Ms. SCHAKOWSKY's motion sought to correct that. In order to prevent even one success by the other party, the leaders of my party threw aside considering the well-being of our returning heroes.

A returning reservist or guardsman, who possibly left a lucrative job to answer the call of duty, gets the same tougher means test as everybody else. If they fail, they are presumed to be abusing the system as specified in chapter 7 of the bankruptcy law. Yes, they can then rebut the presumption of

abuse by demonstrating a special circumstance before the court. They can beg. They can jump through hoops, they can hire lawyers, and then it is at the discretion of the court to grant these homecoming heroes special circumstances and allow them a chapter 7 filing. This should have been in the bill in the first place, as well as Ms. SCHAKOWSKY's motion should have been accepted by the majority. It is a shame that it wasn't.

The Schakowsky motion would not have killed the bill, as some Members have argued since. In fact, because the motion asked the Judiciary Committee to report the bill forthwith, we could have considered the bill on that very same day. And even if that were not the case, as now we hear from my side so often as we point out a motion requiring a committee to report the bill promptly could still be brought up the next legislative day.

No, this motion failed so long ago because of the worst type of partisanship. It failed because Republicans did not want to admit that the Democrats could better their bill.

When I found that there was no adequate protection for our returning reservists and guardsmen, I pledged to work with my colleague, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and make it right.

Subsequently, I introduced legislation to amend the bankruptcy law. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership refused to bring my bill up to the floor for a vote and it took a change in the majority for this pro-reservist, pro-National Guard bill to be brought to the House floor today.

This measure isn't costing any new Federal dollars. There is no new massive appropriation. All it is is a consideration for these people who have risked their lives for us and are coming home. But my party couldn't get itself to provide consideration for our homecoming heroes even though there wasn't any major cost involved.

In the meantime, party control of the House changed, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and I have been working diligently to get this legislation to the floor and get it passed into law. We are now considering this bill under suspension which means it is pretty well recognized that this has widespread support. It should have been voted on by the majority or at least accepted a long time ago.

I encourage my colleagues who voted "no" on the motion to recommit 3 years ago because they were misled to vote in favor of this legislation. This bill is not a wedge to reopen the bankruptcy law. Rather, it is a narrow, targeted change modeled after existing exemptions for disabled veterans, America's heroes in neighborhoods throughout our country, who have been called up for deployments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield the gentleman 1 minute.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. This bill will ensure that America's heroes through-

out our country, who have often been called up for deployments that are for far longer than they were initially thought, will not pay a very high personal cost for their absence and their willingness to step forward.

As my colleague, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, put it, these servicemembers have put their lives and livelihood on the line for us, and we owe them a great debt. This is one way that we can show our deep appreciation for the service of these people, as we should have done originally. Now it is time for us to repay that debt in a very bipartisan way. I thank very much my chairman and ranking member.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I think that this bill might appropriately be renamed the Schakowsky-Rohrabacher provision because of the hard work that our colleague has done on the matter. I appreciate the fully bipartisan spirit that this committee, the Judiciary Committee, had in much evidence when we took this measure up.

And I close by asking my friends, the Blue Dogs on this side of the aisle and most of the Republicans, my Republican colleagues on the other side, that we might want to take a look at this means test which presumes you did something wrong if you are broke and in trouble. I mean, it occurs to me that under the economic circumstances we find ourselves in as a nation, anybody could flunk the means test and then be presumed to be irresponsible or not upstanding citizens. Credit ratings would be damaged profusely.

And so maybe we can look at this. We don't want to offend the banking lobby, don't get me wrong, but let's just take a peek at what we have wrought here in the name of improving the bankruptcy law which I was not in support of when it came forward.

Madam Speaker, with that I conclude my remarks, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again I would just repeat this is a bipartisan bill brought to this floor with strong bipartisan support. Hopefully we will get a unanimous vote in favor of it. This is something that recognizes the unique situation our reservists and guardsmen and women are placed in when they leave the jobs that they have, go back to the theater of war, serve us well and run into difficulties as a result of that service from a financial standpoint.

We all agree that they should receive relief. I would hope that we can get people on the other side of the aisle to also agree that they ought to get relief from these extraordinary, out-of-character, unprecedented high gas prices that we have. What a shock it must be for our reservists and guardsmen to leave this country and do service for this country in a foreign land and then

return and find out that in the period of time they have been gone, all of a sudden gas prices have risen \$1.50, \$1.70, before they were even able to return.

So hopefully as we grant relief in this small particular area of bankruptcy law, we might also think about the relief not only for reservists and guardsmen but all Americans from the extraordinary costs that they are now being called upon to pay in the area of energy.

It is not just at the gas tank, it is rippling through the economy because transportation costs are built into the cost of just about everything that we have, and our friends on the other side of the aisle say, well, we will bring a lawsuit, maybe that will do something. Wind, solar, I support those, but I have yet to find a wind-powered car in my district, or a solar-powered car in my district.

And creeping up on us, although we are now involved in the middle of summer, the beginning of summer, but it feels like the middle of summer with the heat that is out there, creeping up on us is the extraordinary increase that we are seeing in the cost of natural gas. Natural gas supplies a good bit of the heating for the winter that we will find come November and December.

□ 1430

I have been informed that in California electricity is produced at least 60 percent by natural gas. We don't have to wait for our heating fuel. We can worry about the concerns that we have with air-conditioning supplied by electricity.

So all I'm saying, Madam Speaker, is that as we work on worthy legislation like this, there is other worthy legislation out there. And all we ask is what the American people ask: Give us a vote. Give us a chance to prove that the reserves that are available in the United States, American reserves, American oil, American natural gas, be utilized for Americans. If our enemy was doing this to us, we would be in a fighting mood, but unfortunately through our Congress, we're doing it to ourselves.

So at some point in time, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, we might be able to prevail on the other side to understand that supply makes a difference and help us bring those costs down as a result of increasing the product that is available to Americans from American sources.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 4044, the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008.

Mr. CONYERS. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN. I yield to my good friend from Michigan, the chairman.

Mr. CONYERS. I want to thank my colleague for yielding.

I thought for a minute I was on a Special Order about "drill drill drill."

Has the leadership on your side instructed everybody to insert this sub-

ject into all of the debate this week because I would love to get into this. You didn't mention shale to coal. There's a whole range of opportunities for discussion here.

But I yield back, and I thank my colleague for his support.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, of course I cannot address the gentleman directly under the rules. So through the Chair, I would just say that yes, shale oil and tar sands are important. We happen to be the Saudi Arabia of those certain resources of God, placed here for us to use, and yet for one reason or another, we're almost afraid to use the word "drill." So I appreciate the chairman using the word "drill" three different times. That doesn't mean going to the dentist. That means drill for oil, drill for natural gas. That will be something which will help the American people.

So I would just say that I don't need my leadership to tell me about it. All I need to do is go home and see the prices of gasoline. All I need to do is listen to people. Seventy-some percent of the American people now, by the latest Fox poll, say they want more drilling, they want more production in America. The only group that doesn't have a 70-some percent support of it is this group, the House of Representatives. Either we're behind the times or we're ahead of the times. And I suspect we're behind the times.

And all I'm doing is asking my good friend, the chairman from Michigan, to understand that the people of Michigan suffer as much as the people of California when we fail to understand that we have resources that we could use. We ought to use American technology to develop American energy rather than having it developed all around the world.

Oh, and by the way, oil spills. They come from tankers. They come from tankers, not from offshore rigs. We ought to understand the more we're dependent upon foreign oil, the more tankers that supply the oceans and a greater possibility of a problem which would cause difficulty on our beaches and those beautiful waves that my friend from California enjoys surfing on in California.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4044, the "National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008." This bill is important because it liberalizes the debt relief standard for those persons who are most deserving, our Nation's heroes that serve in the National Guard.

This bill is important because the President has made it more difficult for people to claim bankruptcy. Specifically, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (2005 Bankruptcy Act) was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 20, 2005. The 2005 Bankruptcy Act is the most comprehensive overhaul of bankruptcy law in more than 25 years. The 2005 Bankruptcy Act makes particular changes to the consumer bankruptcy. The changes to consumer bankruptcy included, among other things, the establishment of a means testing mechanism to

determine a debtor's ability to repay debts. Under this test, a chapter 7 bankruptcy case is presumed to be an abuse if it appears that the debtor has income in excess of certain thresholds.

H.R. 4044 would exempt certain qualifying reserve component members of the Armed Services and National Guard members from the means test's presumption of abuse. This bill responds to the fact that some who serve in the National Guard and the Reserves encounter financial difficulties and that they should not be subject to the additional proof requirements of the means test.

I am a co-sponsor of this bill and I urge my colleagues to support it. This bill makes sense because often Armed Services personnel and Reservists receive high compensation when they are away on hazardous tours or combat zones. However, when these individuals return, their income is not as high. Therefore, it is unfair to subject these individuals to the means test. Simply, the means test is whether the person has the means to pay his or her debts. Hazard pay and temporary high pay for combat work is not necessarily a good indicator of a person's means or ability to pay. These individuals are serving our country and have legitimate financial concerns. I do not believe that they should be penalized. I believe we should help our armed services personnel for giving so much to fight for and protect this country. The least we can do is help them.

I firmly believe that we should celebrate our National Guard and Reservists, and I remain committed, as a Member of Congress, to ensuring that we demonstrate our respect for them. The National Guard and Reservists have kept their promise to serve our Nation; they have willingly risked their lives to protect the country we all love.

As the great British leader Winston Churchill famously stated, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

We must always remember the debt that we owe our National Guard and Reservists that are willing to lay down their lives for us and render the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and security. Our gratitude must continue to be unwavering.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." It is not simply enough to sing the praises of our Nation's great veterans; I firmly believe that we must demonstrate by our actions how proud we are of our American heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4044, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to exempt for a limited period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under

chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3546) to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3546

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.

Section 508 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3758) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 2006” through the period and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2012.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I would like to begin by yielding as much time as he may consume to our distinguished colleague from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) who has worked more diligently than I believe any Member in the House on this measure. He shepherded it through hearings and markup in Judiciary, and now we're on the floor.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 3546, which will reauthorize Byrne-JAG grants for local law enforcement.

Officer Edward Byrne was a rookie New York police officer in New York City when he was killed in the line of duty in February of 1988. Officer Byrne came from a family of police officers and was dedicated to cleaning up his beat in Queens.

Late on the night of February 26, 1988, Officer Byrne and his partner were staking out a house when he was murdered in his car, shot in the head five times with a pistol. He was only 22 years old.

Officer Byrne's sacrifice was not in vain. His murderers and the criminals who employed them were found, charged, and convicted. And today, in perpetuation of Officer Byrne's legacy, the Byrne-JAG grant program is now the only Federal program that funds crime fighting and prevention throughout the States across State lines and nationwide.

This program, Mr. Chairman and Madam Speaker, is more important now than ever. The slowing economy undermines the ability of local law enforcement to maintain and support crime prevention programs in our community as well as maintain order.

Already, cash-strapped local governments face lower tax revenues and higher crime rates and recidivism. Local officials depend on these Byrne-JAG grants to invest in law enforcement resources that keep crime and drugs out of our communities. In my home State of Georgia, these grants provide for a specialize core of drug enforcement agencies that work closely together cooperating with each other and the Federal Government. And nationwide, the results speak for themselves.

Byrne-JAG has led to the seizure of 54,000 weapons, the destruction of 5.5 million grams of methamphetamine, and the elimination of nearly 9,000 meth labs per year. Nevertheless, Congress has consistently underfunded this program, and President Bush threatens additional cuts in the 2009 fiscal budget fiscal year. But we can't afford to deny local governments the resources that they so desperately need to fight and prevent crime.

My bill will reauthorize Byrne-JAG funding at full 2006 levels, and I urge my colleagues in this body to support it.

In honor of Officer Edward Byrne, this program will help keep our streets, our kids, our fellow citizens, and our communities safe from criminal activity and drugs.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3546, a bill to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through the year 2012. This bill continues to fund the Department of Justice Byrne-JAG Grant Program that, as the gentleman from Georgia said, provides assistance to State and local law officials.

These grants support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crimes and to improve the criminal justice system. The department allocates funds using a formula based on State population and the annual Unified Crime Report statistics. The program does have a minimum allocation to ensure that each State and territory receive an appropriate share of the Federal funds.

Byrne-JAG funds can be used to pay for personnel overtime and equipment,

funds are used for Statewide initiatives, technical assistance and training, and support for local and rural jurisdictions.

I can say, Madam Speaker, that my experience in the past serving as the Attorney General of California allowed me to see the good work that the Byrne funds has done and continues to do, primarily in the area of multi-jurisdictional task forces as was mentioned by the gentleman from Georgia.

This is actually an area where we actually see a synergism that exists among different levels of government and their law enforcement personnel. It is always important that they have good leadership at each level, and the training that took place as a result of many of these multi-jurisdictional task forces actually created an improvement in the overall training for law enforcement across the country. It is a remarkable thing to see agents from different agencies, different departments, working together for a common purpose.

As the gentleman mentioned, you can, as a result of these task forces, count up the number of arrests made, the number of convictions obtained, the number of weapons taken off the street, the number of drugs taken off the street in each and every case making it safer for the people of the States of the United States.

On June 9, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released a 2007 Unified Crime Report detailing the statistics and tracking trends for violent crimes nationwide. The national rate for violent crimes, that is including robbery, sexual assault, and murder, decreased nationally. Unfortunately, the report also showed the rate of violent crime rate increased in some communities across the country. This is not by accident that we see an overall improvement across the country. It is the result of the work of many good men and women in uniform and the support to organizations that they have throughout this country.

We should understand that while sometimes the trend is to say that if something is a serious crime, it's a Federal crime; unless the FBI gets involved, it's not important, it's not going to be handled well. Well over 90 percent, well over 95 percent of all crime is investigated and prosecuted at the local and State level, not the Federal level. That's why these grants work very, very well when it encourages a multi-jurisdictional approach where you can find the abilities, the differing abilities of the agencies and departments, the coming together to work with one another.

Law enforcement officials remain committed to preventing crime and keeping our communities safe, and their efforts should be applauded. However, given the report, it is clear that additional steps need to be taken in order to continue to address the issue of crime.

During the past few months, representatives from various law enforcement associations visited me and my colleagues to discuss the Byrne-JAG funding. They have spoken with near unanimity about the important role Byrne-JAG funding plays in aiding their efforts to accomplish their law enforcement missions.

Congress plays an important role in supporting State and local law enforcement by continuing to enforce to reauthorize this program at appropriate levels. However, we should not in any way suggest that the Federal Government has the first responsibility for funding local and State law enforcement. That remains with local and State jurisdictions, and frankly, if they don't understand the priority, the first priority of government, to try and create a modicum of safety and security for the people of those jurisdictions so that they can live their lives in some sense of security not having to worry about violent criminals upsetting their lives, attacking them and their loved ones. If local and State jurisdictions don't understand that, frankly, they don't understand the first obligation of government.

□ 1445

So, while we wholeheartedly support this funding program, let us ensure that at the local and State levels those representatives are held responsible by the people that elect them to ensure that the first priority of government is achieved: a modicum of safety and security for the people of the jurisdictions that they find themselves in.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I couldn't concur more with the speakers, our friend from Georgia, HANK JOHNSON, and the distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee who has been the Attorney General in the largest State in the country.

And so I am enthusiastically supporting the continuation of these grants and would hope we would reauthorize this. We have got a reauthorization of over \$1 billion this time through 2012, and I hope that we will enjoy the support of the Members of the House.

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

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, once again, I rise in support of H.R. 3546, and I yield myself such time as I may consume, and suggest that of all the costs that are involved with law enforcement across the country, one of the greatest is the cost of gassing up their cars.

As the gentleman understands, law enforcement, yes, travels on its feet, but more than often travels on its wheels. The increased costs of energy affect us all across this Nation. Every home is affected by it, without regard to economic status. But think about this, our law enforcement agencies are very labor-intensive. They depend on

people, yes, applying technology, but we depend on people.

When we have concern about crime in a particular area, it doesn't do to say, well, we've got new computers downtown; that's going to take care of it. What do people want to see? They want to see law enforcement in their areas. And for most areas of America, that means seeing patrol cars coming through their neighborhoods at an appropriate time, seeing them respond whenever there is a cry for help as a result of crime or an attempt at crime.

The costs that are implicit in this tremendous increase in energy costs in this country, the gasoline pump prices, affect each and every one of our law enforcement agencies. And so I would hope as we support unanimously this Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistant Grant Program for fiscal years 2006 through 2012, we also think at some point in time of bringing up a bill that might help us get some relief in that area. If you add it all up, it might add up to the total cost of the Byrne grant program.

Mr. CONYERS. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from the place where I think they still build more automobiles than any other place in the country.

Mr. CONYERS. Well, not Canada, though. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I was concerned only for a moment that he wasn't going to bring up this subject. It was with very little ingenuity required on his part to tie it into this measure.

As a distinguished member of Judiciary, has the gentleman considered one of the proposals about bringing the price down by nationalizing the oil companies in this country?

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. If I might respond, through the Speaker, I would say, Madam Speaker, the only person I know that has suggested that we nationalize oil companies, including refineries, is the gentleman from the other side of the aisle. It's worked so well around the world, I think you could go through all the countries with a nationalization. Maybe Venezuela is a trend setter here, but I don't think that's exactly where we want to go. So the answer to the gentleman, through the Speaker, is no.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3546 to reauthorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012. The Byrne-JAG monies are supposed to be used to make America a safer place. I support the reauthorization and I would urge my colleagues to do likewise.

WHY BYRNE-JAG IS NECESSARY

Byrne-JAG allows states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system, which States and local governments have come to rely on to ensure public safety. They support: law enforcement,

prosecution and court programs, prevention and education, corrections and community programs, drug treatment, planning, evaluation, technology improvement programs, and crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). In short, they are an indispensable resource that states use to combat crime.

RECENT CUTS IN BYRNE JAG FUNDING

Unfortunately, in fiscal year 2008 the Byrne-JAG program was cut by two-thirds. Although Congress authorized over \$1 billion, only \$520 million were appropriated for fiscal year 2007. The appropriation was then drastically reduced to \$170.4 million in fiscal year 2008, and the President has proposed further cuts for the fiscal year 2009 budget.

PAST PROBLEMS WITH BYRNE JAG

The trend to reduce the grant funding may result, in part, from instances where Byrne-JAG funding has been abused. For example, in 1999 Byrne-JAG funding was used in the infamous Tulia outrage in which a rogue police narcotics officer in Texas set up dozens of people, most of them African-American, in false cocaine trafficking charges. In other instances, jurisdictions used the funding to fund task forces focused solely on ineffective, low-level drug arrests, which has put the task force concept—and the diminished standards of drug enforcement that it has come to represent—in the national spotlight.

The most well-known Byrne-funded scandal occurred in Tulia, Texas where dozens of African-American residents (representing 16 percent of the town's black population) were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to decades in prison, even though the only evidence against them was the uncorroborated testimony of one white undercover officer with a history of lying and racism. The undercover officer worked alone, and had no audiotapes, video surveillance, or eyewitnesses to corroborate his allegations. Suspicions eventually arose after two of the accused defendants were able to produce firm evidence showing they were out of state or at work at the time of the alleged drug buys. Texas Governor Rick Perry eventually pardoned the Tulia defendants (after four years of imprisonment), but these kinds of scandals continue to plague the Byrne grant program.

These scandals are not the result of a few "bad apples" in law enforcement; they are the result of a fundamentally flawed bureaucracy that is prone to corruption by its very structure. Byrne-funded regional anti-drug task forces are federally funded, State managed, and locally staffed, which means they do not really have to answer to anyone. In fact, their ability to perpetuate themselves through asset forfeiture and federal funding makes them unaccountable to local taxpayers and governing bodies.

The scandals are more widespread than just a few instances. A 2002 report by the ACLU of Texas identified seventeen scandals involving Byrne-funded anti-drug task forces in Texas, including cases of falsifying government records, witness tampering, fabricating evidence, stealing drugs from evidence lockers, selling drugs to children, large-scale racial profiling, sexual harassment, and other abuses of official capacity.

Texas is not the only State that has suffered from Byrne-funded law enforcement scandals. Scandals in other States have included the misuse of millions of dollars in federal grant

money in Kentucky and Massachusetts, false convictions based upon police perjury in Missouri, and making deals with drug offenders to drop or lower their charges in exchange for money or vehicles in Alabama, Arkansas, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin. A 2001 study by the Government Accountability Office found that the federal government fails to adequately monitor the grant program and hold grantees accountable.

AMENDMENT CONSIDERED BUT NOT OFFERED

Because of these abuses, I would have offered an amendment when this bill was considered at the Full Judiciary Committee markup. My amendment would have addressed the responsible use of Byrne-JAG monies. Specifically, my amendment would have required that a State that receives Byrne-JAG money should collect data for the most recent year for which such funds were allocated to such State, with respect to:

- (1) The racial distribution of criminal charges made during that year;
- (2) The nature of the criminal law specified in the charges made; and
- (3) The city of law enforcement jurisdiction in which the charges were made.

My amendment would have required a condition of receiving funds that the State should submit to the Attorney General the data collected by not later than one year after the date the State received funds. Lastly, the report should be posted on the Bureau of Justice Statistics website and submitted to the Attorney General.

My amendment is good because arrests will be transparent and the light of day and public airing of any problems will be the greatest disinfectant. My amendment is an attempt to make law enforcement more responsible, more accountable, and more just in their dealings with persons of all races and backgrounds. My amendment is but a small price to pay to rid the nation of scandals and disasters that occurred in Tulia, Texas and elsewhere.

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consin. A 2001 study by the Government Accountability Office found that the federal government fails to adequately monitor the grant program and hold grantees accountable.

My amendment, which I would have offered, would provide oversight and accountability. It is not burdensome. It will not prevent the States from collecting and funding programs under the Byrne Grant program. My amendment does however shed light on any maladies that might exist in the system. Once we see the problems, we can fix them. My amendment is responsible and aims to make the Byrne-Grant program a better program by ensuring that the funding is used appropriately and is used with oversight.

NO MORE TULIAS

While I support the Byrne JAG reauthorization, I would also urge my colleagues to also support my bill, H.R. 253, No More Tulias: Drug Law Enforcement Evidentiary Standards Improvement Act of 2007. This bill also enhances accountability with respect to the use of Byrne JAG monies.

First, it prohibits a state from receiving for a fiscal year any drug control and system improvement (Byrne) grant funds, or any other amount from any other law enforcement assistance program of the Department of Justice, unless the state does not fund any anti-drug task forces for that fiscal year or the state has in effect laws that ensure that: (1) A person is not convicted of a drug offense unless the facts that a drug offense was committed and that the person committed that offense are supported by evidence other than the eyewitness testimony of a law enforcement officer or individuals acting on an officer's behalf; and (2) an officer does not participate, in an antidrug task force unless that officer's honesty and integrity is evaluated and found to be at an appropriately high level.

Second, H.R. 253, No More Tulias, requires that states receiving federal funds under the No More Tulias Act to collect data on the racial distribution of drug charges, the nature of the criminal law specified in the charges, and the jurisdictions in which such charges are made. I urge my colleagues to support my No More Tulias Act so that we can quickly bring the bill to markup.

I also urge my colleagues to support Byrne JAG.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3546, which authorizes the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012.

Earlier this year I was disappointed to learn of the administration's draconian reduction in funding which would have limited the ability of our law enforcement officers to obtain the necessary manpower, equipment, and other tools to reduce criminal activity, putting them in a reactive rather than proactive mode.

The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program allows States and local governments to improve their criminal justice system by supporting activities that help prevent and control crime.

H.R. 3546 authorizes \$1.095 billion annually through FY2012 for the grant program. It is critically important that States and local law enforcement agencies have access to these much-needed resources, which help fight crime and drug proliferation in our communities.

Madam Speaker, we must properly fund our local law enforcement officers, who put their

lives on the line daily to keep the rest of us safe. Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this very important legislation to keep our neighborhoods safe!

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3546, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

COMMEMORATING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF FREEDOM SUMMER

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1293) commemorating the 44th anniversary of the deaths of civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner in Philadelphia, Mississippi, while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which has become known as "Freedom Summer".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1293

Whereas 44 years ago, on June 21, 1964, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi, while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which would become known as "Freedom Summer";

Whereas Andrew Goodman was a 20-year-old White anthropology major from New York's Queens College, who volunteered for the Freedom Summer Project;

Whereas James Chaney was a 21-year-old African-American from Meridian, Mississippi, who became a civil rights activist, joining the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1963 to work on voter education and registration;

Whereas Michael "Mickey" Schwerner was a 24-year-old White CORE field secretary in Mississippi and a veteran of the civil rights movement, from Brooklyn, New York;

Whereas in 1964, Mississippi had a Black voting-age population of 450,000, but only 16,000 Blacks were registered to vote;

Whereas most Black voters were disenfranchised by law or practice in Mississippi;

Whereas in 1964, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner volunteered to work as part of the "Freedom Summer" project that involved several civil rights organizations, including the Mississippi State chapter of the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and CORE, with the purpose of registering Black voters in Mississippi;

Whereas on the morning of June 21, 1964, the 3 men left the CORE office in Meridian and set out for Longdale, Mississippi, where they were to investigate the recent burning of the Mount Zion Methodist Church, a Black church that had been functioning as a Freedom School for education and voter registration;

Whereas on their way back to Meridian, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were detained and later arrested and taken to the Philadelphia, Mississippi, jail;

Whereas later that same evening, on June 21, 1964, they were taken from the jail, turned over to the Ku Klux Klan, and were beaten, shot, and killed;

Whereas 2 days later, their burnt, charred, gutted blue Ford station wagon was pulled from the Bogue Chitto Creek, just outside Philadelphia, Mississippi;

Whereas the national uproar caused by the disappearance of the civil rights workers led President Lyndon B. Johnson to order Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara to send 200 active duty Navy sailors to search the swamps and fields in the area for the bodies of the 3 civil rights workers, and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to order his Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) director, J. Edgar Hoover, to send 150 agents to Mississippi to work on the case;

Whereas the FBI investigation led to the discovery of the bodies of several other African-Americans from Mississippi, whose disappearances over the previous several years had not attracted attention outside their local communities;

Whereas the bodies of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, beaten and shot, were found on August 4, 1964, buried under a mound of dirt;

Whereas on December 4, 1964, 21 White Mississippians from Philadelphia, Mississippi, including the sheriff and his deputy, were arrested, and the Department of Justice charged them with conspiring to deprive Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner of their civil rights, since murder was not a Federal crime;

Whereas on December 10, 1964, the same day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize, a United States District judge dismissed charges against the 21 men accused of depriving the 3 civil rights workers of their civil rights by murder;

Whereas in 1967, after an appeal to the Supreme Court and new testimony, 7 individuals were found guilty, but 2 of the defendants, including Edgar Ray Killen, who had been strongly implicated in the murders by witnesses, were acquitted because the jury came to a deadlock on their charges;

Whereas on January 6, 2005, a Neshoba County, Mississippi, grand jury indicted Edgar Ray Killen on 3 counts of murder;

Whereas on June 21, 2005, a jury convicted Edgar Ray Killen on 3 counts of manslaughter;

Whereas June 21, 2008, will be the 44th anniversary of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner's ultimate sacrifice;

Whereas by the end of Freedom Summer, volunteers, including Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, helped register 17,000 African-Americans to vote;

Whereas the national uproar in response to the deaths of these brave men helped create the necessary climate to bring about passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

Whereas Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner worked for freedom, democracy and equal justice under the law for all; and

Whereas the Federal Government should find an appropriate way to honor these courageous young men and their contributions to civil rights and voting rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives encourages all Americans to—

(1) pause and remember Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner and the 44th anniversary of their deaths;

(2) commemorate the life and work of Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner, and all of the other brave Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of civil rights and voting rights for all Americans; and

(3) commemorate and acknowledge the legacy of the brave Americans who participated in the civil rights movement and the role that they played in changing the hearts and minds of Americans and creating the political climate necessary to pass legislation to expand civil rights and voting rights for all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am so pleased to bring this resolution from the Judiciary Committee to remember the deaths of those three great civil rights workers. And I, of course, begin my comments by thanking and commending our greatest civil rights champion in the House of Representatives, JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, who was a leader in the civil rights movement, worked with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and with Dr. Martin Luther King, and with other civil rights organizations. He was also at the great march on Washington in 1963, and we all met.

It was a stirring moment in American history, and these three young men paid with their lives for their dedication to ensure that we could end segregation and secure the right to vote for all people in America.

A number of Judiciary Committee members have joined with me as co-sponsors of this measure: the gentleman from New York, JERROLD NADLER; STEVE COHEN, Tennessee; BOBBY SCOTT of Virginia; SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, Texas; ADAM SCHIFF, California; LINDA SÁNCHEZ, California; BETTY SUTTON, Ohio; and a number of others.

You remember the summer of 1964? Goodman, a student at New York's Queens College; James Chaney of Mis-

issippi; Michael Schwerner, 24 years old of New York, were all working with the CORE, the Congress of Racial Equality. And they left the Meridian, Mississippi, office for the town of Philadelphia 25 miles away. They were stopped by the Klan, and the rest is history.

We still work against the backdrop of this activity. It was out of their sacrifices that the movement and understanding of not only the citizens of the country but the leaders of the country and Washington understood what we had to accomplish. And we passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Dr. Martin Luther King's inspiring rhetoric kept us together for so, so long, and I'm happy that we're doing what we've done. I'm sure the Senate, the other body, will follow very rapidly.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1293, honoring Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner: Mr. Goodman, a 20-year-old student volunteer; Mr. Chaney, a 21-year-old plasterer and activist in the civil rights movement; Mr. Schwerner, a 24-year-old founder of one of the first community centers for African Americans in Mississippi. Mr. Chaney and Mr. Schwerner were also members of the civil rights task force organized by the Congress of Racial Equality.

All three were tragically killed in 1964, that summer, for their participation in the civil rights campaign in Mississippi, where they had just taken part, along with 175 other volunteers, in a civil rights orientation project, which led the way for some 800 other volunteers.

I had just graduated from high school in California, and I remember the shock of hearing about this tragedy. It was one in a series of tragedies we were seeing portrayed around the United States, where people just simply attempting to be recognized as full human beings in this society, with the opportunity to vote and the opportunity to participate in the political process, were being denied that, and they and many others attempted to try and change that.

That summer, these three men were picked up by a sheriff for allegedly speeding, and after their release from jail, they disappeared.

A KKK informant and an FBI investigation pieced the story together. Evidently, after their release, the three men had been chased off the road, forced into a Klansmen's car, brutally beaten, and killed.

At the time, the State of Mississippi didn't file charges against anyone. The Federal Government charged someone in 1967 with conspiring to violate the civil rights of another, but that defendant was acquitted. Of seven other men convicted on conspiracy charges, no one served more than 6 years for the

death of three innocent individuals in this United States of America.

It was not until January 6, 2005, that Mississippi indicted Edgar Ray Killen on three counts of murder. He was found guilty of three counts of manslaughter on June 1, 2005, the 41st anniversary of the crime.

There is no doubt that justice so delayed warrants our honoring these three civil rights heroes again today, some 44 years after their death.

Last year, the House passed H.R. 923, the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act, which came out of our committee with bipartisan support, and it directs the Attorney General to designate a deputy chief within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and a supervisory special agent within the Civil Rights Unit of the FBI to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of unsolved civil rights-era murders.

□ 1500

We've got to do it now because the perpetrators of these crimes have been able to live in freedom for so long.

And some say why go after old men in their last years? Because, in fact, they should not have the opportunity to live out their lives without being held responsible for these horrendous acts. The bill also provides much-needed resources to the Department of Justice, the FBI, State and local law enforcement officials to prosecute these cases.

Madam Speaker, the FBI has identified nearly 100 outstanding cases that still need to be assessed. Many of these murders are 30 or 40 years old. Obviously they're difficult to investigate and to prosecute because evidence has been lost or destroyed, witnesses and defendants have died, and memories have dimmed. We must act quickly to bring the long-overdue justice to these victims and their families.

I urge all my colleagues to join the chairman of the full committee and other members of the Judiciary Committee in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the floor manager for his statement and his commitment across the years for civil rights activity.

I yield all but 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, JOHN LEWIS, whose work and writings and the history that he has made in this area are well known across this country and, indeed, around the world.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. CONYERS, the chairman of the full committee, for his leadership and for his dedication to the issue and the cause of civil rights, and for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courage and conviction of three young men, Andy Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner. On June 21, 1964, they gave their lives

in a struggle for voting rights in America.

There was a time, just 44 years ago, when it was almost impossible in the American south for people of color to register and vote. Then, I was 24 years old and the chair of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, better known as SNCC. I traveled around the country encouraging young people to come to Mississippi to get involved with the Freedom Summer. It was the summer of 1964.

At that time, the State of Mississippi had a black population of voting age of more than 450,000, but only about 18,000 blacks were registered to vote. It was dangerous, very dangerous, for those of us who believed that everyone should have the right to vote. But in spite of the risks, there were people—young and old, black and white, rich and poor—people like Andy Goodman, James Chaney and Mickey Schwerner, who put aside the comfort of their own lives to make sure that every citizen had free and fair access to the ballot, not only in Mississippi, but throughout America.

Mickey Schwerner was a 24-year-old white man from Brooklyn, New York, who was already a participant in the movement. Andy Goodman was also white, a 21-year-old student at Queens College in New York. James Chaney was a 21-year-old African American man from Meridian, Mississippi, who decided to take a stand for justice in his own community, in his own State.

On the morning of June 21, 1964, these three young men drove to Longdale, Mississippi to investigate the burning of an African American church. On their way back, they were arrested, at least stopped and detained by the sheriff and taken to jail in Philadelphia, Mississippi. That same evening they were released from the jail by the sheriff and turned over to the Klan. They were beaten, shot and killed. Their burnt blue Ford station wagon was pulled from a creek just 2 days later. I joined in the search for them that night with a very heavy heart. Their bodies were found a few weeks later, about 6 weeks later, on August 4, 1964, buried under a mound of dirt.

Madam Speaker, I share this story today so that Members of Congress will realize that the struggle for civil rights has been a long, hard road littered by the battered and broken bodies of countless men and women who paid the ultimate price for a precious right, the right to vote, the right to participate in a democratic process.

Andy Goodman, James Chaney and Mickey Schwerner did not die in Europe; they did not die in Asia or in Africa; they did not die in Central America or in the Middle East. They died right here in America, in the American south. I knew these three young men.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this resolution to pay tribute to these three young men and so many others who died in the struggle for voting rights in America.

We must never forget their sacrifices, their suffering, their pain, and their death.

As Members of the United States House of Representatives, it is our duty, our mission, our mandate to make sure that these three young men did not die in vain.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I'm delighted now to yield 2 minutes to Dr. JAMES MCDERMOTT of Washington State, a dedicated leader for universal health coverage and a civil rights activist. We were at the United Nations together not too many years ago.

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I am really very proud to rise in support of a resolution put forward by my friend and colleague, JOHN LEWIS. This is a man who has risked his own life fighting for civil rights, helping to bridge a racial divide during one of America's worst times.

This was a time when it took real courage to go out in the streets and do things. JOHN walked with Martin and with John and with Bobby as they dealt with the threats of racial violence. There was clearly fear in everyone. Anybody who went out was fearful; if they didn't, they didn't know what they were doing.

JOHN LEWIS is a towering figure who, in his own right, has left his mark in this country. And it is fitting and proper that he should bring a resolution honoring these three civil rights workers whose lives ended 44 years ago in Mississippi at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan.

Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner were killed in that Freedom Summer of 1964. The widow of one of them is now a distinguished lawyer and a good friend in Seattle. She lives on in the memory of her husband.

Their deaths sparked a national firestorm of anger and awareness that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Honoring them honors everyone who fought for civil rights and those who suffered great personal sacrifice during times when justice was neither blind nor fair in America.

It reminds me of the injustice America is only beginning to correct for a group of African American soldiers stationed in Fort Lawton in Seattle. Because of the color of their skin, they were denied equal justice and they were wrongly convicted of a crime that they did not commit, were sent to prison, and were given bad conduct discharges.

We must never forget the lessons of history or we risk repeating them.

The resolution Mr. LEWIS of Georgia offers will help us remain vigilant in defending civil rights and civil liberties, and help us protect the Nation these people died to defend.

I urge my colleagues to strongly support the resolution offered by Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Washington State.

I now yield 2½ minutes to a former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Dallas, Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Michigan.

I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1293, a bill commemorating the lives of three civil rights activists who were murdered outside Philadelphia, Mississippi by the Ku Klux Klan in June of 1964.

In 1964, Mississippi had the lowest percentage of registered African American voters in the country. Rampant fear and intimidation, along with literacy tests and poll taxes, had kept more than 90 percent of the African Americans in Mississippi from registering to vote. In June of 1964, thousands of young people volunteered to go to Mississippi in order to register African American voters and fight educational disparities.

What would come to be known as "Freedom Summer" ignited backlash and violence against these volunteers and civil rights activists. Many homes and black churches were firebombed or burned down that summer, and more than 1,000 volunteers were arrested. Among these Freedom Summer volunteers were James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who went to Mississippi to investigate the fire-bombing of the Mount Zion Methodist Church. On June 21, these three men were arrested and held for several hours on alleged traffic violations, but later that evening they were taken from the jail and turned over to the Ku Klux Klan, where they were beaten, shot and killed.

These men gave their lives in the name of freedom and justice. The media coverage surrounding their deaths sparked outrage amongst Americans, millions of them all over the country. Their deaths and the activities of Freedom Summer helped set the stage for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I would like very much to thank Congressman LEWIS for introducing this resolution, who himself has a closer experience than most of us in this body, and as a matter of fact paved the way for many of us to be here today.

I thank you, Congressman LEWIS, for the many sacrifices you have made. And it is an honor to serve alongside Congressman LEWIS, who coordinated the Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee's efforts to organize voter registration drives and community action programs during Freedom Summer.

I strongly support this resolution to honor the sacrifices of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, and all of the volunteers of the Mississippi Freedom Summer who helped to pave the way of voting rights for all Americans.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from the District of Colum-

bia, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, a brilliant lawyer who argues in the Supreme Court frequently and is a civil rights leader in her own right.

Ms. NORTON. This entire House has you, Mr. Chairman, to thank for a lifetime of work in civil rights and human rights for all people, I thank you here on the floor.

I thank my good colleague who serves on the Judiciary Committee. And I especially thank my colleague, JOHN LEWIS, who was chair of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee when I first joined. And I think I can say for JOHN and me that either of us expected to be on the floor of this House at that time.

I thank you, JOHN. I'm not surprised that you would come forward with this resolution. For me, it would be too poignant an occasion but for the progress that I think we can say assures that these brutal murders, the murders that we came to call the "Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman murders," certainly have not been in vain.

In 1963, Bob Moses, a legendary figure of the Mississippi movement, recruited me while I was in law school to go to Mississippi. SNCC had opened up virtually everywhere else, but not Mississippi because, frankly, it was terrorist country. And to show you the extent to which Mississippi was a different place, it took the NAACP and Medgar Evers to lead the sit-ins there, and they got beat unmercifully. And that was in Jackson.

I came to the Mississippi Delta that year for an express purpose, to prepare for the 1964 Freedom Summer, by conducting the prototype "freedom school" to be used in 1964, when we knew we would be able to gather thousands of students to come down. It was the high point of student activism. JOHN and others went throughout the United States and students came in huge numbers. We had the highest hopes.

I was particularly working on the 1964 Democratic Convention with my mentor, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Larry Guyout, who now lives here, the co-chairs of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, and, working indeed, on the brief that would be used to say that this delegation, rather than the official delegation which excluded African Americans, should be recognized by the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

□ 1515

And why was there a Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party? Because, indeed, in the summer of 1964, so many had come down to risk their lives for whom that had to have been their choice. Those high hopes were not extinguished when our delegation did not get seated. Those high hopes were not even extinguished when these brutal murders occurred. It took authorities weeks to find the three young men. Those high hopes remained high and, if

anything, thrust the civil rights movement forward in a way it had not been before.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. How much time do we have, please, Madam Speaker? I don't want to go over.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 4½ minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I won't take much longer, but this is a very special moment.

In 1963 when I went to Mississippi, I first worked for the March on Washington under Bayard Rustin, then went to the Mississippi Delta. That was, I must say, the most eventful summer of my life, more eventful even than 1964.

The great chief of the Mississippi NAACP Medgar Evers put me on a bus. Medgar Evers tried to convince me to stay in Jackson, but I said, no, that I had promised I was coming to the Delta. So he put me on a bus to go to the Delta. He then turned around, went back home, and he was shot and killed in his driveway that same evening. That was a year I shall never forget.

But the fact is that the 1964 summer, in fact, happened. The students did not go home after the murders. We continued to organize. The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, with Fannie Lou Hamer leading the way at the convention, was the high point of that convention. And the country has never forgotten it. It democratized the Democratic Party. It democratized even the Republican Party. And I must say that both parties then recognized that they had to have representative delegations.

Steve Schwerner Michael's brother was one of my classmates in college. When I have met with the families, what has been extraordinary about them is to see that they understand the contributions they personally made to the freedom struggle. They have no regrets. They understand that the loss of Cheney and the two youngsters from the north was the last thing we expected and that that loss helped to waken the country.

Do not forget what happened in 1964. The passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and that act contained Title VII. Something else I could never have imagined—I would one day come to enforce a major civil right's law, the 1964 Civil Right's Act as a Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This was the first civil rights legislation since the radical Republicans gave us our first civil rights legislation after the Civil War, and look what happened afterwards: the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

Oh, no, these three young men died for a great and noble purpose. And in case the national panorama doesn't drive that point home, surely the fact that Mississippi today has the largest number of black public officials will

help you to see that they did not die in vain, and surely the fact that their relatives now see the first African American to secure the nomination of a major party for President of the United States will drive home the reality that these three young men, at the dawn of their lives, not only did not die in vain but for generations to come and, yes, for this generation, have left a legacy of their own.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again, I rise in support of H. Res. 1293.

David McCullough, the distinguished writer and historian, said, "We run the risk of being a Nation of historic illiterates." And he was referring to our lack of knowledge of the beginnings of this country, the lack of knowledge of the Founding Fathers and that generation. But he need not look back that far. All he needs to do is to look back 40 some years, as the gentleman from Georgia has mentioned to us and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia and the gentleman from Michigan.

We cannot allow these real-life tragedies, events, sacrifices to be lost in the midst of memory. We have to make sure that not only do we understand them but that we understand their import and that we teach our children that this is part of America's history and America is what it is today because of the sacrifices of many great men and women, these three included among them: Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the commemoration of the 44th Anniversary of the death of civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner in Philadelphia, Mississippi while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which would become known as Freedom Summer. I would like to thank my fellow Judiciary member and the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS for introducing this legislation.

The right to vote has held a central place in the black freedom struggle. After emancipation, African Americans sought the ballot as a means to in American society. During the summer of 1964, thousands of civil rights activists, many of them white college students from the North, descended on Mississippi and other Southern states to try to end the long-time political disenfranchisement of African Americans in the region. Although blacks had won the right to vote in 1870, thanks to the Fifteenth Amendment, for the next 100 years many were unable to exercise that right. White local and state officials systematically kept blacks from voting through formal methods, such as poll taxes and literacy tests, and through cruder methods of fear and intimidation, which included beatings and lynchings.

Freedom Summer marked the climax of intensive voter-registration activities in the South

that had started in 1961. Organizers chose to focus their efforts on Mississippi because of the State's particularly dismal voting-rights record: in 1962 only 6.7 percent of African Americans in the State were registered to vote, the lowest percentage in the country. The Freedom Summer campaign was organized by a coalition called the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations, which was led by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Freedom Summer activists faced threats and harassment throughout the campaign, not only from white supremacist groups, but from local residents and police. Freedom School buildings and the volunteers' homes were frequent targets; 37 black churches and 30 black homes and businesses were firebombed or burned during that summer, and the cases often went unsolved. More than 1000 black and white volunteers were arrested, and at least 80 were beaten by white mobs or racist police officers.

But the summer's most infamous act of violence was the murder of three young civil rights workers—a black volunteer, James Chaney, and his white coworkers, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner. On June 21, Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner set out to investigate a church bombing near Philadelphia, Mississippi, but were arrested that afternoon and held for several hours on alleged traffic violations. Their release from jail was the last time they were seen alive before their badly decomposed bodies were discovered under a nearby dam six weeks later. Goodman and Schwerner had died from single gunshot wounds to the chest, and Chaney from a savage beating. These savage attacks were perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan.

The FBI investigation that uncovered the deaths of these three brave young men, white and black, also led to the discovery of the bodies of several other African-Americans from Mississippi, whose disappearances over the years had not attracted much attention.

On December 4, 1964, 21 White Mississippians from Philadelphia, Mississippi, including the sheriff and his deputy, were arrested and charged with conspiring to deprive Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner of their civil rights, because murder was not a Federal crime. Ironically, on the very same day, December 4, 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Later, a District Court judge dismissed the charges against the 21 Whites. After three years, and an appeal to the Supreme Court, seven individuals were found guilty, but 2 of the defendants, including Edgar Ray Killen, who had been implicated by witnesses, were acquitted because the jury was deadlocked on charges.

Over twenty years later, on June 21, 2005 after new evidence, a jury convicted Edgar Ray Killen on 3 counts of manslaughter. These freedom riders made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of all people, black and white. It is fitting that we recognize them and pay tribute, respect, and homage to them, and to the legacy that they have left behind.

We commemorate and acknowledge the legacy of these brave Americans who participated in the civil rights movement and the role

they played in changing the hearts and minds of Americans. We also celebrate these Americans for their decision to create a political environment necessary to pass legislation to expand civil rights and voting rights for all Americans.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1293.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6344) to provide emergency authority to delay or toll judicial proceedings in United States district and circuit courts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6344

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Responsive Government Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO DELAY OR TOLL JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 1660. Emergency authority to delay or toll judicial deadlines

"(a) TOLLING IN DISTRICT COURTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation requiring the closure of courts or rendering it impracticable for the United States Government or a class of litigants to comply with deadlines imposed by any Federal or State law or rule that applies in the courts of the United States, the chief judge of a district court that has been affected may exercise emergency authority in accordance with this section.

"(2) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—(A) The chief judge may enter such order or orders as may be appropriate to delay, toll, or otherwise grant relief from the time deadlines imposed by otherwise applicable laws or rules for such period as may be appropriate for any class of cases pending or thereafter filed in the district court or bankruptcy court of the district.

"(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the authority conferred by this section extends to all laws and rules affecting criminal and juvenile proceedings (including, prearrest, post-arrest, pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures), civil actions, bankruptcy proceedings, and the time for filing and perfecting an appeal.

"(C) The authority conferred by this section does not include the authority to extend—

"(i) any statute of limitation for a criminal action; or

"(ii) any statute of limitation for a civil action, if—

“(I) the claim arises under the laws of a State; and

“(II) extending the limitations period would be inconsistent with the governing State law.

“(3) UNAVAILABILITY OF CHIEF JUDGE.—If the chief judge of the district is unavailable, the authority conferred by this section may be exercised by the district judge in regular active service who is senior in commission or, if no such judge is available, by the chief judge of the circuit that includes the district.

“(4) HABEAS CORPUS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

“(b) CRIMINAL CASES.—In exercising the authority under subsection (a) for criminal cases, the court shall consider the ability of the United States Government to investigate, litigate, and process defendants during and after the emergency situation, as well as the ability of criminal defendants as a class to prepare their defenses.

“(c) TOLLING IN COURTS OF APPEALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation requiring the closure of courts or rendering it impracticable for the United States Government or a class of litigants to comply with deadlines imposed by any Federal or State law or rule that applies in the courts of the United States, the chief judge of a court of appeals that has been affected or that includes a district court so affected may exercise emergency authority in accordance with this section.

“(2) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—The chief judge may enter such order or orders as may be appropriate to delay, toll, or otherwise grant relief from the time deadlines imposed by otherwise applicable laws or rules for such period as may be appropriate for any class of cases pending in the court of appeals.

“(3) UNAVAILABILITY OF CHIEF JUDGE.—If the chief judge of the circuit is unavailable, the authority conferred by this section may be exercised by the circuit judge in regular active service who is senior in commission.

“(4) HABEAS CORPUS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

“(d) ISSUANCE OF ORDERS.—The Attorney General or the Attorney General’s designee may request issuance of an order under this section, or the chief judge of a district or of a circuit may act on his or her own motion.

“(e) DURATION OF ORDERS.—An order entered under this section may not toll or extend a time deadline for a period of more than 14 days, except that, if the chief judge (whether of a district or of a circuit) determines that an emergency situation requires additional extensions of the period during which deadlines are tolled or extended, the chief judge may, with the consent of the judicial council of the circuit, enter additional orders under this section in order to further toll or extend such time deadline.

“(f) NOTICE.—A court issuing an order under this section—

“(1) shall make all reasonable efforts to publicize the order, including announcing the order on the web sites of all affected courts and the web site of the Federal judiciary; and

“(2) shall, through the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, send notice of the order, including the reasons for the issuance of the order, to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(g) REQUIRED REPORTS.—A court issuing one or more orders under this section relating to an emergency situation shall, not later than 180 days after the date on which the last extension or tolling of a time period

made by the order or orders ends, submit a brief report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and the Judicial Conference of the United States describing the orders, including—

“(1) the reasons for issuing the orders;

“(2) the duration of the orders;

“(3) the effects of the orders on litigants; and

“(4) the costs to the judiciary resulting from the orders.

“(h) EXCEPTIONS.—The notice under subsection (f)(2) and the report under subsection (g) are not required in the case of an order that tolls or extends a time deadline for a period of less than 14 days.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1660. Emergency authority to delay or toll judicial deadlines.”.

SEC. 3. WAIVER OF PATENT AND TRADEMARK REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN EMERGENCIES.

Section 2 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN EMERGENCIES.—The Director may waive statutory provisions governing the filing, processing, renewal, and maintenance of patents, trademark registrations, and applications therefor to the extent the Director considers necessary in order to protect the rights and privileges of applicants and other persons affected by an emergency or a major disaster, as those terms are defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122). A decision not to exercise, or a failure to exercise, the waiver authority provided by this subsection shall not be subject to judicial review.”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF PTO TO ACCEPT LATE FILINGS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Section 156 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) DISCRETION TO ACCEPT LATE FILINGS IN CERTAIN CASES OF UNINTENTIONAL DELAY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may accept an application under this section that is filed not later than three business days after the expiration of the 60-day period provided in subsection (d)(1) if the applicant files a petition, not later than five business days after the expiration of that 60-day period, showing, to the satisfaction of the Director, that the delay in filing the application was unintentional.

“(2) TREATMENT OF DIRECTOR’S ACTIONS ON PETITION.—If the Director has not made a determination on a petition filed under paragraph (1) within 60 days after the date on which the petition is filed, the petition shall be deemed to be denied. A decision by the Director to exercise or not to exercise, or a failure to exercise, the discretion provided by this subsection shall not be subject to judicial review.”.

(b) FEE FOR LATE FILINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to effect a patent term extension under section 156(i) of title 35, United States Code, the patent holder shall pay a fee to the United States Treasury in the amount prescribed under paragraph (2).

(2) FEE AMOUNT.—

(A) FEE AMOUNT.—The patent holder shall pay a fee equal to—

(i) \$65,000,000 with respect to any original application for a patent term extension, filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office before the date of the enactment of this Act, for a drug intended for use in hu-

mans that is in the anticoagulant class of drugs; or

(ii) the amount estimated under subparagraph (B) with respect to any other original application for a patent term extension.

(B) CALCULATION OF ALTERNATE AMOUNT.—The Director shall estimate the amount referred to in subparagraph (A)(ii) as the amount equal to the sum of—

(i) any net increase in direct spending arising from the extension of the patent term (including direct spending of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and any other department or agency of the Federal Government);

(ii) any net decrease in revenues arising from such patent term extension; and

(iii) any indirect reduction in revenues associated with payment of the fee under this subsection.

The Director, in estimating the amount under this subparagraph, shall consult with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary of the Treasury, and either the Secretary of Health and Human Services or (in the case of a drug product subject to the Act commonly referred to as the “Virus-Serum-Toxin Act”; 21 U.S.C. 151-158) the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) NOTICE OF FEE.—The Director shall inform the patent holder of the fee determined under paragraph (2) at the time the Director provides notice to the patent holder of the period of extension of the patent term that the patent holder may effect under this subsection.

(4) ACCEPTANCE REQUIRED.—Unless, within 15 days after the Director provides notice to the patent holder under paragraph (3), the patent holder accepts the patent term extension in writing to the Director, the patent term extension is rescinded and no fees shall be due under this subsection by reason of the petition under section 156(i)(1) of title 35, United States Code, pursuant to which the Director provided the notice.

(5) PAYMENT OF FEE.—The extension of a patent term of which notice is provided under paragraph (3) shall not become effective unless the patent holder pays the fee required under paragraph (2) not later than 60 days after the date on which the notice is provided.

(6) FEE PAYMENT NOT AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION.—Fees received under this subsection are not available for obligation.

(7) DIRECTOR DEFINED.—Except as otherwise provided, in this subsection, the term “Director” means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall apply to any application—

(A) that is made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(B) that, on such date of enactment, is pending before the Director or as to which a decision of the Director is eligible for judicial review.

(2) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—In the case of any application described in paragraph (1)(B), the 5-day period prescribed in section 156(i)(1) of title 35, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall be deemed to begin on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6344, the Responsive Government Act of 2008, bipartisan legislation with strong support on both sides of the aisle.

The bill consists of three major components, each of which has, in substance, previously passed the House on the suspension calendar.

Section 2 of the bill takes into account the practical realities of a natural disaster or other emergency situation where compliance with filing deadlines or other court rules would be impracticable, dangerous, or simply impossible.

In emergency situations, such as those which occurred during, and in the aftermath of, Hurricane Katrina, this section of the bill would provide the Chief Judge of the affected District Court or Court of Appeals with the authority to excuse a failure of litigants or the U.S. Government to comply with filing deadlines.

Section 3 grants similar authority to the Patent and Trademark Office to excuse failures to comply with filing deadlines caused by a natural disaster or other emergency.

Section 4 of the bill also involves a grant of authority to the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office to excuse specific late filings—this time, in connection with unintentional human error.

Section 4 would provide the USPTO with the authority to accept an application for patent term restoration under the Hatch-Waxman Act if that application is filed within 3 business days of the existing 60-day deadline.

This small but important change simply gives the USPTO discretion to accept a late application, within a limited time period, under specific conditions. This change is both good patent policy and good for public health.

Under current law, the 60-day deadline is absolutely rigid, and the consequences of that rigidity can be draconian and harshly disproportionate.

Up to 5 years of patent protection can be destroyed on account of a minor, inadvertent filing error of as little as 1 day.

This penalty is not merely disproportionate and excessive, it is also out of sync with most other patent laws and regulations, which typically give the USPTO Director the authority to excuse minor errors.

For instance, currently, if an applicant files an incomplete Hatch-Waxman application, the USPTO can grant up to 2 extra months to correct the application.

H.R. 6344 would eliminate this dichotomy, bringing the deadline provision of Hatch-Waxman into greater harmony with other relevant patent laws and regulations.

Moreover, H.R. 6344 would save lives. The reality is that the unnecessary forfeit of years of patent rights for drugs can have an extremely damaging effect on patients.

When the existing rigid deadline operates to strip away up to 5 years of patent protection, it significantly reduces the likelihood of the research and innovation that a full patent term would encourage.

This is not just a theoretical problem. A small U.S. maker of Angiomax, a blood thinner, stands to lose 4½ years of patent protection as a result of inadvertently filing its Hatch-Waxman application for patent term restoration 1 day late.

Angiomax is considered the best alternative to heparin in coronary angioplasties, and shows great promise with respect to open heart surgery and the treatment of stroke and peripheral artery disease.

Public health and safety pushes us to promote effective substitutes for heparin, such as Angiomax.

Earlier this year, contamination problems in Chinese manufacturing plants, where heparin is made from pig intestines led to 81 patient deaths.

Even apart from problems of contamination, thousands of people die every year from adverse reactions to heparin.

At this moment, when the serious shortcomings of heparin have come into bold relief, we have rightfully turned our attention to adjusting a flawed patent provision in a manner that can improve and even save the lives of large numbers of sick patients for years to come in this and other instances.

Taken together, the three components of this bill—the discretion provided in cases of emergency and the discretion provided in the case of unintentional human error—are all sound public policy, and have justifiably attracted bipartisan backing.

This bill is not inconsistent with, nor does it detract from, other legal authorities.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased now to yield such time as he may consume to the author of this measure, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), who has worked tirelessly to make sure that this measure arrives on the floor for consideration today.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6344.

This is an extremely important bipartisan measure that combines sound judicial policy with rational patent law and good public health policy. The bill is aptly named Responsive Government Act because through its provisions, Congress provides the judicial and executive branches with commonsense flexibility to ease certain administrative requirements which would otherwise result in undue hardship for diligent and well-intentioned individuals and entities.

The House has previously passed this proposal in either identical or similar language, and I should note under a suspension of the rules; however, the other body has failed to act in a timely manner, but I understand now the other body is prepared to proceed expeditiously.

Let me describe the measure.

Sections 2 and 3 provide the Federal courts and the Director of the Patent

and Trademark Office, respectively, with needed emergency authority to toll or delay judicial proceedings or statutory deadlines in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation which makes it impractical for parties, including the United States, to comply with certain filing conditions or, to the extent deemed necessary, to protect the rights and privileges of people affected by certain emergencies or a major disaster.

We recently all too often have observed how the ravages of natural disasters disrupt the lives of our fellow citizens, which can impede the ability to comply with strict statutory deadlines. Thus the Responsive Government Act provides critical flexibility to the courts and the PTO to help ameliorate the practical difficulties caused by these emergency situations.

Finally, section 4 provides the PTO Director with the discretion to accept an application for a patent term extension filed not later than 3 days after the expiration of the 60-day period in title XXXV of the U.S. Code, provided the Director determines that the delay in filing the application was unintentional.

This provision corrects an anomaly in the patent law and provides the PTO with the discretion to excuse minor filing errors, discretion it already has in most circumstances. As the PTO has testified to Congress in the past, it would bring this provision of law in line with over 30 other patent laws and regulations. It would prevent the inappropriate sacrifice of valuable earned patent rights. More importantly, this adjustment would promote important clinical research that can benefit the lives of seriously ill patients. This provision has the support of leading medical researchers and practitioners across the Nation.

It addresses a particular section of the Hatch-Waxman Act that provides a patent holder with up to 5 years of restored patent protection for time lost while awaiting FDA approval. This extra time is critical because for many highly innovative medicines, as research continues even after the drugs have been approved and released to market for a particular use. Many of these medicines have additional, potentially lifesaving uses that would not be discovered without further research, which is made possible by the years of patent protection beyond the drug's initial release.

I note the presence here of our friend the delegate from the Virgin Islands, who I am sure will speak to this measure, but I would commend to all of our colleagues a review of her commentary that appeared some time ago describing one drug in particular and what it means for medical research and for practicing physicians such as herself.

By removing the unnecessary barriers to medical research, section 4 of this act will promote research into modern, safer, and more effective medicines, saving lives and reducing burdening costs to our health care system.

□ 1530

In closing, I want to commend Chairman CONYERS, Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH, and our distinguished Chair of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee, Mr. BERMAN, for their outstanding work in preparing the Responsive Government Act of 2008, and urge that my colleagues approve this helpful and necessary measure.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 6344, the Responsive Government Act of 2008, and urge my colleagues to adopt it today. There are three major components to the bill. First, the legislation authorizes Federal courts to toll or otherwise delay deadlines outside of their statutorily defined geographic domains during times of emergency. The text is identical to that of H.R. 3729 from the 109th Congress, passed on July 17, 2006, by a voice vote under suspension of the rules.

The need for this legislation became apparent following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the impact that these disasters had on court operations, in particular in New York City.

In emergency conditions, a Federal court facility in an adjoining district or circuit might be more readily and safely available to court personnel, to litigants, to jurors, and the public, than a facility at a place of holding court within the district. This is particularly true in major metropolitan areas, such as New York, Washington, DC, Dallas, and Kansas City, where the metropolitan areas include part of more than one judicial district.

This reform is also needed to address natural disasters. The impact of Hurricane Katrina on the Federal courts in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi once again demonstrated the importance of congressional action on this proposal.

Where court operations cannot be transferred to other divisions within the affected judicial district due to widespread flooding or other destruction, judges must be empowered to shift court proceedings temporarily into a neighboring judicial district.

The advent of electronic court record systems will facilitate implementation of this authority by providing judges, court staff, and attorneys with remote access to case documents.

Secondly, the bill allows the PTO director to waive various patent and trademark filing requirements during emergencies. This text is identical to that of H.R. 4742 from the 109th Congress, passed on December 5, 2006, by voice vote under suspension of the rules.

The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in the gulf region affected the ability of applicants, patentees, trademark holders, and other interested parties to do business with the Patent and Trademark Office. Despite its best efforts to date, the PTO needs additional

authority to provide individuals and businesses with relief from certain statutory deadlines, especially those pertaining to the maintenance of patents and trademarks.

Pursuant to the bill, the PTO may waive statutory provisions governing the filing, processing, renewal, and maintenance of patents, trademarks, and applications to the extent the director deems necessary to protect the rights and privileges of applicants and other persons affected by an emergency or major disaster.

Third, the bill grants the PTO director discretionary authority to accept a late-filed application for patent term extension in certain cases if the application is filed not later than 3 business days after statutory deadline and the applicant files a petition within 5 business days of the deadline that shows that the delay was unintentional.

This provision is similar to legislation, H.R. 5120, which passed the House by voice vote under suspension of the rules as part of S. 1785, the Vessel Hull Design Protection Amendments of 2005. That passed on December 6, 2006.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. It helps Federal litigants, inventors, trademark holders, and other interested parties to maintain their rights under adverse conditions. I urge Members to support the bill, but I am intrigued by the name of the bill, the Responsive Government Act of 2008. One would think that this government could be responsive to the tremendous problem we have with high energy costs in this country, not just gas prices, but home heating oil, the cost of electricity, natural gas.

So with just one week left before the July 4 break, we would hope that the Democrat majority would be willing to bring a bill to the floor, something that is meaningful to provide some solutions to increase the supply of American-made energy and lower gas prices. Perhaps next time we won't leave town if the price of gasoline is \$5 a gallon. The way it's going, that may be the case. We shouldn't wait for that. We should act now.

So we should have another Responsive Government Act of 2008, one that responds to the needs and concerns of the American people. Americans are paying, all Americans are paying, on average, about \$1.74 more for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline than they were on the day that the Democrats took over this House, promising a new, commonsense approach to energy that would not only stop increases, but bring it down. Unfortunately, just the reverse has been the case.

Perhaps we could work together somehow, agreeing that America has never been afraid of the future. America has always embraced the future and America has used technology here in the United States to surmount obstacles. It seems strange that we would have American technology now being used in waters off of Brazil to explore where they have just found the largest

single oil find in the last 25 years. There are some that suggest that Brazil will now be energy-independent. They won't even have to use the ethanol they produce from their sugar because of this find. If the Congress of the United States had controlled Brazil, they wouldn't have been able to find it, because it's offshore.

Last week, I remind my colleagues, the Democrat leadership had time to schedule legislation to prohibit the interstate sale and transfer of monkeys, but they apparently didn't have enough time to listen to the large majority of Americans who support more U.S. energy production.

The new Fox News poll shows that 76 percent of Americans support immediate efforts to drill more in the United States in order to boost American energy production and help lower record prices. There's only one thing standing in the way of this Congress. If we are to be truly responsive, in addition to this fine bill that we are voting on today, ought we not also respond to the most immediate concern of Americans in every State, in every congressional district, and do something about the supply of American-made energy and lower gas prices.

The response is not, as my friend on the other side said, all we need to do is sue a little bit more. If we can have a few more people and a few more courts, and sue, that will somehow solve the problem. No. The answer is increase the supply of American-made energy and lower gas prices right now. That is what the American people are asking for.

So as I rise in support of the Responsive Government Act of 2008, I would hope we would have another Responsive Government Act, one that will be responsive to the concerns expressed by the American people.

With that, I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are in a spirit of bipartisanship and we are reaching out. Let's not nationalize the oil companies. We agreed on that. Let's go from shale to coal and let's go into all the alternatives. We are all for that. No suing. Drill, drill, drill. No sue, no sue, no sue.

Now we are getting down to the 41 million acres of leased oil, and he knew I was going to bring that up, that have been unused, and I don't know how to make those oil companies drill and find out if there's anything there or not. Maybe they don't want to know. Maybe they do want to know but they don't have the machinery or equipment.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. Maybe there's a technological problem that is beyond the understanding of we mere mortals on Judiciary.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Would the gentleman yield, as I yielded to him?

Mr. CONYERS. Yes. The gentlemen yielded to me, so I will yield to him.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the chairman.

In response to the question, I am sure the gentleman may be aware of the fact that 52 percent of the exploratory wells that were drilled by American companies in America over the last 5 years were dry wells. So, in some cases, they have taken leases on land offshore, and that has proven not to be a successful well.

The problem is that those that have the greatest prospect for yielding real petroleum and natural gas have been prohibited by this Congress. As the gentleman may know, they pay for those leases. They continue to pay for those leases. I have not heard anybody on this floor accuse the oil companies of paying for something for nothing. They pay for those leases. There is a limit on the time that they can have those leases when they do not produce them.

So, in all cases, they have made judgments as to whether or not the leases they have are yielding leases, and in many cases, 52 percent, they have tried to find oil, and they haven't found it.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate his courtesy.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Would the chairman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. You know, we had a hearing on this subject. The oil execs of the five companies came before us. In the other body, three of them told us how much they made. As you know, they make the top profits of any executives in business, short of the pharmaceuticals, of course. I don't want to short them. We found out that two of them couldn't even remember how much they made.

Look; salaries, options, stock, bonus. Who knows what else. I hope my dear friend from California will join me on the letter that I am sending to the two, referring them to look up their accountant, because I know they paid their taxes on April 15, and just give us a ballpark figure of how much they made. If the gentleman will join me in this consideration, I'd be very grateful.

I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I thank the Chair. It's seldom that my dear friend from California errs, but I would point out that the 41 million acres that the Chair of the committee alluded to is actually 41 million acres under water. According to the latest statistics, that represents some 80 percent of the proven reserves that are available in terms of offshore waters.

So I don't know where the gentleman gets his statistics, but I would think after we pass this Responsive Government Act, that we could sit down and work out some legislation that would rescind those leases that are currently being banked by leaseholders and the consequences of which are reducing the supply of oil and gas so that as the demand increases, naturally the price explodes.

We cannot afford to have given away our natural resources to major oil companies and have them sit on it and do absolutely nothing, because the gentleman is right, and he well knows it, that the American people are hurting.

□ 1545

There is legislation I know that the dean of the Massachusetts delegation, Congressman MARKEY, has either filed or is preparing to file, and I am sure that he would welcome my good friend the former Attorney General of California to be an original cosponsor.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), a leader in universal health care activities.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman CONYERS for yielding, and I rise in support of H.R. 6344, the Responsive Government Act of 2008.

Before I speak to that bill, I also want to register my support for the previous bill, H. Res. 1293, which honors the memory of the three brave young men, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, who gave their lives to ensure that the right to vote would be guaranteed to every American. We thank them and their families for their service and their sacrifice.

Among its provisions, the Responsive Government Act of 2008 will make a minor but important amendment to the landmark Hatch-Waxman Act patent act of 1984. This act of 1984 has done much to make medicine available and more affordable for countless people in this country. Inadvertently though, in patent term restoration, there is an inflexible deadline provision which has the potential to limit the good that the act can do.

Within H.R. 6344 is a provision which will grant discretion to the Patent and Trademark Office to excuse minor filing errors as is the case with other patents. This will ensure that needed medication that treats sometimes life-threatening illnesses, like Angiomax and others, will be more readily available, while continuing to ensure patient protections.

This is an issue I have worked on as Chair of the Health Braintrust of the Congressional Black Caucus, and I am glad that it is on the floor for passage today. I applaud my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, for his work on this bill, and the Chair and ranking member of the committee for their leadership, and I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 6344.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6344 the "Responsive Government Act of 2008. This bill is important because it liberalizes the technical filing requirements in judicial proceedings in the event of a disaster or other emergency situation. The bill provides flexibility in both criminal and civil matters, including patents. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Hurricane Katrina was the costliest and one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the

United States. It was the sixth-strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the third-strongest hurricane on record that made landfall in the United States. Katrina formed on August 23 during the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season and caused devastation along much of the north-central gulf coast of the United States. Most notable in media coverage were the catastrophic effects on the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, and in coastal Mississippi. Due to its sheer size, Katrina devastated the gulf coast as far as 100 miles from the storm's epicenter.

The images of the detriment and devastation remain deeply etched in my mind and much of the remnants of the tragedy still remain in those communities today. The storm surge caused severe and catastrophic damage along the gulf coast, devastating the cities of Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Biloxi/Gulfport in Mississippi, Mobile, Alabama, and Slidell, Louisiana and other towns in Louisiana. Levees separating Lake Pontchartrain and several canals from New Orleans were breached a few days after Hurricane Katrina had subsided, subsequently flooding 80 percent of the city and many areas of neighboring parishes for weeks. In addition, severe wind damage was reported well inland.

This commonsense bill recognizes that deadlines in judicial proceeding need to be relaxed when there are natural disasters and emergencies. I support the bill.

Specifically, the bill provides federal courts with needed emergency authority to toll or delay judicial proceedings in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation in which courts are closed, making it impracticable for parties, including the United States, to comply with certain filing deadlines.

Section 3 of the bill provides authority to the Director of the Patent and Trademark office to waive statutory provisions governing patents, trademark registrations and applications to the extent the Director deems necessary to protect the rights and privileges of people affected by certain emergencies or a major disaster.

The Responsive Government Act provides essential flexibility to the courts and the PTO to help ameliorate the practical difficulties caused by these emergency situations.

Finally, Section 4 provides the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office with the discretion to accept an application for a patent term extension filed not later than three days after the expiration of the 60-day period in Title 35 U.S.C. 156, provided the Director determines that the delay in filing the application was unintentional.

This provision, which corrects an anomaly in the patent law, will provide needed flexibility to the PTO to excuse minor filing errors and will promote important clinical research that can benefit the lives of seriously ill patients. This provision has the support of leading medical practitioners across the Nation.

This bill is common sense. It relaxes the technical filing requirements during times of disaster or emergency. Given the disaster and tough times that we have faced within the last 8 years, with disasters such as Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, and the tragic events of 9/11, Congress needs to have a sensible response to these events. Litigants and patentees should not be penalized because of force majeure and other events beyond their control.

Because this bill is sensible, responsible legislation, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield back any time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6344.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6109) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster hazard mitigation program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6109

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Section 203(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(f)) is amended to read as follows:

"(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

"(1) BASE AMOUNT.—The amount of financial assistance made available to a State (including amounts made available to local governments of the State) under this section for a fiscal year—

"(A) shall be not less than the lesser of—

"(i) \$575,000; or

"(ii) the amount that is equal to 1.0 percent of the total funds appropriated to carry out this section for the fiscal year; and

"(B) shall be subject to the criteria specified in subsection (g).

"(2) COMPETITIVE PROGRAM.—Other than the amounts described in paragraph (1), financial assistance made available to a State (including amounts made available to local governments of the State) under this section shall be awarded on a competitive basis subject to the criteria in subsection (g).

"(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of financial assistance made available to a State (including amounts made available to local governments of the State) for a fiscal year shall not exceed 15 percent of the total amount of funds appropriated to carry out this section for the fiscal year."

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 203(m) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(m)) is amended to read as follows:

"(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011."

(c) REFERENCES.—Section 203 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking "PREDISASTER" and inserting "PRE-DISASTER";

(2) in the subsection heading for subsection (i) by striking "PREDISASTER" and inserting "PRE-DISASTER";

(3) by striking "Predisaster" each place it appears and inserting "Pre-Disaster"; and

(4) by striking "predisaster" each place it appears and inserting "pre-disaster".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6109.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise and ask the House to support H.R. 6109, as amended, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008. I want to especially thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA, and my own subcommittee ranking member, Congressman GRAVES, for their very strong, bipartisan support of this essential bill.

H.R. 6109, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2008, reauthorizes the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program for 3 years. The bill authorizes grants to States awarded on a competitive basis, except that each State, and this is important, each State receives a statutory minimum of \$557,000 or 1 percent of the funds appropriated, whichever is less. In this way, the bill increases the minimum amount that each State can receive under the program from \$500,000 to \$575,000 and codifies the competitive selection process of the program, as currently administered by FEMA. The bill authorizes \$250 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011 for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program.

The PDM program was first authorized in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The program, administered by FEMA through its Mitigation Division, is authorized under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, which we call the Stafford Act, of course. Pursuant to section 203(m) of the Stafford Act, the PDM program terminates on September 30 of this year unless Congress reauthorizes the program.

This program provides cost-effective technical and financial assistance to State and local governments, which on the basis of a study of the effects of this quite new program, we now know reduces injuries, loss of life and damage to property caused by natural disasters. It provides grants to the States, territories, tribal governments and local communities on a competitive basis.

According to the CBO, on average future losses are reduced by about \$3

measured in discounted present value for each \$1 spent on these projects, including both Federal and non-Federal spending.

Madam Speaker, this is not a program which we have lightly authorized. We learned some lessons from Katrina. We have learned lessons, I believe, Madam Speaker, this week when entire sections of our country are being ravaged by flooding.

This amount of money we do not pretend will allow pre-disaster programs to be undertaken for every event that can be expected. What it does do is to draw to the attention of local and State governments to what they and what we should be doing to reduce our own liability from particularly these natural disasters.

Whenever a disaster occurs, Madam Speaker, this Congress will do what it must do. It will step up and do what we are doing in Louisiana. We do not pretend that the worst disaster in recorded United States history could have somehow been even perhaps mitigated by these funds, but we do believe that Katrina tells the story that every bit of mitigation you do, \$3 for every \$1 invested, says CBO, saves, first of all, lives, and then, of course, saves the investment that we ourselves will be required to make, and as Americans, we can say will make, in the event of a disaster.

We all owe it to the country and to our local jurisdictions to use this money strategically and wisely so that it has the greatest effect, given the amount available.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6109, which reauthorizes the successful Pre-Disaster Mitigation program for the next 3 years. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program was originally authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as a pilot program to study the effectiveness of mitigation grants given to communities before disaster strikes. Prior to the creation of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, hazard mitigation primarily occurred after a disaster through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Every disaster costs us in damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure, and potentially in the loss of lives.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program prevents damage and destruction by helping communities to act proactively through projects that reduce the cost and limit the adverse impacts of future disasters.

With FEMA's assistance, local governments identify cost-effective mitigation projects, which are awarded on a competitive basis. Since its inception, mitigation programs have helped local communities save lives and reduce property damage through a wide range of mitigation projects, such as home elevations, buyouts, improved shelters and warning systems.

In 2005, the National Institute of Building Sciences issued a study that conclusively demonstrated Federal mitigation programs saved the Federal Government money. Specifically, the study found that for every dollar spent on mitigation, the American taxpayer saves over \$3 in Federal disaster payments.

Mitigation projects also are intended to save lives, and this year's record tornado season underscores the importance of lifesaving warning sirens. Given the tremendous destructive power of tornadoes, you can't mitigate against property damage, but you can mitigate the loss of life with a warning system. I particularly want to thank Chairwoman NORTON for including report language clarifying that Congress intended tornado warning sirens to be funded in this program.

At this point I would like to read a paragraph from the committee report on this subject:

"The Committee notes the clear purpose of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program to reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage to property from natural disasters and the program's broad statutory authority to provide Federal assistance for projects, such as tornado warning sirens, which serve this purpose. Given the sudden nature and extreme destructive power of tornadoes, the Committee believes warning sirens are a cost-effective measure for mitigating injuries and loss of life from tornadoes. The Committee believes that Section 203 of the Stafford Act clearly authorizes mitigation assistance for tornado warning sirens."

I believe this language makes it perfectly clear that Congress intended tornado warning sirens to be an eligible project under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program and Congress expects the Federal Emergency Management Agency to administer the program accordingly.

In conclusion, mitigation works. It saves lives, limits future damage, and reduces Federal disaster costs. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation program is a worthy program, and I look forward to working with Chairwoman NORTON to reauthorize it this year.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1600

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, it is a special pleasure and honor to introduce the Chair of the full committee whose knowledge and work long before this bill finally came forward in the form of an actual bill has been seminal to the act before us today, the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. And I want to compliment Chairwoman Norton for the splendid work she has done chairing the subcommittee, holding hours of hearings on the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program and on various as-

pects of FEMA's programs that have unfolded in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She has rendered enormous service to the country, to the people of flood prone, disaster prone areas of the country through these hearings and done a superb job. And to Mr. GRAVES, the ranking member of the subcommittee, and Mr. MICA who has fully participated in the shaping of this legislation. It is truly a bipartisan initiative, but one that goes back a very long time.

It was in 1988, then the Committee on Public Works and Transportation authorized FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program. We thought then this was a very important initiative to provide grants to communities so that they could put in place initiatives, whether structures or nonstructural approaches to protecting communities and individuals, businesses, residences against the hazards of flood, tornado, hurricane and, in our northern tier, excessive snowfall.

The idea was to build better after a disaster and be better prepared for the next time around. But that idea evolved over time, and it was in the mid 1990s that then James Lee Witt, the administrator of FEMA, conceived the idea of taking hazard mitigation a step further to pre-disaster mitigation. He called it Project Impact.

He came up to the committee, now the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to meet with then Chairman Bud Shuster and me as the ranking member to discuss Project Impact, saying that we can save money, as the gentlewoman, the minority leader for this afternoon, has indicated, that we can save money by protecting against what we know will be hazards, disasters happening in the future. And so the committee crafted in 2000 the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program in our FEMA disaster Hazard Mitigation Program.

Out of that program was allocated to the City of Seattle \$50 million to strengthen structures in the city against the possibility of earthquake. The city invested some \$50 million in strengthening public structures, public buildings, public roadways, and private structures as well. And then they had an earthquake. After the effects of the earthquake had been analyzed, FEMA estimated that the Pre-Disaster Mitigation investments saved \$500 million in what would have been damaged public and private structures alike, tenfold the value of the investment.

The program then was further extended as the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure continued its work. I remember subsequent Chairman Don Young saying so often: Yes, we have to be prepared. FEMA is in the Department of Homeland Security and has to be part of protecting against the security threat to the United States. We don't know when it will come. We know that we have to be prepared. But we do know that every year, said Chairman Young, there are going to be

hurricanes, there is going to be a flood, there is going to be whiteouts, there is going to be an earthquake, and we need to continue this program. So with bipartisan support, we have extended the program.

In the aftermath, one of the best examples was the town of Valmeyer, Illinois, devastated in the 1993 Mississippi River flood. For \$45 million in Federal, State, and local funding and Pre-Disaster Mitigation, the town was simply relocated to bluffs 400 feet above the site of the former town. This year, as the Mississippi overflowed its banks in many places along its course from southern Minnesota through Iowa, the Chicago Tribune ran a story entitled, "Valmeyer, Illinois, Soaked in '93, Town Now High and Dry." Quoting a resident, Eleanor Anderson, 86 years old, home destroyed in the 1993 flood, said, "I am sure glad I don't have to worry now that we are high enough here on the hill." That is a reasonable investment of public funds.

Story County, Iowa, in 1990, 1993 and 1996, homes were flooded out. Finally, in 1996, with Pre-Disaster Mitigation Funds, those six homes were bought out and moved out. And in 1998 when the floods struck, FEMA estimated that the Federal and State and local governments saved \$541,900 in what would have been damages to restore those homes.

In my own district, in 1999, on the eve of July 4, on July 3, straight-line winds called a derecho of 100 miles an hour in a swath 15 miles wide swept through the Superior National Forest, the Boundary Waters Canoe area on the U.S.-Canadian border, and blew down 26 million trees, 3 years' worth of timber harvest for the whole State of Minnesota, creating an enormous hazard for fire to local residents. In the area outside of the wilderness, trees had to be subjected to salvage logging to clear out a way from homes, from resorts, and from outfitter buildings.

Following up, FEMA came to the area and said, with Pre-Disaster Mitigation funds, we propose a 75/25 participation to install sprinkler systems around all the homes and all the businesses in the Gunflint Trail area to protect against the potential, the very real potential of future fire. Almost every resident and business participated in the program, and about 96 percent of the people maintained their sprinkler systems. Then last year, in April of 2007, a fire broke out. Careless campers left the site of their camping and a wind came up and blew it into what eventually became a 75,000 acre fire. The homes that had the sprinkler systems, the buildings that were protected with the sprinkler systems were unscathed. Those that weren't, 147 of them, burned.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation saves lives, saves property, saves costs. It is a sound investment in the future. We have authorized in this legislation the program for an additional 3 years at \$250 million each for fiscal 2009 through

2011. The chair of the subcommittee, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) has outlined all of the specifics of the bill; I need not go into them.

I simply speak to reinforce the specific examples the benefits of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. It is a sound investment in the future of this country for all of us as we are subjected to increasing amounts of disaster from natural causes.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAVIS of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6109, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING REDEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5001) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building located in the District of Columbia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5001

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "Old Post Office Building" means the land, including any improvements thereon and specifically including the Pavilion Annex, that is located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., in the District of Columbia, and under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the General Services Administration.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) For almost a decade the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives has expressed considerable concern about the waste and neglect of the valuable, historic Old Post Office Building, centrally located in the heart of the Nation's Capitol on Pennsylvania Avenue, and has pressed the General Services Administration to develop and fully use this building.

(2) The policy of the Government long has been to preserve and make usable historic properties rather than sell them for revenue.

(3) Security concerns related to this property's proximity to the White House may hinder the sale of the Old Post Office Building to a private party.

(4) On December 28, 2000, the General Services Administration, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, submitted to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works of the

Senate a plan for the comprehensive redevelopment of the Old Post Office.

(5) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved the redevelopment plan on May 16, 2001, and the Committees on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works approved the plan on June 15, 2001.

(6) The General Services Administration issued a Request for Expression of Interest in 2004 for developing the Old Post Office Building that generated a healthy, private sector interest, but the General Services Administration has failed to proceed with implementation of the approved redevelopment plan.

(7) Redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building will preserve the historic integrity of this unique and important asset, put it to its highest and best use, and provide a lucrative financial return to the Government.

SEC. 4. REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator of General Services is directed to proceed with redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building, in accordance with existing authorities available to the Administrator and consistent with the redevelopment plan previously approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

(b) *RELOCATION OF EXISTING BUILDING TENANTS.*—The Administrator is authorized, notwithstanding section 3307 of title 40, United States Code, and otherwise in accordance with existing authorities available to the Administrator, to provide replacement space for Federal agency tenants housed in the Old Post Office Building whose relocation is necessary for redevelopment of the Building.

SEC. 5. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator of General Services shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on any proposed redevelopment agreement related to the Old Post Office Building.

(b) *CONTENTS.*—A report transmitted under this section shall include a summary of a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed development agreement and a description of the material provisions of the proposed agreement.

(c) *REVIEW BY CONGRESS.*—Any proposed development agreement related to the Old Post Office Building may not become effective until the end of a 30-day period of continuous session of Congress following the date of the transmittal of the report required under this section. For purposes of the preceding sentence, continuity of a session of Congress is broken only by an adjournment sine die, and there shall be excluded from the computation of such 30-day period any day during which either House of Congress is not in session during an adjournment of more than 3 days to a day certain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 5001, as amended, and to ask for the support of the House, a bill to direct the General Services Administration to redevelop the Old Post Office located on Pennsylvania Avenue, right in the center of the District of Columbia.

On January 16, 2008, I introduced H.R. 5001, the Old Post Office Development Act, to redevelop the nearly empty Old Post Office, a unique historic treasure which was once the post office of the Nation's capital located at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, owned by the Federal Government's GSA.

For more than ten years, our Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management has expressed continuing and mounting concern about the neglect and underutilization of this invaluable government site, and has pressed the GSA to develop and use this building to its full potential.

Madam Speaker, when I brought this bill to the full committee, Mr. OBERSTAR from whom we just heard on a prior bill and Ranking Member MICA lead what could only be called a round of hoorahs and hosannas that this bill was being brought forward.

More than 20 million visitors come. This building is so strategically placed that it is almost certain that constituents of Members have ventured into this extraordinary building which looks like just the kind of building that invites people on the outside, and then they come on the inside and they can't believe what they see. So the building is well known not only by our subcommittee but by the full committee. Worse, as I shall relate, is why it has not been brought forward.

The Old Post Office Building was completed in 1899. That makes it one of the oldest buildings here, and is certainly one of the oldest, perhaps the oldest, for which rehabilitation and preservation has not somehow begun or envisioned. This grand example of Romanesque revival occupies an entire city block. Because it was the main post office, it was strategically located for a purpose not as an historic building, but in the 19th century when that is how you built post offices.

The building was placed on the Historic Register in 1973, and remains one of the city's most unusual, interesting, and appealing landmarks. Part of the appeal of the Old Post Office Building also is its central location in the Federal Triangle, its proximity to many Federal historic sites not the least of them the White House which is a stone's throw from the Old Post Office. Our major metro lines converge there, and a host of restaurants and other amenities surround this location's major tourist site.

□ 1615

This bill is important for the city I represent, as well, but its importance

goes far beyond any particular district. This building belonged to the United States of America before there was any home rule in the District of Columbia.

When the Congress of the United States ran the District of Columbia, they saw fit to have a post office befitting the Nation's capital. You would have thought, particularly given the history of developing historic structures here, for which the GSA deserves special credit, that this building certainly, at some point in the 20th century, would have been rehabilitated.

Actually, this particular struggle started in 1998. Congress passed the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1999, and in that act our committee required the GSA to submit a development plan for the Old Post Office before any Federal funds could be used to convert the space. And on February 28, 2000, GSA did in fact, pursuant to law, submit such a plan as required.

Madam Speaker, no bill, and in my entire history on the committee, no bill has been necessary for this work. We don't trouble the Congress with this work. But it took a bill now 10 years ago just to get a plan. On May 16, 2001, the Committee on Transportation and the Infrastructure passed an additional resolution authorizing the development of the Old Post Office. So we come forward with bills that ordinarily are unnecessary because the GSA goes ahead and submits a prospectus that we approve, and that's it.

The GSA finally in 2005 did issue what we call a request for expression of interest. That's the way we do federal development in our subcommittee.

This is a priceless treasure. If you go to the inside of the building, you see it was built and looks now almost like a cavernous space, most of it is ceiling like this chamber, Madam Speaker, without the room to place for offices or the like. So in order to decide whether or not this was a property which the private sector thought could be developed, we required GSA to ask for expressions of interest.

The GSA received apparently many indications of interest from the private sector. But the agency has never proceeded to the next step. For that reason—and remember we are talking about 2005 when the request for expression of interest occurred—as has been required, every step along the way, a bill is going to be necessary to move the GSA to act and that is what H.R. 5001 does, so that this structure can in fact be utilized for the benefit of Federal taxpayers, for the benefit of visitors to the city, and of course for the benefit of the city as well.

The Congress may be curious as to why there would be any resistance. It is difficult to understand, Madam Speaker, considering that for three, almost four decades we have poured money into the Old Post Office because they didn't want to let it just stand there and get no revenue. So each year the Federal Government loses \$6 mil-

lion or \$7 million more than it takes in from the tiny agencies around the rim of the cave, as it were.

If you multiply that over many decades, you will understand that pouring renovations into a building that needed a complete makeover, while allowing a tiny agency here or there to occupy whatever space you could find, has resulted in the loss of billions of dollars to the Federal Government, when in fact we could have reversed that process, bringing billions of dollars of revenue for us, had we done what we did with the highly regarded Tariff Building, another one of the grand old buildings that stood here when I was a kid and where GSA has already shown it can make excellent use of otherwise antiquated and virtually useless structures.

What it did was to convert the old Tariff Building into the rarified, high priced Monaco Hotel, which sits across from the Portrait Gallery. That building quickly returned revenue to the Federal Government. The redevelopment of the Tariff Building shows what can be achieved when the Federal Government works with the private sector to redevelop a site that brings a return to the government, provides a safe and necessary facility for the city and for visitors, and importantly, preserves a priceless, truly priceless historic treasure.

Madam Speaker, our bill now has language that makes it impossible for the GSA to refuse to proceed, as it has done with our prior two bills. GSA is directed to proceed. We waived the prospectus. OMB is not implicated. And I should say for the record that I think the villain in the piece is OMB and not GSA. For reasons known only to itself, and some have said that they wanted to sell the building, even though there is a bipartisan "no" to, in fact, selling any historic structure in the United States. Whatever is the reason, it took a killing in front of the building when they had rented it out to a George Washington University student organization in order to get any movement on the bill, and now the Congress is going to have to make it impossible for OMB to keep GSA from proceeding or face contempt of Congress.

We also take away the excuse that there are agencies in the building. There are a couple of tiny agencies in the building, the kind of agencies that GSA can relocate on the back of an envelope because it relocates very large agencies all the time. Congress has done its homework. It is now time for the GSA to do its work and start bringing some revenue here from this historic structure and some pleasure for the many visitors who wander inside and are distressed by what they see.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5001, the Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008.

The bill would direct the General Services Administration to enter into an agreement to develop the Old Post Office building on Pennsylvania Avenue in accordance with its plan approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in 2001. The bill would also authorize GSA to relocate the Federal agencies currently occupying the Old Post Office Building.

The management of Federal real property has been on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list since 2003. One of the key issues the GAO has raised is the problem of unused and under-used Federal property.

Currently, the Old Post Office is under-used and has been for some time. Over the years, there have been many attempts to make better use of this historic building. The most recent attempt was made after Congress passed the Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act in 1976. This act, among other things, required GSA to encourage the public use of public buildings for "cultural, educational and recreational activities" and allowed Federal entities and commercial enterprises to share federally owned buildings.

Unfortunately, the mixed use of Federal and commercial space was not successful in this case. Today, there are only a handful of Federal agencies in this historic building on Pennsylvania Avenue, considered America's Main Street. This area of the city has undergone revitalization to help benefit and attract people who live, work and visit the Nation's capital. Allowing for the redevelopment and reuse of this important building will help to further the progress made in this area of the city.

Authorizing GSA to proceed with the full redevelopment of this building has the potential of being a win-win situation for the Federal Government, the taxpayers, and the local community. I support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5001, a bill to direct the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building, which is not only a landmark in the Nation's capital, but a jewel of "America's Main Street," Pennsylvania Avenue. I commend the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for introducing this legislation and for her work on this issue as Chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.

Completed in 1899, the Old Post Office building was intended to be the U.S. Post Office Department Headquarters building as well as the city's main post office. The Old Post Office building was awarded a place on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. This Romanesque building is the second tallest structure and one of the first steel-frame buildings in the District of Columbia.

Despite the magnificence of this building and its extraordinary location, it has been difficult to develop this building to its fullest potential. A renovation of the Old Post Office began in 1977 as part of the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue. In 1982, the General Services Administration, GSA, entered into a 55-year lease with a private sector developer

to lease and operate the Old Post Office building. The building was renovated as a multifunctional building that included office space, retail, and a food court. Unfortunately, this redevelopment effort was not successful because of high turnover among the retail businesses and low satisfaction among tenants. The original developer went into bankruptcy and the lender foreclosed on the leasehold.

Today, the Old Post Office building is an aging historical building that is inefficient, underutilized, and a financial drain on the Federal Building Fund. The building's large atrium and other factors contribute to the high costs of operating and maintaining the building.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has provided oversight and direction to GSA previously in attempts to foster the development of the Old Post Office, including requiring that GSA submit a viable development plan for the Old Post Office before any Federal funds be used to convert the space. Notwithstanding these efforts, the desired development has not occurred.

H.R. 5001, the "Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008", authorizes the Administrator of General Services to enter into an agreement to redevelop the Old Post Office Building in a manner that is beneficial to the Federal Government. This bill will not only help spur the redevelopment of this building but also help ensure that the taxpayers get the fullest return from this historic and treasured structure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 5001, the "Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008."

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I too am prepared to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5001, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1630

RAW SEWAGE OVERFLOW COMMUNITY RIGHT-TO-KNOW ACT

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2452) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to ensure that sewage treatment plants monitor for and report discharges of raw sewage, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2452

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(25) **SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW.**—The term 'sanitary sewer overflow' means an overflow, spill, release, or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer system. Such term does not include municipal combined sewer overflows or other discharges from a municipal combined storm and sanitary sewer system and does not include wastewater backups into buildings caused by a blockage or other malfunction of a building lateral that is privately owned. Such term includes overflows or releases of wastewater that reach waters of the United States, overflows or releases of wastewater in the United States that do not reach waters of the United States, and wastewater backups into buildings that are caused by blockages or flow conditions in a sanitary sewer other than a building lateral.

"(26) **TREATMENT WORKS.**—The term 'treatment works' has the meaning given that term in section 212."

SEC. 3. MONITORING, REPORTING, AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF SEWER OVERFLOWS.

Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(r) **SEWER OVERFLOW MONITORING, REPORTING, AND NOTIFICATIONS.**—

"(1) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.**—After the last day of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which regulations are issued under paragraph (4), a permit issued, renewed, or modified under this section by the Administrator or the State, as the case may be, for a publicly owned treatment works shall require, at a minimum, beginning on the date of the issuance, modification, or renewal, that the owner or operator of the treatment works—

"(A) institute and utilize a feasible methodology, technology, or management program for monitoring sewer overflows to alert the owner or operator to the occurrence of a sewer overflow in a timely manner;

"(B) in the case of a sewer overflow that has the potential to affect human health, notify the public of the overflow as soon as practicable but not later than 24 hours after the time the owner or operator knows of the overflow;

"(C) in the case of a sewer overflow that may imminently and substantially endanger human health, notify public health authorities and other affected entities, such as public water systems, of the overflow immediately after the owner or operator knows of the overflow;

"(D) report each sewer overflow on its discharge monitoring report to the Administrator or the State, as the case may be, by describing—

"(i) the magnitude, duration, and suspected cause of the overflow;

"(ii) the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, or prevent recurrence of the overflow; and

"(iii) the steps taken or planned to mitigate the impact of the overflow; and

"(E) annually report to the Administrator or the State, as the case may be, the total number of sewer overflows in a calendar year, including—

"(i) the details of how much wastewater was released per incident;

"(ii) the duration of each sewer overflow;

"(iii) the location of the overflow and any potentially affected receiving waters;

"(iv) the responses taken to clean up the overflow; and

"(v) the actions taken to mitigate impacts and avoid further sewer overflows at the site.

"(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

"(A) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—The notification requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C) shall not apply a sewer overflow that is a wastewater backup into a single-family residence.

"(B) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—The reporting requirements of paragraphs (1)(D) and (1)(E) shall not apply to a sewer overflow that is a release of wastewater that occurs in the course of maintenance of the treatment works, is managed consistently with the treatment works' best management practices, and is intended to prevent sewer overflows.

"(3) **REPORT TO EPA.**—Each State shall provide to the Administrator annually a summary of sewer overflows that occurred in the State.

"(4) **RULEMAKING BY EPA.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator, after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, shall issue regulations to implement this subsection, including regulations to—

"(A) establish a set of criteria to guide the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works in—

"(i) assessing whether a sewer overflow has the potential to affect human health or may imminently and substantially endanger human health; and

"(ii) developing communication measures that are sufficient to give notice under paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C); and

"(B) define the terms 'feasible' and 'timely' as such terms apply to paragraph (1)(A), including site specific conditions.

"(5) **APPROVAL OF STATE NOTIFICATION PROGRAMS.**—

"(A) **REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL.**—

"(i) **IN GENERAL.**—After the date of issuance of regulations under paragraph (4), a State may submit to the Administrator evidence that the State has in place a legally enforceable notification program that is substantially equivalent to the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C).

"(ii) **PROGRAM REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION.**—If the evidence submitted by a State under clause (i) shows the notification program of the State to be substantially equivalent to the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C), the Administrator shall authorize the State to carry out such program instead of the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C).

"(iii) **FACTORS FOR DETERMINING SUBSTANTIAL EQUIVALENCY.**—In carrying out a review of a State notification program under clause (ii), the Administrator shall take into account the scope of sewer overflows for which notification is required, the length of time during which notification must be made, the scope of persons who must be notified of sewer overflows, the scope of enforcement activities ensuring that notifications of sewer overflows are made, and such other factors as the Administrator considers appropriate.

"(B) **REVIEW PERIOD.**—If a State submits evidence with respect to a notification program under subparagraph (A)(i) on or before the last day of the 30-day period beginning on the date of issuance of regulations under paragraph (4), the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C) shall not begin to apply to a publicly owned treatment works located in the State until the date on which the Administrator completes a review of the notification program under subparagraph (A)(ii).

"(C) **WITHDRAWAL OF AUTHORIZATION.**—If the Administrator, after conducting a public hearing, determines that a State is not administering and enforcing a State notification program authorized under subparagraph (A)(ii) in accordance with the requirements

of this paragraph, the Administrator shall so notify the State and, if appropriate corrective action is not taken within a reasonable time, not to exceed 90 days, the Administrator shall withdraw authorization of such program and enforce the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C) with respect to the State.

“(6) SPECIAL RULES CONCERNING APPLICATION OF NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—After the last day of the 30-day period beginning on the date of issuance of regulations under paragraph (4), the requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C) shall—

“(A) apply to the owner or operator of a publicly owned treatment works and be subject to enforcement under section 309, and

“(B) supersede any notification requirements contained in a permit issued under this section for the treatment works to the extent that the notification requirements are less stringent than the notification requirements of paragraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C), until such date as a permit is issued, renewed, or modified under this section for the treatment works in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

“(A) SEWER OVERFLOW.—The term ‘sewer overflow’ means a sanitary sewer overflow or a municipal combined sewer overflow.

“(B) SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE.—The term ‘single-family residence’ means an individual dwelling unit, including an apartment, condominium, house, or dormitory. Such term does not include the common areas of a multi-dwelling structure.”

SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.

(a) PURPOSE OF STATE REVOLVING FUND.—Section 601(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” the first place it appears; and

(2) by inserting after “section 320” the following: “, and (4) for the implementation of requirements to monitor for sewer overflows under section 402”.

(b) WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS.—Section 603(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” the first place it appears; and

(2) by inserting after “section 320 of this Act” the following: “, and (4) for the implementation of requirements to monitor for sewer overflows under section 402”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2452.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2452, the Sewage Overflow Community Right-To-Know Act, offered by my colleague on

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. BISHOP, is an important commonsense proposal to enhance the monitoring and public notification of sewage spills.

I applaud Mr. BISHOP’s work to raise the public’s awareness of sewage spills and for his tenacity in bringing together relevant stakeholders on this issue to work through potential differences and produce the fine product under consideration today. I also applaud the work of our colleague, Mr. LOBIONDO, for his efforts in supporting and advocating for H.R. 2452.

Public notification of sewage overflows is an important topic that has not received the attention it rightly deserves. During committee hearings on this legislation last summer, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment received testimony on the overwhelming extent of the problem of sewage overflows. According to the Environmental Protection Agency’s own numbers, the frequency and volume of annual sewage overflows is staggering.

For combined sewage systems, EPA estimates that 850 billion gallons of raw or partially treated sewage is discharged annually into local waters. For separate sanitary sewer systems, EPA estimates that 23- to 75,000 of these sanitary sewage system overflows occur each year in the United States, discharging a total volume of between 3 and 10 billion gallons annually.

Worse still is the fact that these sewage overflows can be laden with potentially harmful chemicals, pathogens, viruses, and bacteria and often wind up in local rivers and streams, city streets, parks, or, in unfortunate cases, directly into people’s homes.

These statistics further emphasize the importance of investment in our Nation’s water-related infrastructure. For too long our communities and citizens have been waiting for us to renew our commitment to meeting the water-related infrastructure needs of this country. While the House of Representatives strongly approved legislation to reinvest and rebuild and replace our failing and outdated waste-water treatment infrastructure and sewers, we have faced continued opposition from this administration investing in our Nation’s infrastructure.

I remain hopeful that we will be able to send legislation to the President this year that will meet the water-related needs that we all know exist and are necessary to ensure the economic and environmental health of our Nation.

However, in the interim, we need to make sure that the public is aware of sewage levels to give the individuals the opportunity to stay out of harm’s way. It makes no sense for sewage agencies to know where and when overflows are occurring but to avoid making this information readily available to the public. This type of practice defies common sense. Equally troublesome are agencies that lack sufficient

monitoring technologies or programs to alert them to the presence of sewage overflows.

The legislation under consideration here today is an essential step in protecting the public’s health and environment from the dangers of sewage overflows. H.R. 2452, the Sewage Community Right-to-Know Act, is a commonsense approach to enhance the monitoring and notification of sewage overflows to protect human health and the environment. It is also an approach that can be achieved without significant burden to States and local governments. Monitoring and providing public notification on sewage overflows provides the greatest opportunity to avoid direct contact and potentially harmful pollutants as well.

Facilities’ rapid responses to overflows in order to minimize the potential harm to the environment, this legislation amends the Clean Water Act to ensure that all publicly owned treatment works incorporate enhanced monitoring notification and reporting requirements into the existing permits for those systems under their operational control.

Under this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is given 1 year to issue regulations to define the parameters for monitoring and notification to be carried out by the publicly owned treatment works. Following completion of this rulemaking, all publicly owned treatment works are required within a defined time period to incorporate the monitoring and notification criteria from the rulemaking into the existing clean water permits.

However, to help minimize potential paperwork concerns, this legislation allows owners and operators to incorporate the enhanced monitoring provisions in their existing permits as such permits come up for periodic renewal modification.

To enhance the availability of public information on sewer overflows, H.R. 2452 requires the enhanced notification requirements to take effect 30 days after completion of the rulemaking. The legislation under consideration today is slightly modified from the version that was reported favorably from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 15 to address a few technical and transitional concerns that were unresolved before the committee markup.

In addition, the bill under consideration today provides a mechanism for States with active notification programs to petition EPA for the ability to carry out the existing notification programs provided that these programs are determined to be functionally equivalent to the national standard for State notification programs called for in this legislation.

I commend the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. BOOZMAN, and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Mr. MICA, and my Chair, Mr. OBERSTAR,

for working in a bipartisan fashion to resolve all the outstanding issues related to this important legislation.

Let me conclude by thanking the following organizations for their efforts in reaching the compromised language that is under consideration today: The American Rivers, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies. The hard work and willingness of each of these organizations made it possible to reach this agreement and to bring forward this important bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

JUNE 23, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. TIM BISHOP,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK LOBIONDO,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR, RANKING MEMBER MICA, AND REPRESENTATIVES BISHOP AND LOBIONDO: On behalf of our members and supporters across the nation, thank you for reporting H.R. 2452, the Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act. Our organizations strongly support this legislation and applaud your efforts to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

By requiring public notification, H.R. 2452 could protect millions of Americans from exposure to untreated sewage spills that could make them sick. This first line of defense is critical as hundreds of billions of gallons of raw and partially treated sewage are dumped into our streams, rivers and lakes every year. Many American are unaware when a sewage spill occurs in the local waterways where their families swim and play.

The bacteria, viruses and parasites found in untreated sewage can cause severe symptoms including gastrointestinal problems, infection and fever, as well as heart, liver or kidney failure, arthritis and even cancer. By requiring the public to be notified when sewage spills threaten their health, we can help Americans protect their families by avoiding contaminated areas until the threat has passed.

Thank you again for your hard work on this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to see this bill enacted into law this Congress.

Sincerely,

Eli Weissman, Director of Government Affairs, American Rivers; Christy Leavitt, Clean Water Advocate, Environment America; Tiernan Sittenfeld, Legislative Director, League of Conservation Voters; Nancy Stoner, Director, Clean Water Project, Natural Resources Defense Council; David Jenkins, Government Affairs Director, Republicans for Environmental Protection; Angela Howe, Legal Manager, Surfrider Foundation.

Paul Schwartz, National Policy Coordinator, Clean Water Action; Shawnee Hoover, Legislative Director, Friends of the Earth; Corry Westbrook, Legislative Director, National Wildlife Federation; Will Callaway, Legislative Di-

rector, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Debbie Sease, National Campaigns Director, Sierra Club.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION
OF SANITATION AGENCIES,
Sacramento, CA, June 23, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
Ranking Republican, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR AND RANKING MEMBER MICA: On behalf of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), I write in support of H.R. 2452, which would address the important issue of reporting and notification for sewer overflows. This legislation represents the culmination of a collaborative approach involving wastewater treatment operators and the environmental community. We appreciate the committee's willingness to address CASA's concerns.

CASA understands that the legislation has been amended to address one of our major concerns, which relates to longstanding California requirements for notification of regulatory authorities and the public in the event of a sewer spill that threatens public health or the environment. Specifically, the amendment provides a delegation process so that existing state notification programs designed to inform the public of health threats emanating from sewer overflows will not be supplanted, provided EPA determines that the programs are substantially equivalent to the federal program. This is vital to avoid inefficient and potentially confusing duplication of effort. Further, this amendment will allow POTWs to target their limited resources to fulfilling their responsibilities as first responders when spills occur. Second, we understand that the committee report clarifies that satellite collection systems are not subject to the provisions of the bill. This is important because many regional POTWs do not manage these upstream systems, and have no authority for spills that occur from facilities outside their jurisdiction.

There is one provision in the amended bill that has given rise to a new concern. This new provision is designed to ensure that the notification provisions of the bill will be implemented in a timely matter. However, as written, there is no mechanism for informing permittees of their new, fully enforceable obligations, which appears to be at odds with basic due process rights. We hope that as Congress considers the bill that this matter can be further reviewed and addressed prior to final passage.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to work with the committee on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

KAMIL AZOURY,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLEAN WATER AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. TIM BISHOP,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR, RANKING MEMBER MICA AND REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP: The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) appreciates your ongoing lead-

ership on, and commitment to, clean and safe water in the United States. As the leading advocacy organization representing the nation's public wastewater treatment agencies, NACWA has been working diligently with your staff and with American Rivers to come up with a common-sense bill to establish a consistent, national framework for monitoring and reporting sewer overflows. The result of this effort is the Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act (H.R. 2452) being considered by the House today. The bill goes a long way to address the needs and concerns of NACWA's public agency members, and we appreciate the hard work and good faith you have shown in helping craft this language.

NACWA, however, must share the bill and accompanying report with its Board of Directors before indicating whether it can offer its support for the legislation. We expect to have a decision on that matter this week. Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

KEN KIRK,
NACWA Executive Director.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2452, the Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act.

Our Nation has nearly 23,000 miles of ocean and gulf shoreline along the continental United States, 5,500 miles of Great Lakes shoreline and 3.6 million miles of rivers and streams. Public confidence and the quality of our Nation's waters is important to every citizen of this Nation, but it is also critical to industries that rely on safe and clean water.

To improve the public's confidence in the quality of our Nation's waters and protect public health and safety, Representatives BISHOP and LOBIONDO introduced H.R. 2452, the Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act. Sometimes, especially during wet weather, sewage systems can leak or overflow. This can be caused by inadequate design or capacity or by breaks in the system of pipes that are often old and in need of repair.

H.R. 2452 requires the publicly owned treatment works develop and implement a feasible monitoring program that is reasonably able to detect the occurrence of an overflow or leak in their sewer systems in a timely manner and to notify the public and health authorities whenever a release would threaten public health and safety.

The Environmental Protection Agency is to develop regulations to help local utilities implement these monitoring and notification requirements starting 180 days after these regulations have been issued. EPA or the States, as the case may be, are to incorporate these monitoring and notification requirements into local utilities' Clean Water Act permits on a rolling basis as their permits come up for renewal.

This should provide for the orderly implementation of this program and minimize the need to reopen utilities' permits. To minimize burdening local

utilities with duplicative notification requirements. States that have substantially equivalent release notification programs in place may seek EPA's approval to implement the State's notification program instead of the requirements under H.R. 2452. The bill authorizes the use of State revolving loan funds to help communities pay for this monitoring and notification program.

Under this program, EPA and local utilities must define the appropriate amount of monitoring to reduce risk and reasonably protect human health. However, they need to be careful not to unwisely use up funds that are meant to address the very infrastructure problems that are causing the release of sewage in the first place.

I congratulate Representatives BISHOP and LOBIONDO on sponsoring this bill. The public has a right to know when their waters are threatened by sewage release. So I encourage all Members to support this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2452, the "Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act". Let me begin by congratulating our Committee colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), for introducing legislation to provide common-sense standards for public notification of both combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows. This well-thought-out legislation will be a welcome addition to Federal efforts in protecting public health as well as the natural environment.

The most reliable way to prevent human illness from waterborne diseases and pathogens is to eliminate the potential for human exposure to the discharge of pollutants from combined sewer overflows ("CSOs") and sanitary sewer overflows ("SSOs"). This can occur either through the elimination of the discharge, or, in the event that a release does occur, to minimize the potential human contact to pollutants.

Unfortunately, Federal law does not provide uniform, national standards for public notification of combined and sanitary sewer overflows. Notification of sewer overflows is covered only by a patchwork of Federal regulations, State laws, and local initiatives aimed at limiting human exposure to discharges.

Potential human exposure to the pollutants found in sewer overflows can occur in a variety of ways. According to the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), the most common pathways include direct contact with sewer discharges in recreational waters and beaches, drinking water contaminated by sewer discharges, and consuming or handling contaminated fish or shellfish. However, humans are also at risk of direct exposure to sewer overflows, including sewer backups into residential buildings, city streets, and sidewalks.

In October 2007, in my own Congressional district, basements and city streets across the city of Duluth were flooded with sewer overflows that resulted from massive rainstorms in the Lake Superior basin. The Western Lake Superior Sanitary Sewer District reported at least seven major sewage overflows in its service area, with reports of numerous additional backups into local streets and basements.

Similarly, earlier this month, heavy rains in the Midwest and flooding along the Mississippi

River system resulted in a significant overload to the sewer systems and treatment works, and resulted in the release of untold gallons of untreated or partially treated sewage into the homes and street of communities along the Mississippi River system. As families are starting to return to their homes, they are in need of information on any health risks from coming into contact with potentially contaminated waters.

The cost of eliminating CSOs and SSOs throughout the nation is staggering. In its most recent Clean Water Needs Survey (2000), EPA estimated the future capital needs to address existing CSOs at \$50.6 billion. In addition, EPA estimates that it would require an additional \$88.5 billion in capital improvements to reduce the frequency of SSOs caused by wet weather and other conditions.

Upon being elected Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I made it a priority to renew the Federal commitment in addressing the nation's wastewater infrastructure needs.

In March 2007, the House approved two bills reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—H.R. 720, the "Water Quality Financing Act", and H.R. 569, the "Water Quality Investment Act"—to reauthorize appropriations for the construction, repair, and rehabilitation of wastewater infrastructure, including measures to address CSOs and SSOs.

H.R. 720 authorizes appropriations of \$14 billion over four years for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which is the primary source of Federal funds for wastewater infrastructure. H.R. 569 authorizes appropriations of \$1.7 billion in Federal grants over 5 years to address combined sewers and sanitary sewers. Both bills are pending before the United States Senate.

However, even with significant increases in Federal, State, and local investment, it is likely that sewer overflows will continue. In the event that a release does occur, the most effective way to prevent illness is to provide timely and adequate public notice to minimize human exposure to pollutants.

H.R. 2452, the "Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act", amends the Clean Water Act to provide a uniform, national standard for monitoring, reporting, and public notification of sewer overflows. This legislation, which was approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote, will strengthen the monitoring and public notification requirements of the Clean Water Act to encourage increased awareness and public notification of overflows in an expeditious manner.

The bill under consideration this afternoon is a slightly modified version of this legislation as reported by the Committee. The bill, as amended, makes a few technical and clarifying changes to the bill, as well as addresses a few transitional issues on the implementation of this Act.

The framework of this amendment was developed jointly by the majority and minority Members of the Committee, in consultation with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies, and American Rivers. I appreciate the hard work by all parties to help move this common-sense legislation to increase public awareness of combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows.

Again, I applaud Mr. BISHOP for introducing this common-sense legislation to ensure that our citizens are made aware of the potential public health threats caused by sewer overflows. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2452.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the residents of eastern Long Island, I would like to commend Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairwoman JOHNSON and Congressman LOBIONDO for their leadership and unwavering dedication to clean water issues. I would also like to thank the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff for their hard work and commitment to advancing this legislation to the full House today.

Madam Speaker, the EPA estimates that sewer overflows discharge roughly 850 billion gallons of raw or partially treated sewage annually into local waters. These discharges, laden with potentially harmful chemicals and pathogens, often end up in local rivers, lakes, streams, and the ocean.

In response, the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee has taken appropriate measures to restore the federal commitment to our Nation's wastewater infrastructure. In the 110th Congress, we have passed the Water Quality Financing Act, authorizing funds for the State Revolving Fund; and the Beach Protection Act, to carry out coastal recreation water quality monitoring and notification programs. Today, we take our commitment to water quality one step further by passing the Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-know Act.

As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure: The best way to avoid human health and environmental concerns from sewer overflows is to ensure that they never occur in the first place. However, even with significant increases in investment, sewer overflows will continue to occur. Therefore, it is imperative that we provide the public with comprehensive and timely notification of sewer overflows. We need to make sure that the public is aware of sewer overflows to give communities the opportunity to protect themselves.

It makes no sense for operators of local sewer systems to know where and when overflows are occurring, but not to promptly notify the public. Notification of sewer overflows will help the public avoid direct contact with potentially harmful chemicals and pathogens, and it will facilitate rapid response to overflows in order to minimize the potential harm to the environment.

Accordingly, the Bishop/LoBiondo Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-know Act provides for the monitoring, reporting and public notification of sewer overflows from Publicly Owned Treatment Works by requiring POTWs to institute and utilize programs to alert operators to overflows, notify the public within 24 hours of discovery of an overflow by an operator, and notify public health officials when human health is endangered.

The bill requires the Environmental Protection Agency establish criteria to guide POTWs in assessing whether a sewer overflow has the potential to affect human health and developing communication measures to ensure the public is notified. The bill also establishes a process for EPA to determine if a State's existing notification program is substantially equivalent to, or better than, the requirements established in this bill, and should be allowed to continue.

This bill is a result of hard work by several organizations who believe that Americans deserve clean, safe waters. Without their many insights this legislation would not have been possible. Therefore, I would like to thank American Rivers, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies for the countless hours they have given to refine the bill's language to ensure that public health and the environment are protected.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense legislation, and I again thank my friend and colleague, Mr. LOBIONDO, for his leadership and support in authoring the bill.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2452, the Sewage Overflow Right-to-Know Act.

Last year, nearly 250,000 gallons of partially treated sewage leaked from the Asbury Park, New Jersey, sewer treatment plant into the Atlantic Ocean threatening beach goers for miles down the shore. It was the result of a broken pipe that went undetected for over 6 hours. Fortunately, no one got sick and the environment did not suffer any long term consequences. But that is not always the case.

The EPA estimates approximately 900 billion gallons of untreated sewage enter our waterways each year, sickening nearly 3.5 million people annually.

That is why I was pleased to join with Representative BISHOP to introduce H.R. 2452, the Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act. This commonsense legislation will help keep the public safe from waterborne illness by requiring sewer operators to put in place monitoring systems to detect overflows and to promptly notify the public in the event of an overflow. While some States and localities have strong notification programs in place already, the majority do not. Establishing a minimum standard for public notification is the right thing to do.

H.R. 2452 makes sewer operators eligible for existing grant funds and loans to help defer the cost of implementing monitoring and notification programs, and it provides flexibility to States that already have these critical programs in place.

I want to thank the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and American Rivers for working with Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA to make improvements to this legislation. The bill before us today represents a good compromise between all interested parties.

I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR, Ranking Member MICA, Chairwoman JOHNSON, and Ranking Member BOOZMAN for their assistance and support. I also want to thank Jon Pawlow on Mr. MICA's Staff, Ryan Seiger on Mr. OBERSTAR's staff, and Mark Copeland on Mr. BISHOP's staff for their tremendous effort. I urge all members to support this commonsense measure.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I raise in support of H.R. 2452, the Raw Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act. Sewer overflows present serious threats to the environment and to human health. Our crumbling wastewater infrastructure has resulted in an increasing number of sewage spills, most commonly through combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows.

As this Congress works to reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and im-

prove our wastewater infrastructure, it is essential that our constituents receive prompt notification when a spill occurs. H.R. 2452 provides a national Standard for such notification and permits the use of Clean Water State Revolving funds for publically-owned treatment works to monitor their infrastructure for spills.

In California, we have an existing notification process that is the most aggressive in the Nation. I applaud Chairman OBERSTAR and his staff for recognizing the existence of State notification programs and ensuring that duplication of State and Federal standards does not overburden local sanitation officials. In this bill, States like California may operate their own notification program if the EPA certifies that it is substantially equivalent to the Federal program.

I would like to include a letter from the California Association of Sanitation Agencies that expresses full support for H.R. 2452. I commend Mr. BISHOP and Mr. OBERSTAR for their hard work on this legislation, and urge my colleagues to support the Raw Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
SANITATION AGENCIES,
Sacramento, CA, June 23, 2008.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representa-
tives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
Ranking Republican, Committee on Transpor-
tation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR AND RANKING MEMBER MICA: On behalf of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), I write in support of H.R. 2452, which would address the important issue of reporting and notification for sewer overflows. This legislation represents the culmination of a collaborative approach involving wastewater treatment operators and the environmental community. We appreciate the committee's willingness to address CASA's concerns.

CASA understands that the legislation has been amended to address one of our major concerns, which relates to longstanding California requirements for notification of regulatory authorities and the public in the event of a sewer spill that threatens public health or the environment. Specifically, the amendment provides a delegation process so that existing state notification programs designed to inform the public of health threats emanating from sewer overflows will not be supplanted, provided EPA determines that the programs are substantially equivalent to the federal program. This is vital to avoid inefficient and potentially confusing duplication of effort. Further, this amendment will allow POTWs to target their limited resources to fulfilling their responsibilities as first responders when spills occur. Second, we understand that the committee report clarifies that satellite collection systems are not subject to the provisions of the bill. This is important because many regional POTWs do not manage these upstream systems, and have no authority for spills that occur from facilities outside their jurisdiction.

There is one provision in the amended bill that has given rise to a new concern. This new provision is designed to ensure that the notification provisions of the bill will be implemented in a timely matter. However, as written, there is no mechanism for informing permittees of their new, fully enforceable obligations, which appears to be at odds with basic due process rights. We hope that as Congress considers the bill that this matter can be further reviewed and addressed prior to final passage.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to work with the committee on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

KAMIL AZOURY,
President.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I ask for support of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2452, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to ensure that publicly owned treatment works monitor for and report sewer overflows, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON LEVEE SAFETY

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6040) to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Army to provide reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6040

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

SECTION 1. COMMITTEE ON LEVEE SAFETY.

Section 9003(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3302(f)) is amended by striking "To the extent amounts are made available in advance in appropriations Acts," and inserting "Subject to the availability of appropriations,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 6040.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 6040, introduced by the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. MICA, and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources Environment, Mr. BOOZMAN, makes a technical change to title IX of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

Title IX of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 establishes the framework for the creation of the National Levee Safety Program to enhance the safety of levees and those living in levee-protected areas.

In the 3 years since hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Nation has refocused its attention to the safety and reliability of flood-control structures and how lives and livelihoods can be affected by their failure.

It is especially evident that to our colleagues from the States of Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, who have been experiencing the challenges of flooding from the Mississippi River and its tributary system over the past few weeks. The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment has held numerous hearings on the condition of the Nation's levees and other flood-control structures.

Throughout these hearings, one consistent theme was readily apparent, the condition of the Nation's flood control infrastructure is, at best, unknown, and in a few notable instances, is in desperate need for repair and upgrading. The subcommittee received testimony from noted experts in flood control infrastructure that of the thousands of miles of Federal, State, local, and privately owned levees, in this country little is known about the current condition, including whether levees were designed to meet current conditions or whether they have been properly maintained by the non-Federal interests.

□ 1645

Although rare, failure of flood control structures, such as levees, does occur, and has become more frequent in recent years, and actually, in the last recent weeks.

Levees are typically built in a certain location and to a specified height to provide a certain level of protection. However, the level of protection provided by a levee may change with time, due to natural or manmade changes. Natural changes may include land subsidence, sedimentation, vegetative growth in the floodway, or the potential implications of climate change.

Land use changes in an area such as upstream development, and the loss of natural upstream storage capacity, can induce hydrologic changes, including faster runoff that will reduce the level of protection provided by a levee.

Given the important flood damage reduction and development opportunities provided by levees, it is important for

the Nation to understand the true nature and condition of our flood control infrastructure, as well as to develop a comprehensive national policy to address issues related to the construction, operation and maintenance of projects and other management techniques for flood damage reduction.

In that light, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure included language in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 for the creation of a national Committee on Levee Safety.

The committee would be chaired by the Corps of Engineers and would include experts from around the Nation, working towards a short-term recommendation to Congress for the creation of an effective and efficient National Levee Safety Program.

The House and Senate conferees on the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 agreed on the importance of soliciting the recommendations of the Nation's leading experts in levee safety to aid in the drafting of a future National Levee Safety Program. Whatever recommendations are made by the Committee on Levee Safety, these recommendations will be referred back to the Congress for enactment in future legislation.

It is my understanding that the Corps has been working towards the creation of the committee, including the identification of a broad array of experts in levee safety. Unfortunately, the Corps believes it has hit a roadblock due to the specific wording of the authorization language that has prevented the Corps from utilizing available funding to pay for the travel expenses of the committee members.

H.R. 6040 is a simple modification to the existing authorization language to ensure that the Corps can utilize already identified funding to pay these expenses so that the Committee on Levee Safety can formally be assembled and begin its important work.

I applaud my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ranking Member MICA, and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment for volunteering to move this legislation through the House.

It is my hope that the other body can, also, quickly move this legislation to the President's desk so that the Levee Safety Committee can begin its important work and complete it later this summer.

I urge adoption of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS,
Washington, DC, June 23, 2008.

Hon. JAMES OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure, House of Representa-
tives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN AND CONGRESSMAN
MICA: I am writing on behalf of the more

than 140,000 members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to support passage of H.R. 6040, a bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Army to provide reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety.

As you recall, ASCE was a strong supporter of legislation to enact a national levee safety program in WRDA 2007. We believe that it is essential to clarify that the members of the Committee on Levee Safety be eligible to receive reimbursement for their travel incurred as a result of their volunteering to work on the Committee. The outcome of the Committee's study undoubtedly will have an important bearing on future legislative efforts to improve the safety of the nation's levee systems.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID G. MONGAN,
President.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we have seen in the gulf region and now along the Mississippi River what can happen when hurricane and flood protection infrastructure is inadequate or fails to perform. Yet more Americans are moving to coastal areas where the risk of hurricanes and floods is great.

In the south Atlantic region, the coastal population grew 51 percent from 1980 to 2000, and this trend is expected to continue. Along the Gulf of Mexico, the population has increased 38 percent from 1980 to 2000, and this trend is also expected to continue.

We do not know where the next hurricane or flood will hit, but we do know that many of our major cities, including parts of Washington, D.C., have a greater probability of flooding than did New Orleans.

For example, the City of Sacramento, California, has almost twice as many people as New Orleans; yet it has less flood protection than any other major city in America. Cities like Houston, St. Louis, and Miami also are at risk. We cannot treat citizens of these cities differently unless we have a policy reason that we can explain and justify to our constituents.

As we have learned from recent levee failures, our infrastructure is aging. What we know about the existence and conditions of these other levees we often learn when one fails or it is overwhelmed by a flood event. For instance, the State of California in 2005 declared a state of emergency in the Central Valley in anticipation of the failure of 24 levees. According to the State of California, it would cost more than \$5 billion to make critical delta levees, but not all delta levees, stronger in the face of flood and seismic events in the Central Valley.

In the past, Congress has taken steps to ensure that the Nation's flood damage reduction infrastructure is properly inventoried, inspected, and assessed. In 1986, the Congress authorized the National Dam Safety Program Act to conduct an inventory and assessments of all dams nationwide. The National Inventory of Dams shows that 45

percent of all Federal dams are at least 50 years old and that 80 percent of them are at least 30 years old.

We know less about the status and capabilities of our levees. There has never been a national inventory of levees. Little is known about the current condition of both Federal and non-Federal levees, including whether these levees were designed to meet current conditions or whether they have been properly maintained by the non-Federal interest.

Over the decades, levees have been built by different entities, at different times, and to different standards. They have been linked together to provide a protective system, but with such a mixture of conditions, the true level of protection may be in doubt.

Over time, development has taken place behind some of these levees so much more may be at risk in terms of lives and economic resources.

There is so much that we do not know about the levees in America that we cannot be sure how safe our cities and towns really are. We need more information.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 included language establishing a panel to develop recommendations for a National Levee Safety Program. However, the Committee on Levee Safety is unable to meet since a drafting error contained in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 inadvertently keeps the Army Corps of Engineers from carrying out important work.

H.R. 6040 strikes the incorrect language and replaces it with language stating the Committee on Levee Safety can develop its recommendations subject to the availability of appropriations.

This technical change will allow the Corps of Engineers to convene the Committee on Levee Safety as soon as this bill is enacted.

With the recommendations that will come from this Committee on Levee Safety, the Congress can develop a national policy for levee safety and a program to ensure that levees are functional and safe.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 6040.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6040, a bill to make a technical correction to a Water Resources and Development Act of 2007 provision authorizing the Secretary of the Army, acting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to establish a Committee on Levee Safety.

Title IX of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 authorizes the Corps to establish a committee of Federal, State, local, tribal, and private sector experts on levee safety to develop recommendations for a national levee safety program.

As the events of the last few years have clearly demonstrated, there is a serious concern with the condition of the Nation's primary structural flood control measures—the Nation's system of levees. These structures, which range from the Federally constructed and maintained levees along the lower Mississippi

River and tributaries, to Federal, State, and local levees nationwide, protect our lives and livelihoods from the risks of flooding. Within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers alone, there are between 12,000 to 13,000 miles of levees protecting everything from major metropolitan cities to towns and townships throughout the nation. Without a doubt, the health, safety, and security of countless lives depend on the resiliency and upkeep of these essential structures.

We have all witnessed the result of levee failure. Just 2 years ago, the flood walls surrounding three of the canals within the city of New Orleans failed, and the result was a major metropolitan city being underwater for days. Many of the communities impacted by this failure are still struggling today.

Just this past month, we watched as the rivers of the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries overflowed their banks and resulted in the unfortunate loss of life, as well as thousands of families losing their homes, their cars, and their businesses to the raging waters of the Mississippi River.

Cognizant of the importance of the Nation's system of levees, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure included a provision within the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to create a Committee on Levee Safety that would be tasked with developing recommendations for a national levee safety program.

The Secretary of the Army will establish the committee, and it will develop short-term recommendations to Congress for the creation of an effective and efficient National Levee Safety Program. The House and Senate conferees on the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 agreed on the importance of soliciting the recommendations of the Nation's leading experts in levee safety to aid in the drafting of a future National Levee Safety Program. The recommendations made by the committee on Levee Safety will be reported to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the Corps has been working toward the creation of this committee, including the identification of a broad array of experts in levee safety. Unfortunately, the Corps believes it has hit a roadblock due to the specific wording of the authorization language that has prevented the Corps from utilizing available funding to pay for the travel expenses of the committee members.

H.R. 6040 is a simple modification to the existing authorization language to ensure that the Corps can utilize already identified funding to pay these expenses so that the Committee on Levee Safety can formally be assembled and begin its important work.

I applaud my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ranking Member MICA, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Congressman BOOZMAN, for sponsoring this legislation. It is my hope that the other body can quickly move this legislation to the President's desk, so that the Committee on Levee Safety can begin its important work later this summer.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back and ask for support for this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6040.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES 911 IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3403) to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encourage the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities, with a Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008" or the "NET 911 Improvement Act of 2008".

TITLE I—911 SERVICES AND IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE PROVIDERS

SEC. 101. DUTY TO PROVIDE 911 AND ENHANCED 911 SERVICE.

The Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 6 (47 U.S.C. 615b) as section 7;

(2) by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

“SEC. 6. DUTY TO PROVIDE 9-1-1 AND ENHANCED 9-1-1 SERVICE.

“(a) DUTIES.—It shall be the duty of each IP-enabled voice service provider to provide 9-1-1 service and enhanced 9-1-1 service to its subscribers in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Communications Commission, as in effect on the date of enactment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008 and as such requirements may be modified by the Commission from time to time.

“(b) PARITY FOR IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE PROVIDERS.—An IP-enabled voice service provider that seeks capabilities to provide 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 service from an entity with ownership or control over such capabilities, to comply with its obligations under subsection (a), shall, for the exclusive purpose of complying with such obligations, have a right of access to such capabilities, including interconnection, to provide 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 service on the same rates, terms, and conditions that are provided to a provider of commercial mobile service (as such term is defined in section 332(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(d))), subject to such regulations as the Commission prescribes under subsection (c).

“(c) REGULATIONS.—The Commission—

“(1) within 90 days after the date of enactment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911

Improvement Act of 2008, shall issue regulations implementing such Act, including regulations that—

“(A) ensure that IP-enabled voice service providers have the ability to exercise their rights under subsection (b);

“(B) take into account any technical, network security, or information privacy requirements that are specific to IP-enabled voice services; and

“(C) provide, with respect to any capabilities that are not required to be made available to a commercial mobile service provider but that the Commission determines under subparagraph (B) of this paragraph or paragraph (2) are necessary for an IP-enabled voice service provider to comply with its obligations under subsection (a), that such capabilities shall be available at the same rates, terms, and conditions as would apply if such capabilities were made available to a commercial mobile service provider;

“(2) shall require IP-enabled voice service providers to which the regulations apply to register with the Commission and to establish a point of contact for public safety and government officials relative to 9–1–1 and enhanced 9–1–1 service and access; and

“(3) may modify such regulations from time to time, as necessitated by changes in the market or technology, to ensure the ability of an IP-enabled voice service provider to comply with its obligations under subsection (a) and to exercise its rights under subsection (b).

“(d) DELEGATION OF ENFORCEMENT TO STATE COMMISSIONS.—The Commission may delegate authority to enforce the regulations issued under subsection (c) to State commissions or other State or local agencies or programs with jurisdiction over emergency communications. Nothing in this section is intended to alter the authority of State commissions or other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over emergency communications, provided that the exercise of such authority is not inconsistent with Federal law or Commission requirements.

“(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—

“(1) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Commission to issue regulations that require or impose a specific technology or technological standard.

“(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Commission shall enforce this section as if this section was a part of the Communications Act of 1934. For purposes of this section, any violations of this section, or any regulations promulgated under this section, shall be considered to be a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 or a regulation promulgated under that Act, respectively.

“(f) STATE AUTHORITY OVER FEES.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this Act, the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, or any Commission regulation or order shall prevent the imposition and collection of a fee or charge applicable to commercial mobile services or IP-enabled voice services specifically designated by a State, political subdivision thereof, Indian tribe, or village or regional corporation serving a region established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (85 Stat. 688) for the support or implementation of 9–1–1 or enhanced 9–1–1 services, provided that the fee or charge is obligated or expended only in support of 9–1–1 and enhanced 9–1–1 services, or enhancements of such services, as specified in the provision of State or local law adopting the fee or charge. For each class of subscribers to IP-enabled voice services, the fee or charge may not exceed the amount of any such fee or charge applicable to the same class of subscribers to telecommunications services.

“(2) FEE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT.—To ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the collection and expenditure of a fee or charge for the support or implementation of 9–1–1 or enhanced 9–1–1 services, the Commission shall submit a report within 1 year after the date of en-

actment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, and annually thereafter, to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives detailing the status in each State of the collection and distribution of such fees or charges, and including findings on the amount of revenues obligated or expended by each State or political subdivision thereof for any purpose other than the purpose for which any such fees or charges are specified.

“(g) AVAILABILITY OF PSAP INFORMATION.—The Commission may compile a list of public safety answering point contact information, contact information for providers of selective routers, testing procedures, classes and types of services supported by public safety answering points, and other information concerning 9–1–1 and enhanced 9–1–1 elements, for the purpose of assisting IP-enabled voice service providers in complying with this section, and may make any portion of such information available to telecommunications carriers, wireless carriers, IP-enabled voice service providers, other emergency service providers, or the vendors to or agents of any such carriers or providers, if such availability would improve public safety.

“(h) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS.—The Commission shall work cooperatively with public safety organizations, industry participants, and the E-911 Implementation Coordination Office to develop best practices that promote consistency, where appropriate, including procedures for—

“(1) defining geographic coverage areas for public safety answering points;

“(2) defining network diversity requirements for delivery of IP-enabled 9–1–1 and enhanced 9–1–1 calls;

“(3) call-handling in the event of call overflow or network outages;

“(4) public safety answering point certification and testing requirements;

“(5) validation procedures for inputting and updating location information in relevant databases; and

“(6) the format for delivering address information to public safety answering points.

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008 shall be construed as altering, delaying, or otherwise limiting the ability of the Commission to enforce the Federal actions taken or rules adopted obligating an IP-enabled voice service provider to provide 9–1–1 or enhanced 9–1–1 service as of the date of enactment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008.”; and

(3) in section 7 (as redesignated by paragraph (1) of this section) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) IP-ENABLED VOICE SERVICE.—The term ‘IP-enabled voice service’ has the meaning given the term ‘interconnected VoIP service’ by section 9.3 of the Federal Communications Commission’s regulations (47 CFR 9.3).”.

SEC. 102. MIGRATION TO IP-ENABLED EMERGENCY NETWORK.

Section 158 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 942) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “and for migration to an IP-enabled emergency network”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) MIGRATION PLAN REQUIRED.—

“(1) NATIONAL PLAN REQUIRED.—No more than 270 days after the date of enactment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008, the Office shall develop and report to Congress on a national plan for migrating to a national IP-enabled emergency network capable of receiving and responding to all citizen-activated emergency communications and improv-

ing information sharing among all emergency response entities.

“(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) outline the potential benefits of such a migration;

“(B) identify barriers that must be overcome and funding mechanisms to address those barriers;

“(C) provide specific mechanisms for ensuring the IP-enabled emergency network is available in every community and is coordinated on a local, regional, and statewide basis;

“(D) identify location technology for nomadic devices and for office buildings and multi-dwelling units;

“(E) include a proposed timetable, an outline of costs, and potential savings;

“(F) provide specific legislative language, if necessary, for achieving the plan;

“(G) provide recommendations on any legislative changes, including updating definitions, that are necessary to facilitate a national IP-enabled emergency network;

“(H) assess, collect, and analyze the experiences of the public safety answering points and related public safety authorities who are conducting trial deployments of IP-enabled emergency networks as of the date of enactment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008;

“(I) identify solutions for providing 9–1–1 and enhanced 9–1–1 access to those with disabilities and needed steps to implement such solutions, including a recommended timeline; and

“(J) analyze efforts to provide automatic location for enhanced 9–1–1 services and provide recommendations on regulatory or legislative changes that are necessary to achieve automatic location for enhanced 9–1–1 services.

“(3) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required by paragraph (1), the Office shall consult with representatives of the public safety community, groups representing those with disabilities, technology and telecommunications providers, IP-enabled voice service providers, Telecommunications Relay Service providers, and other emergency communications providers and others it deems appropriate.”.

TITLE II—PARITY OF PROTECTION

SEC. 201. LIABILITY.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 4 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C. 615a) is amended—

(1) by striking “PARITY OF PROTECTION FOR PROVISION OR USE OF WIRELESS SERVICE.” in the section heading and inserting “SERVICE PROVIDER PARITY OF PROTECTION.”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “wireless carrier,” and inserting “wireless carrier, IP-enabled voice service provider, or other emergency communications provider.”;

(B) by striking “its officers” the first place it appears and inserting “their officers”;

(C) by striking “emergency calls or emergency services” and inserting “emergency calls, emergency services, or other emergency communications services”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “using wireless 9–1–1 service shall” and inserting “using wireless 9–1–1 service, or making 9–1–1 communications via IP-enabled voice service or other emergency communications service, shall”; and

(B) by striking “that is not wireless” and inserting “that is not via wireless 9–1–1 service, IP-enabled voice service, or other emergency communications service”; and

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “wireless 9–1–1 communications, a PSAP” and inserting “9–1–1 communications via wireless 9–1–1 service, IP-enabled voice service, or other emergency communications service, a PSAP”; and

(B) by striking “that are not wireless” and inserting “that are not via wireless 9–1–1 service,

IP-enabled voice service, or other emergency communications service”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 7 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (as redesignated by section 101(1) of this Act) is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(8) OTHER EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.—The term ‘other emergency communications service’ means the provision of emergency information to a public safety answering point via wire or radio communications, and may include 9–1–1 and enhanced 9–1–1 service.

“(9) OTHER EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ‘other emergency communications service provider’ means—

“(A) an entity other than a local exchange carrier, wireless carrier, or an IP-enabled voice service provider that is required by the Federal Communications Commission consistent with the Commission’s authority under the Communications Act of 1934 to provide other emergency communications services; or

“(B) in the absence of a Commission requirement as described in subparagraph (A), an entity that voluntarily elects to provide other emergency communications services and is specifically authorized by the appropriate local or State 9–1–1 service governing authority to provide other emergency communications services.

“(10) ENHANCED 9–1–1 SERVICE.—The term ‘enhanced 9–1–1 service’ means the delivery of 9–1–1 calls with automatic number identification and automatic location identification, or successor or equivalent information features over the wireline E911 network (as defined in section 9.3 of the Federal Communications Commission’s regulations (47 C.F.R. 9.3) as of the date of enactment of the New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008) and equivalent or successor networks and technologies. The term also includes any enhanced 9–1–1 service so designated by the Commission in its Report and Order in WC Docket Nos. 04–36 and 05–196, or any successor proceeding.”.

TITLE III—AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE CUSTOMER INFORMATION FOR 911 PURPOSES

SEC. 301. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE CUSTOMER INFORMATION.

Section 222 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or the user of an IP-enabled voice service (as such term is defined in section 7 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C. 615b))” after “section 332(d))” each place it appears in subsections (d)(4) and (f)(1);

(2) by striking “WIRELESS” in the heading of subsection (f); and

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting “or a provider of IP-enabled voice service (as such term is defined in section 7 of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (47 U.S.C. 615b))” after “telephone exchange service”.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. GORDON OF TENNESSEE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Gordon of Tennessee moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3403.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3403, the “New and Emerging Technologies 911 Improvement Act of 2008”.

This legislation ensures that consumers using Voice over Internet Protocol technology, or VoIP, can make full use of the 911 system in two important ways. First, the legislation extends the same liability protections afforded to wireline and wireless carriers, public safety, and end users to VoIP service. This parity in liability protections will encourage service providers, public safety, and end users to continue to rely on the 911 emergency communications system, regardless of the technology used to make a 911 call. Second, the legislation ensures that VoIP providers can interconnect with legacy telephone networks so they can deliver calls and information to 911 call centers.

Representative GORDON, the author of H.R. 3403, Representative MARKEY, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, Representative BARTON, Ranking Member of the Committee, Representatives UPTON and STEARNS, the former and current Ranking Members of the Subcommittee, and I worked very closely with all stakeholders on this legislation, and it has widespread support among the public safety community, industry, and others.

As is clear from the language of the legislation, the requirement for interconnection is for purposes of 911 only and should not be used to bootstrap access for other reasons. Similarly, the legislation makes clear that those who control the legacy gateways to the emergency communications system must provide access, including rights of interconnection, to those seeking to deliver 911 calls and information. Because all stakeholders agreed to the legislative language, we fully expect that this access will not be inhibited by either delay or litigation.

H.R. 3403 also requires the development of a national plan to ensure that the 911 system continues to evolve. It is significant that the plan will include the participation of first responders, including the emergency communications professionals maintaining and using the system. It is also important that the plan will address the needs of the disabilities community when they use emergency communications. I look forward to reviewing the results of this work so we can begin to move to the next generation of emergency communications.

I am disappointed that the Senate stripped out one provision of the House-passed version of this legislation that protected proprietary customer information. This provision prohibited a carrier from using the customer information that other carriers are required to provide for 911 databases for any purpose other than emergency communications. I heard no rational argument against the policy underlying this provision. Nevertheless, in the interest of ensuring that this legislation be enacted swiftly, I will support the bill as passed by the Senate.

I intend, however, to take this matter up again in the future. We owe it to consumers to ensure that their emergency communications system does not become a playground for competitive shenanigans.

H.R. 3403 is a forward-looking bill that ensures that consumers using VoIP service are able to access 911 as easily as consumers using wireline or wireless services. Each of its elements—giving VoIP providers access to the components they need to provide 911 service; extending to VoIP providers, public safety officials, and end users the liability protections currently afforded to wireline and wireless services; and requiring a plan for the continued evolution of the emergency communications system—is a worthy victory for all consumers. I commend Representative GORDON for his years of dedication to this important issue and hail this success, from which all Americans will reap benefits for years to come.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIANS OF GRADUATING CLASS OF 2008

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1229) recognizing the achievements of America’s high school valedictorians of the graduating class of 2008, promoting the importance of encouraging intellectual growth, and rewarding academic excellence of all American high school students, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1229

Whereas valedictorians are conferred as the highest academically-ranked student in their high school’s graduating class;

Whereas our Nation’s secondary schools honor their highest academically ranked students with the “valedictorian” title;

Whereas valedictorians have demonstrated consistency in their intellectual inquiry, academic discipline, and utilization of teacher mentoring throughout their high school careers;

Whereas valedictorians serve as peer role models to fellow high school students by succeeding academically and contributing to community improvement;

Whereas valedictorians are charged with the duty of giving a graduation speech that reflects upon the intellectual development and community involvement of the graduating class and inspires all graduating students to further their academic studies and social engagement;

Whereas numerous valedictorians and graduating seniors will further their intellectual interests and academic studies by enrolling in universities and postsecondary educational institutions;

Whereas family members, teachers, school administrators, and community members have nurtured the intellectual growth and rewarded the academic achievements of valedictorians and graduating seniors; and

Whereas valedictorians and graduating seniors will become America’s future civic, business, and political leaders, maintaining our Nation’s global leadership position and

strengthening its economic competitiveness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors and recognizes the valedictorians and graduating seniors of the class of 2008 for their academic achievements and contributions to their communities;

(2) encourages all valedictorians and graduating seniors to further their intellectual inquiry and academic studies in universities and postsecondary educational institutions; and

(3) supports the continued social engagement of valedictorians and graduating seniors, which utilizes their knowledge and skills for the betterment of their communities and the social, cultural, and economic advancement of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1229 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1229, which recognizes the achievements of America's high school valedictorians of the graduating class of 2008. I am pleased to honor these outstanding individuals, as well as encourage the pursuit of high academic honors.

Today, as we recognize our valedictorians, we reaffirm our commitment to education and encourage our youth to discover the many learning opportunities they will encounter throughout their lives. I hope that by saluting these valedictorians we help make high achievement infectious and help every student appreciate the countless opportunities that await them beyond high school.

Valedictorians are not only the highest academically ranked students in their class; they are also peer role models who represent the ideals of their families and communities. They inspire fellow classmates to become involved in improving the community and motivate their peers to achieve academically.

Long after high school, the title of valedictorian is still upheld as a significant accomplishment. By recognizing the accomplishments of this year's high school valedictorians, I hope to support and promote inquiry and learning across our Nation. I know that this year's valedictorians, and all graduating seniors at our Nation's high schools, are our future leaders. We owe it to these students to give them the best education we can and celebrate high school graduation as an important step toward achieving their goals.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate this year's valedictorians and everyone in the graduating class of 2008. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1229, recognizing the achievements of America's high school valedictorians of the graduating class of 2008, promoting the importance of encouraging intellectual growth, and rewarding academic excellence of all American high school students.

Valedictorians are the highest academically ranked students in their high school's graduating class. These students have demonstrated consistency in their intellectual inquiry, academic discipline, and utilization of teacher mentoring throughout their high school careers.

□ 1700

They serve as peer role models to fellow high school students by succeeding academically and contributing to a culture of excellence in their schools.

Valedictorians are charged with the duty of giving a graduation speech that reflects upon the intellectual development and community involvement of the graduating class and inspires all graduating students to further their academic studies and social engagement. These students enjoy the support of family members, teachers, school administrators and community members who have nurtured their intellectual growth and rewarded their academic achievements. This class of seniors will become America's future civic, business and political leaders, maintaining our Nation's global leadership position and strengthening its economic competitiveness.

Today I want to especially honor and recognize the valedictorians and graduating seniors of the class of 2008. They have all worked very hard to accomplish the goals they reached on high school graduation day. I know this is not the first outstanding accomplishment for many of these young people, and I am equally certain it will not be the last.

I encourage all valedictorians and all graduating seniors to further their intellectual inquiry and academic studies in universities and post-secondary educational institutions across the Nation.

To all graduating seniors, I want to say congratulations on your many accomplishments, and enjoy your summer.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as we reflect on the valedictorians of the class of 2008, I think it's important that we think about what the Democrats are doing now in the House of Representatives that are going to affect their fu-

ture. I think that we have to reflect on the fact that the Democrat majority's "just say no" energy policy certainly darkens America's energy future:

No production of American energy resources, which increases reliance on unstable foreign sources such as Venezuela, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

No new oil refineries built, which increases gas prices and reliance on imported fuel.

No new transmission lines, which hinders renewable electricity getting to consumers and reduces reliability.

No new coal power plants, which increases electricity prices and stifles the economy.

No new advanced zero-emission nuclear plants, which blocks one of the cleanest, most reliable energy sources available.

No new zero-emission hydroelectric plants, which blocks reliable clean energy.

No liquefied natural gas terminals, which increases prices and ships jobs overseas.

Democrats' prohibition on producing American energy resources have made the U.S. more reliant on imported oil and natural gas.

Democrats' roadblocks on the utilization of energy from our North American neighbors have made the U.S. more reliant on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC.

Democrats' unfavorable tax rules have sent energy investment and production abroad.

Democrats' unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy have made it nearly impossible to move forward on new clean power generation.

Democrats' 1970s-era energy policies have cancelled dozens of power plants, reducing electricity supplies and increasing electricity costs to consumers.

Democrats' refusal to provide incentives for individuals and businesses has made it difficult to invest in efficient technologies.

But Republicans have solutions that will fix this problem. We then can look at meeting our energy needs with American-made energy in the future.

The comprehensive House Republican plan will fund research and development of technologies and innovations which advance the use of renewable and domestically available energy sources, increase energy efficiency, and ease the environmental impacts of energy use.

We will increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way.

We support actions that reduce America's dependence on energy from unstable foreign governments and dictatorships by increasing domestic production of oil and natural gas in an environmentally safe way.

And we promote unconventional fuels such as coal-to-liquid technology by recovering our vast oil shale reserves and increasing access for environmentally responsible development of conventional and unconventional domestic oil and natural gas production.

We want to provide coal-to-liquids financing and tax incentives. We want to advance the commercialization of the Nation's 2 trillion barrel shale oil resource, 80 percent of which occurs on government-owned land in the West. This is enough to supply all of America's needs for over two centuries.

We are promoting new, clean and reliable power generation. We encourage more production of environmentally safe energy to increase the use of our vast domestic supply, reduce emissions, and keep coal-dependent communities strong.

We want to expand emissions-free nuclear power, including long-term nuclear waste storage solutions and recycling spent fuel by providing production and investment tax credits for all new base-load electricity products such as advanced nuclear power and clean coal, and allowing immediate expensing for new renewable or zero-emission power.

We want to cut red tape and increase the supply of American-made fuel and energy by expediting permitting for enhanced oil recovery projects, including CO₂ delivery and injection, as well as permitting for new refining capacity.

We want to improve environmental review and permitting to encourage the deployment of technologies which increase the efficiency of existing power plants.

And we want to end ill-advised policies that have led to the proliferation of unique gasoline and diesel fuel formations known as "boutique fuels" which have fragmented our motor fuels distribution system, choked off supply, and exacerbated the already painful Pelosi Premium.

We are encouraging greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives. We support technologies to help increase energy efficiency in all sectors of the American economy, including removing bureaucratic regulatory barriers that prevent businesses from upgrading their facilities with newer, more efficient energy technologies.

We want to make home energy efficiency upgrades tax deductible, provide incentives for homebuilders and homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient, offer investment expensing for industrial and commercial building efficiency upgrades, extend the residential and business solar and fuel cell investment tax credits, with enhancements to the residential solar credit (\$2,000 per ½ kilowatt installed), extend the fiber-optic distributed sunlight investment tax credit, and increase energy efficiency of government-owned facilities.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, for too long our Nation has been captive of the interests that are preserving dependence on fossil fuels.

What's so exciting about what is happening with the younger generation, among them these valedictorians that

we're saluting today, is they're really getting out on the cutting edge in terms of thinking about the green revolution, about new energy technologies. And they're the ones, I think, that are going to join with enlightened policy makers across the country to make sure that we liberate ourselves from that dependence on fossil fuels and we move forward and explore alternatives to that, which is really going to be the solution to our energy crisis over time.

So again, for all they're doing and for stepping up as they do every day and demonstrating incredible accomplishments, I want to salute the valedictorians of the class of 2008 and encourage my colleagues to support H. Res. 1229.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today, we rightly honor the hard work and achievements of this year's valedictorians, salutatorians and graduates all across the Nation. I wish to recognize their dedication and the contributions to their community. By completing a high school diploma, the future for these students has become considerably brighter.

I also wish to take a moment to reflect on large group of valedictorians, salutatorians and graduates who, despite high school success and graduation, will be shut out of many of the opportunities for a prosperous future that we promise to our children for their hard work.

I am referring to the many valedictorians, salutatorians and graduates who have worked hard in the communities they have known their whole lives, played by the rules, excelled in school and, because of their undocumented status, will be systematically cut off from the opportunities that are afforded to successful students like them. Through no fault of their own, these bright, intelligent, model students will be caught in limbo—denied an opportunity to pursue success and, in so doing, to serve our country.

These students are confronted with a lesson that high schools do not teach—that because of a status that was not of their choosing, their achievements are worth less than the achievements of their friends and classmates. This is a cruel lesson indeed; the lesson that they have grown up in a social caste; that despite America's promise of prosperity for hard work, that no matter what their educational success—they will be branded "untouchables".

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1229, recognizing the achievements of America's high school valedictorians of the graduating class of 2008, promoting the importance of encouraging intellectual growth, and rewarding academic excellence of all American high school students, introduced by my distinguished colleague from New York, Representative GREGORY MEEKS, of which I am a proud cosponsor. This bill is an important step in continuing and promoting the excellent secondary education that our nation provides.

This legislation recognizes the fine accomplishments of the graduating class of 2008 and commends them for their intellectual pursuits as well as their academic achievements. This bill, furthermore, recognizes the family members, teachers, school administrators, and community members that have nurtured the intellectual growth and rewarded the academic achievements of this year's valedictorians and graduating seniors.

This year, valedictorians across America have succeeded in tremendous academic endeavors. Whether by inspiring their fellow classmates to study a little longer for a test, or by tutoring them to write an essay, valedictorians have acted as noteworthy role models to their peers. Furthermore, through their hard work and dedications, they have enriched their academic communities.

It is further important that we recognize that valedictorians often engage in extracurricular activities, enriching their local communities and the nation by furthering economic, cultural, and social accomplishments. By volunteering their time in soup kitchens, acting as captain of the soccer team or chess club, or simply taking an after-school job, valedictorians learn more than math and English, they learn to contribute significantly to our society.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I recognize the importance of today's youth. Valedictorians as well as graduating seniors of 2008 will become the future businessmen, leaders, teachers, and scientists that lead this nation. They will use their extraordinary talents to make the world a better place. As thus, it is important for them to continue to cultivate their strengths by attending one of the many universities that this great nation has to offer. I support this legislation that encourages valedictorians and the graduating class of 2008 as a whole, to further their intellectual inquiry and academic studies beyond their secondary education.

With over 15,000 of our nation's schools recognizing this year's valedictorians as the highest academically-ranked students in their graduating class, the members of Congress, as representatives of our nation, must recognize these talented individuals for their hard work. By doing so, we demonstrate the importance of education and show our support for the continued hard work of students across the country. Without this official recognition, talented youth may not feel support which can push them to achieve high goals, such as past valedictorians and the valedictorians of the 2008 graduating class have achieved. I feel strongly that this bill is a step toward providing support for students.

This legislation is imperative to recognizing the achievement of the graduating class of 2008, supporting social engagements by graduating seniors to better our communities, and promoting continued intellectual pursuits by these men and women at colleges and universities. As the Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, a Representative of the people of the United States, and a mother of two, I am proud to cosponsor this legislation and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1229, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS JORDAN ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1242) honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1242

Whereas Louis Thomas Jordan was born July 8, 1908, in Brinkley, Arkansas;

Whereas he studied music as a young child under his father James Aaron Jordan, who was the bandleader of the Brinkley Brass Band;

Whereas in the late 1920s he attended Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, Arkansas, and majored in music;

Whereas he joined Chick Webb's Savoy Ballroom band in 1936 in New York where he played saxophone and performed occasionally as a singer;

Whereas in 1938 he started his own band, the Elks Rendez-Vous Band, and in 1939 he changed the name of the group to the Tympany Five;

Whereas his prolific musical career consists of 54 hit singles including, "Five Guys Named Moe", "Let the Good Times Roll", "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Cryin'", and "Barnyard Boogie", and 18 number 1 hits on Billboard's R&B chart including "Beans and Cornbread", "Run Joe", "Ain't That Just Like A Woman", "Blue Light Boogie", and the 1946 hit "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie", which topped the Billboard's R&B chart for 18 weeks;

Whereas 15 of his hits made it onto the Pop charts, including "Baby It's Cold Outside", "Caldonia", "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby", "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens", "Buzz Me", and "Beware";

Whereas he actively recorded for the Armed Forces Radio Service and the V-Disc program during World War II, and one of his songs recorded during this period, "G.I. Jive", was number 1 on the Pop chart for 2 weeks;

Whereas he was featured in a variety of short musical films in the 1940s, such as the 1945 short film "Caldonia", and played cameo roles in movies like "Follow the Boys" and "Swing Parade of 1946";

Whereas his 1949 recording of "Saturday Night Fish Fry" was one of the earliest musical examples of what would later become known as "Rock and Roll";

Whereas he died on February 4, 1975, in Los Angeles, California;

Whereas a host of prominent musicians including Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, B.B. King, Ray Charles, James Brown, and Sonny Rollins have counted him as an influence;

Whereas he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1987;

Whereas in 2004, Rolling Stone Magazine named him one of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time; and

Whereas Louis Jordan will be highlighted on a United States Postal Service stamp, as part of the 2008 commemorative stamp program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life of Louis Jordan, on the 100th anniversary of his birth; and

(2) recognizes his important contributions to American music as a musician, composer, and entertainer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1242 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1242, which honors the life and recognizes the importance of Louis Jordan and his contributions to America as a musician, composer and entertainer.

July 8, 2008 will be Louis Jordan's 100th birthday, the celebration of his 100th birthday. And in celebration of this day, we should recognize Jordan's contributions to this country.

Louis Jordan, born in 1908, is a Brinkley, Arkansas native. Under the musical tutelage of his father, who was a local band leader, music found Jordan at an early age. He expanded and mastered formal components of music through his collegial experience at Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock. Jordan majored there in music. He learned to play the saxophone, sing, and entertain audiences through his personal experiences and watching his father.

Highly touted musicians, such as B.B. King, Ray Charles, James Brown, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley and Sonny Rollins, all pointed to Jordan as an influence on their own careers. His prolific musical success consists of 54 hit singles and 18 number one songs on Billboard's R&B charts. Two short musical films were centered around his songs.

Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, Jordan's contribution to his art is immeasurable. Rolling Stone Magazine named him one of the 100 greatest artists of all time.

Though Jordan passed away in 1975, his legacy flourishes through the work of other artists. He helped shape rock and roll. On this day, I would like to commemorate Jordan's work. Let us recognize his contribution by honoring his 100th birthday.

I urge support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1242, honoring the life, musical accomplishments and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Louis Thomas Jordan, vocalist, bandleader and saxophonist, ruled the charts, stage, screen and airwaves of

the 1940s and profoundly influenced the creators of R&B, rock and roll, and post-World War II blues.

Jordan was born July 8, 1908 in Brinkley, Arkansas. His father, James Aaron Jordan, led the Brinkley Brass Band. His mother died when he was young.

Jordan studied music under his father and showed promise in horn playing, especially clarinet and saxophone. Due to World War I, there were vacancies in his father's band, so Jordan filled in. Soon he was good enough to join his father in a professional traveling show touring Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri instead of doing farm work when school closed.

Jordan briefly attended Little Rock's Arkansas Baptist College in the 1920s and performed with Jimmy Pryor's Imperial Serenaders. He played saxophone and clarinet with them, as well as Bob Alexander's Harmony Kings.

In the 1930s, based in Philadelphia, Jordan found work in the Charlie Gaines Band playing clarinet, and soprano and alto sax, in addition to doing vocals, which he recorded and toured with Louis Armstrong. During this time, Jordan also learned baritone sax, and he joined nationally popular drummer Chuck Webb's Savoy Ballroom Band featuring Ella Fitzgerald.

Jordan created his own band, which was called Tympany Five, regardless of number of pieces. The small size of Tympany Five made it innovative structurally and musically in the Big Band era.

Among the first to join electric guitar and bass with horns, Jordan set the framework for decades of future R&B and rock combos. Endless rehearsals, matching suits, dance moves, and routines built around songs made the band Jordan's singular brand of sophisticated, yet down-home, jump blues and vocals made it a success.

In the 1940s, Jordan released dozens of hit songs, including the swinging "Saturday Night Fish Fry," one of the earlier and most powerful contenders for the title of "First Rock and Roll Record," "Blue Light Boogie," the comic classic "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens," "Buzz Me," "Ain't That Just Like a Woman," "Caldonia," and the million-dollar seller, "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie."

□ 1715

Jordan died in Los Angeles, California, in 1975. A host of prominent musicians claimed his influence, including Ray Charles, James Brown, Bo Diddley, and Chuck Berry. His songs have appeared in commercials, TV, and movies and have been recorded by dozens of popular artists. Louis Jordan leaves a musical legacy that influences popular music as we know it today.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege now to yield such time

as he may consume to the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

Mr. SNYDER. Proudly today, Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives solutes another great American, acknowledging the contributions of a remarkable man to our great country.

Entertainers reflect the rich history of America, and their stories, their personal stories, tell our story. No more worthy among these is Arkansas native Louis Jordan, a musician, songwriter, entertainer, and even movie performer. Nothing could stifle this remarkably talented man, not racial bigotry or up-bringing a century ago in rural Arkansas.

Louis Jordan was born July 8, 1908, in Brinkley, Arkansas, and in the late 1920s he attended Arkansas Baptist College where I live, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and majored in music. He became a songwriter, performer, and movie actor. He actively recorded for the Armed Forces Radio Service and the V-Disc program during World War II, and one of his songs recorded during this period, "G.I. Jive," was number one on both the R&B and Pop charts. He appeared in soundies, which were short musical films in the 1940s displayed on coin-operated film jukeboxes, and played cameo roles in movies like "Follow the Boys" and "Swing Parade" of 1946.

Previous speakers have acknowledged some of his remarkable accomplishments: the "Saturday Night Fish Fry" recording of 1949, which many say was the first rock and roll song; his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in 1987; and in 2004 being named one of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time by Rolling Stone Magazine.

I am pleased that the House today will pass this resolution, but in some ways we don't get the full flavor of his accomplishments and the richness of the heritage of what he did without talking specifically about these songs. Let me go through the list of hits briefly here today.

His career began in the early days of World War II, some dark years for America. The 1942 hits included "I'm Gonna Leave You on the Outskirts of Town" and "What's the Use of Getting Sober (When You Gonna Get Drunk Again)."

In 1943: "The Chicks I Pick are Slender and Tender and Tall," "Five Guys Named Moe," "That'll Just 'Bout Knock Me Out," "Ration Blues."

In 1944: "G.I. Jive," "Is You Is or Is You Ain't My Baby."

In 1945: "Mop! Mop!," "You Can't Get That No More," "Caldonia," "Somebody Done Changed the Lock on My Door," "My Baby Said Yes."

And then truly the remarkable year of 1946 in which he had 13 hits: "Buzz Me"; "Don't Worry 'Bout That Mule"; "Salt Pork, West Virginia"; "Reconversion Blues"; "Beware (Brother, Beware)"; "Don't Let the Sun Catch You Cryin"; "Stone Cold Dead in the Mar-

ket (He Had it Coming)"; "Petootie Pie"; "Choo Choo Ch'Boogie"; "That Chick's Too Young to Fry"; "Ain't That Just Like a Woman (They'll Do It Every Time)"; "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens"; "Let the Good Times Roll."

And then on to 1947: "Texas and Pacific"; "I Like 'Em Fat Like That"; "Open the Door, Richard!"; "Jack, You're Dead"; "I Know What You're Puttin' Down"; "Boogie Woogie Blue Plate"; "Early in the Mornin"; "Look Out."

In 1948: "Barnyard Boogie"; "How Long Must I Wait for You"; "Reet, Petite and Gone"; "Run Joe"; "All for the Love of Lil"; "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie"; "Don't Burn the Candle at Both Ends"; "We Can't Agree"; "Daddy-O"; "Pettin' and Pokin'."

In 1949: "Roamin' Blues"; "You Broke Your Promise"; "Cole Slaw (Sorghum Switch)"; "Every Man to His Own Profession"; "Baby, It's Cold Outside"; "Beans and Corn Bread"; "Saturday Night Fish Fry."

In 1950, four hits: "School Days, Blue Light Boogie," "I'll Never Be Free," "Tamburitzna Boogie."

And in 1951: "Lemonade," "Tear Drops from My Eyes," "Weak Minded Blues."

Those song titles from the remarkable career of hits of Louis Jordan give you a flavor for the kinds of songs, the kind of music, the richness of American heritage.

This was really brought home to me when I was getting signatures to sign onto this bill, and one of the first people I talked to was one of our colleagues Congressman STEVE ISRAEL from New York, a long way from rural Arkansas, and he immediately told me—he signed on—that he had seen "Five Guys Named Moe" in New York three times. He started singing the songs and knew the lyrics of many of these songs, even though Louis Jordan died over 30 years ago.

I appreciate the efforts by the majority and minority today to bring this bill to the floor, and today we salute a remarkable American: Louis Jordan.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Arkansas for that wonderful history on Louis Jordan, and I want to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1242.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1242.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECOGNIZING PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, AS BEING HOME TO THE EARLIEST KNOWN REFERENCE TO THE WORD "BASEBALL"

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1050) recognizing Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as being home to the earliest known reference to the word "baseball" in the United States as well as being the birthplace of college baseball, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1050

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the home of a historic document discovered in Pittsfield's archives by noted baseball historian John Thorn in 2004;

Whereas the historic document is a bylaw, passed by the Town of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, during a town meeting on September 5, 1791, which states that "for the Preservation of the Windows in the New Meeting House . . . no Person or Inhabitant of said town, shall be permitted to play at any game called Wicket, Cricket, Baseball, Football, Cat, Fives or any other game or games with balls, within the Distance of Eighty Yards from said Meeting House";

Whereas this bylaw was created to protect the windows of the new meetinghouse in the Town of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, which is currently the Congregational Church, designed by renowned architect Charles Bulfinch in 1789 and completed in 1793;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, through the First Home Plate project will commemorate being known as the home of the oldest known documentation of the game by erecting three permanent monuments, Bat, Ball, and Glove, to recognize Pittsfield's unparalleled position in baseball history;

Whereas the monuments will highlight and represent the great virtues of the game that have solidified baseball as our national pastime;

Whereas the virtues of baseball are innocence, youth, bridging generations, and how it parallels the great history of our Nation;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is also the home of many historical baseball monuments;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the birthplace of college baseball in the United States as it is the site of the first intercollegiate baseball game between Amherst College and Williams College, which took place on July 1, 1859;

Whereas in 1865, Ulysses F. "Frank" Grant, generally considered the best African American player of the 19th century, was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is the home of Wahconah Park, an enclosed ballpark and grandstand, originally built in 1892 and placed on the National Historic Register in June 2005;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, is where in 1921 and 1922, the Boston Red Sox played 2 exhibition games at Wahconah Park against the Hillies;

Whereas Boston won the first game with a score of 10 to 9 and the Hillies won the second with a score of 4 to 1;

Whereas in 1922, Jim Thorpe, considered one of the most versatile athletes in modern sports, played baseball at Wahconah Park;

Whereas in 1924, Lou Gehrig made his professional debut with the Hartford Senators at Wahconah Park, where he hit a home run into the Housatonic River;

Whereas in 1942, future major leaguer Mark Belanger was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts;

Whereas on June 1, 1976, a recreation of the 1859 Williams and Amherst collegiate baseball game took place in Pittsfield, Massachusetts;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, hosted a vintage baseball game which was broadcast on national television in 2004;

Whereas Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in 2005, welcomed the Pittsfield Dukes, a member of the New England Collegiate Baseball League, who made their second season debut at Wahconah Park in 2005; and

Whereas on August 31, 2007, His Excellency, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, proclaimed September 5, 2007, to be Pittsfield Baseball Day in the Commonwealth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of college baseball to the Nation; and

(2) recognizes the birthplace of college baseball as Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1050 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1050, which recognizes Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as the birthplace of our Nation's great sport: baseball. This great sport is interlaced into American culture, history, and tradition. Baseball is our Nation's national pastime, and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, helped create the American sporting culture. Legendary players such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Cy Young, Hank Aaron, Cal Ripken, and other Hall of Fame players raised the level of play and integrity of the game.

The first recorded mention of baseball in known history occurred when a Pittsfield bylaw passed on September 5, 1791, banned the playing with bats and balls near the town's newly constructed meetinghouse. This ordinance is the first known reference to the game in U.S. history.

Other notable historic moments took place in Pittsfield. The very first collegiate baseball game in the United States took place there on July 1, 1859,

between Amherst College and Williams College. Ulysses F. Grant, the most prominent 19th century African American player, was born in Pittsfield. Wahconah Park, a famous ballpark and grandstand built in 1892, is located there. The Boston Red Sox won their first game in that park. Lou Gehrig made his professional debut with the Hartford Senators there where he hit a home run into the Housatonic River. With every great baseball moment, Pittsfield is a part of the significance.

The first home plate project will erect a bat, ball, and glove statues in Pittsfield. These monuments symbolize great virtues, innocence, purity, and parallels to American culture. Let Congress at this time recognize and honor the contribution Pittsfield plays in our Nation's history.

I would like to recognize Pittsfield, Massachusetts' role in our Nation's history, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker I rise today in support of House Resolution 1050, recognizing Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as being home to the earliest known reference to the word "baseball" in the United States.

The question of the origins of baseball has been the subject of debate and controversy for more than a century. Baseball, as well as the other modern bat, ball, and running games, were developed from earlier folk games. Previous beliefs held that baseball was invented in 1839 by Abner Doubleday in Cooperstown, New York. This belief provided the rationale for baseball centennial celebrations in 1939, including the opening of a National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Still, few historians and even the hall's vice president believed that Cooperstown was indeed the birthplace of the game, most preferring to believe that "baseball wasn't really born anywhere."

In 2004, however, historian John Thorn discovered a reference to a 1791 bylaw prohibiting anyone from playing "baseball" within 80 yards of the new meetinghouse in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The so-called "Broken Window Bylaw" soon became the earliest known reference to baseball in North America and allowed Pittsfield to lay claim to the honor.

Baseball is unique among American sports in several ways. This uniqueness is a large part of its longstanding appeal and strong association with the American psyche. Some philosophers describe baseball as a national religion. This popularity has resulted in baseball's being regarded as more than just a major sport. Since the 19th century, it has been popularly referred to as the "national pastime," and Major League Baseball has been given a unique monopoly status by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Baseball is fundamentally a team sport. Even a team blessed enough to

have two or three Hall of Fame-caliber players cannot count on success. Yet it places individual players under great pressure and scrutiny. Many Americans believe that baseball is the ultimate combination of skill, timing, athleticism, and strategy. The pitcher must make good pitches or risk losing the game. The hitter has a mere fraction of a second to decide whether to swing. The field players, as the last line of defense, make the lone decision to try to catch it or play it on the bounce, to throw out the runner at first base or to try to make the play at home.

Baseball has truly provided countless Americans fond memories of their youth over the years, and I am honored to stand here today recognizing Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as being home to the earliest known reference to the word "baseball" in the United States.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased today that the House of Representatives is considering House Resolution 1050, which honors the city of Pittsfield for its rich baseball history. As a sponsor of this legislation, I would like to thank the Committee on Education and Labor, especially the gentleman from California Chairman GEORGE MILLER for his assistance in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Pittsfield, Massachusetts, can trace its baseball roots all the way back to 1791.

□ 1730

The city, which was only the town of Pittsfield then, was in the middle of constructing a new meeting house. Trying to protect the windows of this new building, the town enacted a bylaw that banned the playing of "baseball" within 80 yards of it. You see, even back in 1791, youths were already breaking windows playing America's favorite national pastime. With that, the first mention of baseball was penned into history.

Madam Speaker, besides being home to the earliest known reference to baseball, this resolution also honors the city for being designated the Birthplace of College Baseball by the College Baseball Hall of Fame.

On July 1, 1859, the city hosted one of the Nation's oldest collegiate rivalries, Williams College versus Amherst College, in the first collegiate baseball game to be played in the Nation. Now this game was played under the old "Massachusetts" rules. No gloves were used, the ball was pitched under hand, only one out was necessary, and a foul ball, if uncaught, was considered a hit.

The record shows that Amherst College won this first contest by a score of 73–32.

Pittsfield is also the site of many other historical baseball moments. Among others, this resolution honors the city for being the birthplace of Ulysses F. Grant, born in 1865, who's generally considered to be the best African American player of the 19th century, as well as Mark Belanger, born in 1944, who spent most of his career playing for the Baltimore Orioles.

In 1924, Lou Gehrig made his professional debut at Waconah Park, the venerable ballpark in Pittsfield that is listed on the National Historic Register, and in that debut he appropriately hit a home run into the Housatonic River. Jim Thorpe, considered one of the most versatile athletes in modern sports, also played there.

In recognition of its baseball past, the city of Pittsfield plans to erect three permanent monuments, Bat, Ball, and Glove, representing the virtues of the game.

Overall, Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the city of Pittsfield for its rich baseball history and I am honored to stand on the floor today to honor its significance to our national pastime.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, Madam Speaker.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. The rising cost of gas and energy prices throughout this country threatens many aspects of our lives, and the ability to attend baseball games this summer is one of those. The notion that Washington is broken is exemplified in the Democratic majority's refusal to address soaring energy prices.

Two years ago, then-Minority Leader PELOSI promised the American people a "commonsense plan" to lower gasoline prices, but Democrats have not only failed to offer any meaningful solutions, they've put forward policies that will have precisely the opposite effect. As a result of their inaction, oil, gasoline, and electricity prices are as high as they have ever been. Once a nightmare scenario, \$4 plus gasoline has become a harsh reality on Speaker PELOSI's watch, and now Americans are paying nearly \$1.50 more per gallon at the pump than when the Speaker took office.

This Pelosi Premium is hitting working families hard, at a time when they are confronting high costs of living, a slowing economy, and a housing crunch. This has to change.

Republicans are committed to a comprehensive energy reform policy that will boost supplies of all forms of energy right here at home to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, protect us against blackmail by foreign dictators, create American jobs, and grow our economy, all those things as basic to us as our love of baseball.

This includes increasing the supply of American-made energy, improving

energy efficiency, and encouraging investment in groundbreaking research in advanced alternative and renewable energy technologies. With 21st century technologies and the strictest environmental standards in the world, America must produce more of our own energy right here at home and protect our environment at the same time. That is the change America deserves.

To help ease the pain of the Pelosi Premium, House Republican leaders have also embraced short-term legislation that would suspend the 18.4 cents per gallon Federal gas tax this summer and establish a corresponding freeze on all taxpayer-funded earmarks to ensure the Highway Trust Fund will not be impacted. Savings from the earmarks freeze also would be applied towards reducing the Federal deficit.

A House Republican majority will work to deliver the change America deserves on gas prices with meaningful solutions that make our Nation more energy independent. Here's how we will do it. We will increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way. This includes the exploration of next generation oil, natural gas and coal, and the production of advanced alternative fuels like cellulosic and clean coal-to-liquids, all while protecting our natural resources for future generations.

We will promote new, clean, and reliable power generation like advanced nuclear and next generation coal, while promoting clean power from renewable energy such as wind and hydroelectric power. Nuclear energy has proven itself as a safe, carbon-free, and environmentally friendly alternative, with France relying on it for 80 percent of its electricity needs, compared to just 19 percent in America.

We will cut red tape and increase the supply of American-made fuel and energy. Limiting the construction of new oil refineries and bureaucratic regulations mandating the use of exotic fuels have decreased supply and increased the Pelosi Premium. We will encourage greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives to America who make their home, car, and business more energy efficient.

We can do much to make it more feasible for families to attend baseball games this summer and participate in other normal summer activities by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and creating more American-generated energy, and I call on my colleagues to bring up the bills that will allow us to do that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. The discussion of energy and oil, on the one hand, and baseball on the other, got me thinking about something I read last week, which is a lot of the folks coming into baseball games around the country and sporting events are using public transportation wherever they get the chance, as opposed to driving their cars, and I am so glad that the Democratic Congress has put such an invest-

ment into proving our public transportation infrastructure in this country.

Obviously, we have got to do more of that going forward so that we can conserve. That can help drive down some of the gas prices that have been alluded to.

In any event, to get back to the main topic here with respect to recognizing the tremendous role of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the establishment of the culture of our national pastime, I want to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1050.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1050, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 372) supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 372

Whereas the Nation should be urged to recognize the exemplary contributions that African-American singers, musicians, and composers have made both to the United States and the world;

Whereas the music of African-Americans is the music of America, and has historically transcended social, economic, and racial barriers to unite people of all backgrounds;

Whereas artists, songwriters, producers, engineers, educators, executives, and other professionals in the music industry provide inspiration and leadership through their creation of music;

Whereas African-American music is indigenous to the United States and originates from African genres of music;

Whereas African-American genres of music such as gospel, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, rap, and hip-hop have their roots in the African-American experience;

Whereas African-American music has a pervasive influence on dance, fashion, language, art, literature, cinema, media, advertisements, and other aspects of culture;

Whereas Black music has helped African-Americans endure great suffering and overcome injustice with courage and faith;

Whereas civil rights demonstrators often marched to the cadence of many songs written and composed as gospels or spirituals that were created on the fields of slaves;

Whereas June was first declared as Black Music Month in 1979 by President Carter and has yearly been designated as National Black Music Month by all concurrent Presidents;

Whereas African-American musicians have played a significant role in inspiring people

across the generations in America and around the world with their vision and creativity by writing lyrics which speak to the human experience and express heartfelt emotion;

Whereas producers of African-American music have come to be known as some of the greatest musical talents who have enriched our culture and continue to influence fellow musicians today;

Whereas African-American musicians have helped shape our national character and have become an important part of our musical heritage; and

Whereas African-American music has millions of fans of different races and ages in cities and towns all across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Black Music Month;

(2) honors the outstanding contributions that African-American singers, musicians, composers, and producers have made to this country;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the majesty, vitality, and importance of African-American music; and

(4) requests and authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 372 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 372, which supports the goals of Black Music Month. This is an appropriate time to honor the outstanding contributions African American singers and musicians have made to the United States. The Nation benefits culturally and economically from the experience of black musicians. Today, I stand to honor the influence of African American musical artists.

African American music has strong ties to African heritage. The complex rhythm, melodic harmony, and active call-and-response nature of African American music are products of deep African traditions. Many Negro spirituals performed and written by African Americans not only commemorated the African Diaspora but helped to create social change.

In April of 1960, in Monteagle, Tennessee, a 16-year-old girl named Jamila Jones stood in a crowd of nonviolent segregation protestors and began singing, "We Shall Overcome" to a group of armed and hostile deputies. That night,

the deputies withdrew and let the students sing. "We Shall Overcome" is a Negro spiritual taken from Reverend Charles Tindley's, "I'll Overcome Some Day." Other songs, such as, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "There is a Balm in Gilead," and "Lift Every Voice and Sing," are all prominent African American ballads that were instrumental in the Civil Rights movement.

Other genres of music are rooted in the black experience as well. The origins of gospel, jazz, rhythm and blues, and rap are all closely linked to African American culture. These genres have enormous impact on our Nation at large.

President Carter acknowledged the influence and contribution of black music when he first declared June as, "Black Music Month," in 1979. Black musicians inspire people across generations and around the world with their creativity, vision, and ability to speak to the human experience. The long history of African American music has helped shape our Nation and musical heritage.

There are millions of African American music fans of different races and ages all across our Nation. I support this bill and I honor the goals and ideals of Black Music Month, along with the many contributions of black musicians to the American people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 372, supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States.

From the days of slavery and discrimination, through the progress of the Civil Rights movement, to today, black music has told the story of the African American experience. In addition to giving voice to black struggles, faith, and joys, African American music has helped also to bring people together. During Black Music Month, we celebrate this integral part of music history by highlighting the enduring legacy of African American musicians, singers, and composers.

In the early days, black music was used to share stories, spread ideas, preserve history, and establish community. These spirituals eventually evolved into a genre that remains vibrant and very meaningful today, gospel music. This great musical tradition developed under the leadership of people like Thomas Dorsey, who was known as the Father of Gospel Music.

In the early 20th century, the progression of jazz took place all over the country, from the deep south of New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta, to northern cities such as Chicago and New York. Jazz captured the interest of 20th century America, making household names of great African American artists like Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald,

and Miles Davis. The unparalleled brilliance of these and other great jazz musicians had an extraordinary effect upon the American musical tradition, while bringing great pleasure to millions of fans.

Later, rhythm and blues emerged, synthesizing elements from gospel, blues, and jazz; and from these styles came the birth of rock and roll.

□ 1745

A fabulous array of artists helped to pioneer this modern musical transformation, including Chuck Berry, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder.

African American music continues to influence the American music scene today with styles such as rap and hip-hop. As we celebrate the many creative and inspiring African American artists whose efforts have enhanced our Nation, we recognize their enduring legacy and look to a future of continued musical achievement.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 372, honoring the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States. June 2008 marks the 29th year of national recognition of Black Music. It is difficult to imagine American music without the rich and continuing innovations of African Americans. Prompted by Songwriter/producer Kenny Gamble, producer Berry Gordy, and artist Stevie Wonder, President Jimmy Carter designated June as Black Music Month in 1979.

From the African American spirituals created and sung by those who were enslaved or who were striving for equal rights, to the celebration of faith in gospel music, to the struggles of life illuminated in blues, the music throughout the years served as a narrative to the African American experience. The number of actual contributors to the African-American Music Movement is immeasurable, and the impact of these artists on American music and culture has been astounding. African American artists have influenced the development of all branches of American popular culture including rock, country, and popular or "pop" music. Artists such as Paul Robeson and Marian Anderson, who lived in my home State of Connecticut, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Duke Ellington, Louie Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Mahalia Jackson, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and Marvin Gaye set the tone for American music and have influenced artists and musicians across generations throughout the globe.

And so Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the numerous African American musicians and singers who have enriched and defined the various forms of American Music and urge the passage of this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 372, Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Michigan, Representative KILPATRICK. This important resolution honors, recognizes, preserves, and promotes the legacy

and contributions that Black Music and African American singers and musicians have made to our great Nation.

Black Music has been woven into the fabric of American Society for centuries, deeply impacting hundreds of generations. The music of African-Americans is the music of America, and has historically transcended social, economic, and racial barriers to unite people of all backgrounds. African American artists, songwriters, producers, engineers, educators, executives, and other professionals in the music industry provide inspiration and leadership through their creation of music, and their value to the African American community cannot be overstated.

African-American music is indigenous to the United States and originates from African genres of music. From gospel, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, rap, and hip-hop, African Americans musical roots can be heard throughout many musical genres that we love today. African-American music has had a pervasive influence on dance, fashion, language, art, literature, cinema, media, advertisements, and other aspects of culture and this legislation commends its pervasive influence. Furthermore, Black music has helped African-Americans endure great suffering and overcome injustice with courage and faith. Civil rights demonstrators often marched to the cadence of many songs written and composed as gospels or spirituals that were created on the fields of slaves.

As we know, African-American music is an American art form that has spanned throughout hundreds of years. Its musical elements can be heard melodiously infused in many genres that we love today. It has grown beyond its roots to achieve pop-culture and historical relevance, touching audiences around the world. According to the Gospel Music Channel, "Gospel music sales now account for nearly 8 percent of all music purchased in the United States, selling seven CDs for every ten purchased in country music."

Regardless of their musical styles, artists have turned to Black music as the source and inspiration for their own music, which has blurred the boundaries between secular and Gospel music. African-American musicians have played a significant role in inspiring people across the generations in America and around the world with their vision and creativity by writing lyrics which speak to the human experience and express heartfelt emotion. This important legislation requests and authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In 1979, President Carter first declared June as Black Music Month, an honor that has yearly repeated by the designation of National Black Music Month by all concurrent Presidents. African-American musicians have helped shape our national character and have become an important part of our musical heritage and African-American music has millions of fans of different races and ages in cities and towns all across the United States. I am proud to support this legislation that honors the outstanding contributions that African-American singers, musicians, composers, and producers have made to this country and call on the people of the United States to take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and celebrate the majesty, vitality, and importance of African-American music.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation that supports the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and I urge all my colleagues to join me in so doing.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 372, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 372.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONGRATULATING JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1051) congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1051

Whereas on March 14, 1908, Virginia Governor Claude A. Swanson signed into law legislation for the establishment of the new State Normal and Industrial School for Women;

Whereas in 1938, the institution was renamed Madison College in honor of the Nation's fourth president, James Madison;

Whereas in 1966, the Virginia General Assembly approved full coeducational status for the college, and men were enrolled as resident students for the first time;

Whereas James Madison University (JMU) enrolls nearly 17,000 students and employs 3,000 full-time and part-time faculty and staff;

Whereas in 2007, the US News and World Report ranked JMU as the top public, master's level university in the South for the 17th time;

Whereas also in 2007, the US News and World Report noted JMU's graduation rate, at 80 percent, was the highest among all public and private schools in the South;

Whereas JMU has been led by presidents Julian Ashby Burruss, Doctor Samuel Page Duke, Doctor G. Tyler Miller, Doctor Ronald E. Carrier, and Doctor Linwood H. Rose;

Whereas JMU offers 106 degree programs, including 68 undergraduate programs, 30 graduate programs, 2 education specialist programs, and 6 doctoral programs; and

Whereas JMU has conferred more than 98,000 degrees: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates James Madison Univer-

sity for 100 years of leadership and service to the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County region, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert any extraneous material on H. Res. 1051 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1051, which celebrates James Madison University's 100 years of service and leadership. Founded in 1908, the State Normal and Industrial School for Women eventually became what is now known as James Madison University. Beginning with only 150 students and 15 faculty members, the small school has grown into a prestigious university.

Today, James Madison enrolls over 17,000 students and offers a wide range of courses. With 68 undergraduate majors, 40 graduate and certificate degrees and six doctoral programs, JMU boasts a strong academic program. By coupling this strong educational base with student support, the university is able to graduate 81 percent of its students. According to the United States Department of Education, JMU is ranked 16th nationally for its graduate rate and is first among all schools in the South.

Much has changed in James Madison University's 100 year history, but some of the core principles have remained consistent. The university still strives to empower its students to make a difference and use their education to positively impact the world around them. In fact, JMU ranks 14th on the Peace Corps list of top volunteer producing universities and the ONE campaign listed the school among their top 100 most active schools in the Nation.

This year, James Madison University grew its impact with the graduation of its 100,000th student. As the university community celebrates this accomplishment, JMU will take a moment to reflect on a century of achievement. The university will also take a look ahead to the next 100 years of inquiry, learning and discovery.

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for James Madison University, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1051, congratulating James Madison University

in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

If one word could describe James Madison University, unquestionably that word would be "bold." For 100 years, the institution that began as "the little school that could" has charged through the century like a bullet train. The campus began with two buildings, now called Jackson Hall and Maury Hall, that sat on farmland at the outer edge of Harrisonburg. Constant growth and expansion have been a hallmark for the campus ever since. Today, JMU extends over 650 acres of rolling Shenandoah Valley hills and includes more than 100 buildings.

Founded in 1908 with unmatched enthusiasm that, after a century, has not diminished, today James Madison University's mission reaffirms the university's long-time commitment to meeting the needs of its students. In its earliest years, JMU's academic offerings included only what would now be called technical training or junior college courses. Today, the university offers more than 100 degree programs on the bachelors, masters, educational specialist and doctor levels.

As the university crosses into the new century, the rest of the world is beginning to take notice. Through the individual achievements and service that put the power of knowledge to work embodying President James Madison's belief that a self-governing people "must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives," JMU is developing, through education, leaders who are well-prepared to help shape the future of the Nation.

I am honored to stand before the House today and recognize this fine university. I congratulate the university's president, Linwood Rose, the board of visitors, the students, alumni, and James Madison University for reaching this milestone, and wish the university continued success.

I ask my colleagues to support the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my esteemed colleague from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Madison University and ask my colleagues to support House Resolution 1051. I want to thank my colleague from North Carolina and my colleague from Maryland for managing this legislation on the floor, and the chairman and ranking member of the committee for their support of this resolution, which recognizes an outstanding institution of higher education which I am proud to represent in the Sixth Congressional District of Virginia.

This resolution celebrates James Madison University on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, which held a week-long celebration culminating

with the centennial celebration on March 14, 2008. The entire JMU community celebrated with galas, portrait unveilings of JMU dignitaries, statue presentations, and a photograph of nearly 3,000 students, faculty, staff and alumni forming a "human 100" to celebrate the centennial.

James Madison University, located in my congressional district in Harrisonburg, Virginia, is surrounded by the beautiful Shenandoah Valley and has proved to be a catalyst in Western Virginia, building on the agricultural base of the region to create a center for higher education and innovation.

James Madison University has grown from its establishment as the Normal and Industrial School for Women in 1908 to its renaming to Madison College in 1938 and eventually to James Madison University, where it presently enrolls nearly 17,000 students and employs 3,000 full-time and part-time faculty and staff.

Since its establishment, James Madison University has been led by Presidents Julian Ashby Burress, Dr. Samuel Page Duke, the namesake of JMU's mascot, the "Duke Dog," Dr. G. Tyler Miller, Dr. Ronald Carrier, and the current President, Dr. Linwood H. Rose.

In my service of representing the Sixth District of Virginia and JMU, it has been a true pleasure to work with former President Dr. Ron Carrier and current President Dr. Linwood Rose as they have skillfully guided James Madison University into the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, from its inception, James Madison University has been at the forefront of education. Originally a teachers college, today JMU provides groundbreaking research in information technology, security and alternative fuel sources, and offers more than 100 degree programs, including 68 undergraduate, 30 masters, two educational specialists and six doctor programs. In its 100 yearlings of existence, James Madison University has conferred more than 98,000 degrees.

Based on this outstanding curriculum, in 2007 U.S. News and World Report, for the 17th time, ranked JMU as the top public, masters-level university in the South, and JMU's graduation rate, 80 percent, was the highest among all public and private schools in the South.

Madam Speaker, James Madison University's alumni have impacted the Commonwealth of Virginia, the United States and the entire world. Madison graduates travel to the farthest corners of the Earth to perform groundbreaking research and provide leadership in corporate boardrooms, athletic fields, State legislatures, and even here on Capitol Hill.

I am pleased to have introduced this resolution, cosponsored by the entire Virginia delegation and more than 50 Members of Congress, that recognizes the rich history and accomplishments of this remarkable institution on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

I urge all the Members of this body to join us in congratulating James Madison University on its 100th anniversary and to support this resolution.

Mr. SARBANES. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as we reflect on the last 100 years of JMU's history, I want to talk a little bit about a very dark time in our history, the tenure of former President Carter.

During Carter's administration, the Nation suffered from oil shortages. These shortages led to record high gas prices that ultimately persuaded the President to turn to the American public for answers. Following a Camp David summit on energy, he addressed the country saying, "We can't go on consuming 40 percent more energy than we produce. When we import oil, we are also importing inflation plus unemployment."

"We have got to use what we have. The Middle East has only 5 percent of the world's energy, but the United States has 24 percent."

And this one, which President Carter thought was one of the most vivid statements. "Our neck is stretched over the fence and OPEC has the knife."

It is truly frightening how technology has advanced since 1977, yet here we are today faced with the same issues that this Democratic Congress refuses to address. When it comes to energy production, while our global competitors are pursuing 21st century technologies, America is stuck in the 1970s.

On electricity production alone, for example, just to keep up with the new demand, by 2030 the United States must build 747 new coal plants, 52 new nuclear plants, 2,000 new hydroelectric generators, and add 13,000 new megawatts of renewable power. The dire need to increase domestic oil and gas production is no different, yet the Democratic majority refuses to lead.

Republicans are committed to a comprehensive energy reform policy that will increase the supply of American-made energy, improve energy efficiency and encourage investment in groundbreaking research and advance alternative and renewable energy technologies. With 21st century technologies and the strictest standards in the world, America can and must produce more of our own energy right here at home and protect our environment at the same time.

I wonder what President James Madison would think of the situation we find ourselves in, and wonder if he would agree with many people who have compared the views of the 2008 presumptive nominee of the Democrat Party with President Carter and the failed policies of his administration.

I call on the Democratic leadership to bring forth the proposals that Republicans have made that will help solve the problems, and not put America through what we went through in the 1970s all over again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I don't know what James Madison would have thought specifically about the issue raised, but I know he had an abiding confidence in the ingenuity of the American people, as did all of our Founding Fathers and I think every President since. And we have been held back from the kinds of investments and partnerships that the American people could join with that ingenuity to move us forward, we have been held back by a lack of investment and emphasis on that kind of investment from the current administration. So I look forward to a time when we can join in partnership with the American people and take advantage of that ingenuity that James Madison and so many others recognized from the earliest days.

What an accomplishment for any university to just be there for 100 years. The fact that James Madison University has reached this milestone with such a terrific list of accomplishments is truly deserving of the recognition that we seek to bestow upon the university today, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1051.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of James Madison University.

Established in Harrisonburg, Virginia, by the Virginia General Assembly in 1908 as the State Normal and Industrial School for Women, the school's first student body was made up of 209 students and 15 faculty members. In 1938, its name was changed to Madison College in honor of the fourth President of the United States, James Madison. In 1966, the university became a coeducational institution, and in 1976, the university's name was changed to James Madison University. Today, the university enrolls nearly 17,000 students and employs 3,000 full-time and part-time faculty and staff.

In addition to its expansion in physical size dramatic and student enrollment, JMU has experienced dramatic growth in academic prestige and popularity over the past 20 years. For the 13th consecutive year and 17th time, James Madison University ranked as the top public, master's-level university in the South in the highly regarded annual survey on academic quality conducted by U.S. News & World Report. JMU also had the highest graduation rate—80 percent—among both public and private colleges in the South. Last spring, a record 16,050 students applied for 3,300 spots in the 2007–2008 freshman class.

James Madison University is also notable for encouraging its students to engage in the global community. According to the Institute of International Education, JMU ranks second nationally among master's-level institutions for the total number of students studying abroad. With 65 of its alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers in developing countries, JMU also ranks second in the nation among medium-sized colleges and universities for graduates currently serving as volunteers with the U.S. service program.

Over the past 100 years, James Madison University has grown from a small technical college for women into a thriving academic in-

stitution that exemplifies the full promise of a public university. Throughout its growth, JMU has maintained its core mission of providing a terrific education and producing well-rounded alumni prepared to contribute to society, while at the same time fostering an inclusive and high-spirited atmosphere that complements its beautiful location in the Shenandoah Valley.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to have James Madison University in the State of Virginia and to recognize its 100 years of achievement. I ask all my colleagues to support this resolution and to congratulate the impressive achievements of James Madison University.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1051, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 2) expressing the sense of the Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from the territories of the United States by including such contributions in the teaching of United States history, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 2

Whereas individuals from Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands have contributed to many aspects of the history and culture of the United States, including its politics, athletics, and music;

Whereas many students do not know the location or the significance of these places;

Whereas the diversity of the citizens of the United States strengthens the Nation, and individuals from the territories of the United States contribute to that diversity; and

Whereas it is important for students to study the history of these geographic areas as part of United States history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that children in the United States should understand and appreciate the contributions of individuals from Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands and the contributions of such individuals in United States history.

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that children in the United States should understand and appreciate the contributions of individuals from the territories of the United States and the contributions of such individuals in United States history."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 2 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 2, which recognizes the contributions of individuals from Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands to the United States. Many individuals from these territories have added and continue to add tremendous cultural, political, and athletic contributions to America.

Some examples of these remarkable individuals include Roberto Clemente, David Hamilton Jackson, and Agueda Iglesias Johnston. Roberto Clemente, a native of Puerto Rico, was a legendary major league baseball player with the Pittsburgh Pirates and an altruistic global public servant. I will say as an aside that Roberto Clemente put the Baltimore Orioles in fits during the World Series when I was growing up, and I have a vivid memory of that. While displaying extraordinary athletic feats on the baseball diamond, his selfless nature, not his play, cast him as a national icon and an exemplary role model. Unfortunately, Roberto Clemente died in a plane crash as he was trying to deliver aid to Nicaraguan earthquake victims.

David Hamilton Jackson is another outstanding individual to recognize. Jackson spearheaded the transfer of the United States Virgin Islands territory from the Danish into the hands of the local residents. Jackson, born in the Virgin Islands, parlayed his power into making local Virgin Island residents also United States residents. Jackson served as an educator, legislator, labor leader, and lawyer, and is known as one of the most important figures from the West Indies.

Agueda Iglesias Johnston was Guam's leading educator and well-known patriot. After Japan invaded the island in 1942, she both served as a teacher and principal during dangerous times in Guam. Amidst the perilous state, Johnston showed bravery when many feared. She communicated over

the radio about the progress of the war, and she also aided an American Navy soldier, George Tweed, to escape capture by the Japanese. In Guam, she is known for her outstanding commitment, bravery, and service.

Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands have many, many historical figures, events, and pivotal historic moments that highlight the legacy of their respective homelands. Children in the United States should understand and appreciate the contributions of citizens from the territories of the U.S. Ensuring America's youth know the contributions of these great territories and their impact on American culture creates a better understanding of our Nation's history.

Madam Speaker, once again, I express my support for recognizing the important contributions of individuals from these territories of the United States.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 2, expressing the sense of the Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from the territories of the United States by including such contributions in the teaching of the United States history.

Scholars say that teaching history to children has many important lifelong benefits. History provides them with identity. Studying history improves their decision-making and judgment. History highlights models of good and responsible citizenship. History also teaches students how to learn from the mistakes of societies' past. History helps them understand change and societal development, and it provides a context from which to understand others.

Students today need to be engaged in substantive historical content. Only through curriculum that provides solid, exciting historical narratives and working with materials firsthand will students grasp the essential events of American history and proficiently comprehend the crucial issues of modern society.

Included in our schools' history curriculum should be a look at the contributions of individuals from the territory of the United States. From revolutionary times through the second World War, these territories have played significant roles in American history.

Individuals who lived in U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Midway Islands, the Mariana Islands, and American Samoa have all contributed to the history and cultural fabric of our country in unique ways. As such, the stories of their accomplishments and challenges should be passed down to our young people and included when we talk about the rich history of this great country.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege at this time to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, the sponsor of this important bill, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 2 today, which I introduced on the first day of this Congress and which expresses the sense of Congress that children in the United States should understand and appreciate the contributions of individuals from the United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands to the U.S. history. I am joined in this bill by 46 cosponsors.

This bill began with young people and it is for young people, but it is also for all Americans. A few years ago, I was on the campus of the Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas, and as I was leaving some students gathered around to greet me and ask questions. It is because of one of those questions that I introduced this resolution.

A young lady expressed her concern and frustration that so many stateside children and adults as well knew so little about the Virgin Islands. Is it is a complaint I have heard often from other students coming up for Close Up and other legislative classrooms. They challenged me to do something about it.

While it has taken longer than I would have liked, I am pleased that House Concurrent Resolution 2 is being considered today, and I would like to thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member McKEON, and all of the committee members for their support as well as my staff and the staff of the Education and Labor Committee for their work on bringing this resolution to the House floor.

Madam Speaker, the United States presently maintains sovereignty over three unincorporated territories and two commonwealths, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands. All, including the now Freely Associated States of Palau, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands, have contributed to the defense and the richness of the United States in politics, music, arts, science, sports, education, as well as in many other areas.

And there have been many historic events in the past that unfortunately are not well known by the rest of our country. As depicted in this painting that is the cover on a book about many of the relationships between the then Danish West Indies and the early years of this country, it is reported that it was a ship in Christiansted Harbor in St. Croix that gave the first foreign recognition to the early Stars and Stripes in June of 1776. In another fact, one of the earliest flags was designed

by a Markoe, again from the then Danish West Indies.

Madam Speaker, among outstanding Virgin Islanders in American history, we are also proud to count Alexander Hamilton, one of the great Founding Fathers of our Nation, the first Secretary of the Treasury and the author of the Nation's financial system. Hamilton lived in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, then the Danish West Indies during his formative years and before coming to the then Colonies. It is while on the U.S. Virgin Islands that, according to noted historian Richard Brookhiser and others, that Hamilton learned accounting and trade which spanned international borders and where he began to develop his philosophy of life and politics. One of his earliest recorded writings is a descriptive and moving account of a hurricane which was published in the local newspaper when he was around 16, in 1772.

More recently, one of New York's premier politicians of the mid 1900s was J. Raymond Jones, also known as the Silver Fox, from St. Thomas, who ran politics in New York City and is credited as a mentor by our own greater leader in this Congress, Congressman and Chairman CHARLES RANGEL. He played an important role in laying the political foundation of that city, which continues to this day.

We were active and remain active in the U.S. labor movement. Men like Ashley Totten was one of A. Phillip Randolph's lieutenants, and instrumental in the founding of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

In the entertainment business, people like Kelsey Grammer grew up in St. Thomas, and he is well known for his character on Cheers and its spinoff, Frasier. Benny Benjamin, the well-known songwriter of songs like "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire," John Lucien, and others were from my home.

There are also individuals like Casper Holstein who played a role in the Harlem Renaissance, and Barbara Christian, an influential feminist literary scholar and critic who was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

And, of course, we have also made major contributions in sports, with Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs, Raja Bell of the Phoenix Suns who both hail from St. Croix. And in the past we had Giants catcher Valmy Thomas whose daughter Shelley works in our office, Joe Christopher and Horace Clarke, and many others in major league baseball. Boxing legends such as Emile Griffith and Julian Jackson are from the Virgin Islands. And none of us could match the number of major league football players who come from American Samoa.

But it should not take an NBA game or a boxing match to bring about awareness of the U.S. territories. Our children should begin to learn about the U.S. territories within the context of U.S. history.

Madam Speaker, it is the diversity of the citizens of the United States that

strengthens this Nation, and individuals from the territories have contributed to that diversity and continue through today. The sad reality is that far too many of our fellow Americans do not even know where the U.S. territories are located, not to mention the important contributions that they have made not only to U.S. history but to world history.

A full history program should include curricula that give students a balanced learning of all of the historic contributions that impact people who live in the United States, including contributions made by the people of the territories, the Commonwealth of the United States, and the Freely Associated States.

This bill will be a giant step forward in ensuring that all Americans, however separated by geography, are fully a part of the told and taught history of our great country, as we are today an integral part of its unfolding future. And to the children and young people of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Freely Associated States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, this bill is for you.

I urge my colleagues to pass House Concurrent Resolution 2.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, as I was listening to the Delegate speak, I realized that the failed energy policies of the Democratic majority are going to be hurting these very groups of folks, because people can't afford to fly there for vacation; the prices of tickets have gone up so much that it is going to hurt significantly the tourism industry.

Also, I think as we study the history of the contributors from the territories of the United States, we need to call attention to people to the history of the actions of the Democrats and Republicans in relation to American-made oil and gas, which is a history of support and opposition.

When it comes to taking meaningful steps to provide affordable energy to the American people, Congress has the ability and responsibility to act. Unfortunately, a clear pattern has emerged over the years as one party consistently has fought to increase access to home-grown energy reserves while the other has consistently voted to expand America's dependence on foreign unstable energy instead.

□ 1815

We have compiled the facts by the issues.

ANWR exploration: House Republicans, 91 percent supported; House Democrats, 86 percent opposed.

Coal-to-liquid: House Republicans, 97 percent supported; House Democrats, 78 percent opposed.

Oil shale exploration: House Republicans, 90 percent supported; House Democrats, 86 percent opposed.

Outer Continental Shelf exploration: House Republicans, 81 percent sup-

ported; House Democrats, 83 percent opposed.

Refinery increased capacity: House Republicans, 97 percent supported; House Democrats, 96 percent opposed.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, at this time it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), and I would say I have benefited from having my office right across the hall from her office because she has sponsored a number of cultural activities in the hallway between our offices, so I have learned a lot about Guam since I got here.

Ms. BORDALLO. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, today the teaching of history to our children and young adults is an integral part of the learning experience and the American elementary and secondary education system. History is a formidable, important part of the curriculum and the intellectual development of our youth. It is through history that we learn about, recall, and reflect upon lessons of the past and it is through history that we learn to responsibly recognize and seize the opportunities of the future. History is an exercise of self-awareness. It helps each citizen understand his or her place and role in our society, and it helps us establish a continuity for progress.

It is through history that we learn about and come to appreciate our roots, our heritage, our culture, our progress as a society, and our relationships to one another and about how our family and our community relate to the broader world and to the generations that have come before us and those that follow us. Through history, our children learn about people and the faces and the stories behind the names that have helped shape our great democratic experiment.

The teaching of United States history is fundamental to the American classroom. Yet, the teaching of history can be elevated today with greater incorporation of facts related to the territories and our fellow Americans who call the territories home. Integration into the modern day curriculum of the accounts of relationships and the circumstances surrounding the entry of each of the territories into the American family is both appropriate and needed if our teaching of American history is to be complete and meaningful. Learning about the contributions of illustrious persons from the territories complements this goal and is a proven, effective means of sharing our history.

Today, American children, for example, learn about Squanto, George Washington, Paul Revere, Lewis and Clark, Buffalo Bill Cody, Susan B. Anthony, Francis Scott Key, Orville and Wilbur Wright, Rosa Parks, and many, many other notable Americans. But, Madam Speaker, the names and the stories of historic figures in the territories are not known, and we have many historic

leaders, as my colleague pointed out from her own territory of the Virgin Islands.

Today, our school children learn the capital cities of Jefferson City, Boise, Concord, Tallahassee, and many others. But San Juan, Pago Pago, and Hagatna, for example, they are unfamiliar to their ear and rarely can be pinpointed on the map. Our territorial flags, seals, trees, flowers, birds, et cetera, they are all too frequently overlooked or a mystery, our history under appreciated.

How many young students today know that Guam was discovered by Magellan in 1521, and Guam was governed under Spain for 100 years. Today, too few Americans know and realize that the territory of Guam was bombarded, attacked and invaded by Imperial Japanese forces concurrent with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Too few Americans know and learn about the loyalty and courage of the people of Guam in suffering at the hands of a brutal enemy, while their homeland, sovereign American soil, was occupied. Guam is the only American community to have been occupied since the War of 1812.

This resolution is an exercise about learning to appreciate the cultures and the history of our islands, where our U.S. flag flies. House Concurrent Resolution 2 expresses the sense of this Congress that schools and educators all across these 50 United States and right here in our Nation's capital city should strive to teach our children about the territories and should in their noble profession seek to honor the contributions of individuals from each of these territories.

For over a century now individuals from Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands have contributed to the growth and development of our country. Individuals from the territories have stood shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in harm's way, and I am speaking about the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have worn the uniform in times of war, and boast some of the highest enlistment rates in our military. Many have paid the ultimate sacrifice from World War I to the present day war against terrorism.

Some have gone on to distinguished military careers as officers. Others have made contributions in the fields of medicine, law, music and the arts. Some have become incredible teachers in their own rights, and work to preserve our history and expand the circle of awareness about the beautiful tapestry and the rich history of the people of the United States territories.

The textbooks, the classroom discussions, the maps, the globes, the technology, the learning games, all could stand to include more pages, more study questions, and more focus on the territories.

I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, for her leadership in working to incorporate the

territories into history for America's schoolchildren.

I stand here today proud of our own schoolchildren on Guam. This debate is on the heels of their participation last week for the first time in the national competition for National History Day, and my colleague spoke about this. His office is located right across from mine, and they all performed in the hallway. History students from George Washington High School, Untalan Middle School, Agueda Johnston Middle School and Guam High School all competed with students from all across the United States at the University of Maryland, College Park, in the national competition with research papers, exhibits, performance and documentaries. This occurred, as I said, just last week. And they also went on a field trip in Washington, DC.

So, Madam Speaker, I stand in full support, in strong support for the passage of this very important House Concurrent Resolution 2.

Mr. SARBANES. I inquire whether the gentlelady has any additional speakers.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I don't have any additional speakers, but I have some additional comments.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, in that case, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I went over the list of differences in ways that Republicans have suggested that Americans become energy independent from foreign sources of oil. I want to give a summary of those now.

I have stated that the gap has been as much as 97 percent of House Republicans supporting increasing refinery capacity, and 96 percent Democrats opposing increased refinery capacity.

The summary of all of the issues I have outlined was 91 percent of House Republicans have historically voted to increase the production of American made oil and gas, while on average 86 percent of House Democrats have historically voted against increasing the production of American made oil and gas.

My interest and the interest of other Republicans is in keeping this country as the greatest country in the world and ending our dependence on foreign oil. I call on the Democratic majority to join with Republicans in taking action toward this goal.

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

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I know it is incredibly difficult for the minority to resist the impulse to lob this energy rhetoric into every single discussion we have here on the floor. I am not going to take the bait, particularly on this resolution because this is such an important resolution that has been put forward. It encourages and it guides us on how we can teach this valuable, valuable history of the U.S. territories to all Americans so that they can gain a deeper appreciation of it. I

want to thank those who spoke today, Congresswoman BORDALLO and Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, for contributing their perspective on this important bill, and I want to urge my colleagues to support it unanimously if they could.

Mr. FORTUÑO. Madam Speaker, I am tremendously proud to be a co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 2, which expresses the sense of this Congress that schools in the United States should honor the contributions of individuals from the U.S. territories by including such contributions in the teaching of American history. This Resolution will encourage schools to teach—and students to learn—about the rich history and vibrant cultures of the U.S. territories and the many achievements of individuals born there. I want to commend Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN for introducing H. Con. Res 2.

In the case of Puerto Rico, the impact that our native sons and daughters have had on every aspect of American society cannot be overstated. Can you imagine preparing a history of Major League baseball without devoting at least a chapter to Roberto Clemente and the hundreds of Puerto Rican players who have followed in his wake? Likewise, consider how much the film industry owes to great actors like Jose Ferrer, Raul Julia and Benicio del Toro—to name just a few. Beyond athletics and the arts, many Puerto Ricans have made important contributions in the fields of politics, business and law. With respect to national service, students and teachers may not be aware—but should be—that residents of Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories serve in the U.S. military. They ought to know that Puerto Rico sends a higher percentage of its residents to the armed forces than all but one other U.S. jurisdiction and that four Puerto Ricans have won the Medal of Honor. H. Con. Res 2 will help ensure that students in our Nation's schools learn basic but largely unknown facts about the U.S. territories—how they were acquired, what political and civil rights residents of the territories have and do not have when compared to their fellow citizens in the states, and the prospects for change.

Unsurprisingly, there are still many people in our great Nation—children and adults—who do not know the names of the U.S. territories or their location on a map. It is my hope that, by teaching students about the history of the territories and the individual accomplishments of their residents, we can foster better understanding of and greater appreciation for the many contributions that the territories have made to American life.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 2, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that children in the United States should understand and appreciate the contributions of in-

dividuals from the territories of the United States and the contributions of such individuals in United States history."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade (Public Law 110-183), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following members on the part of the House to the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade:

Mr. Donald Payne, Newark, New Jersey

Mr. Howard Dodson, New York, New York

Ms. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

□ 1830

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: H. Res. 1242; H. Con. Res. 372; and H. Res. 1051, each by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOUIS JORDAN ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1242, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1242.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 348, nays 0, not voting 86, as follows:

[Roll No. 438]

YEAS—348

Abercrombie	Baldwin	Bishop (GA)
Ackerman	Barrett (SC)	Bishop (NY)
Aderholt	Barrow	Bishop (UT)
Akin	Bartlett (MD)	Blumenauer
Altmire	Barton (TX)	Blunt
Andrews	Bean	Boehner
Arcuri	Berkley	Bonner
Baca	Berry	Bono Mack
Bachmann	Biggert	Boozman
Bachus	Bilbray	Boren
Baird	Bilirakis	Boswell

Boustany	Graves	Miller (NC)	Velázquez	Watson	Wilson (SC)	Bilbray	Fortenberry	McCrery
Boyd (FL)	Green, Al	Miller, George	Visclosky	Watt	Wittman (VA)	Bilirakis	Fossella	McDermott
Brady (PA)	Green, Gene	Mitchell	Walberg	Waxman	Wolf	Bishop (GA)	Foster	McGovern
Brady (TX)	Hall (NY)	Moore (KS)	Walsh (NY)	Welch (VT)	Woolsey	Bishop (NY)	Fox	McHenry
Braley (IA)	Hall (TX)	Moore (WI)	Walz (MN)	Westmoreland	Wu	Bishop (UT)	Franks (AZ)	McHugh
Broun (GA)	Hare	Moran (VA)	Wamp	Wexler	Yarmuth	Blumenuaer	Frelinghuysen	McIntyre
Brown (SC)	Harman	Murphy, Patrick	Wasserman	Whitefield (KY)	Young (AK)	Blunt	Garrett (NJ)	McKeon
Brown, Corrine	Hastings (FL)	Musgrave	Schultz	Wilson (NM)		Boehner	Gerlach	McMorris
Brown-Waite, Ginny	Hastings (WA)	Myrick				Bonner	Giffords	Rodgers
Buchanan	Heller	Nadler				Bono Mack	Gillibrand	McNerney
Burgess	Hensarling	Napolitano	Alexander	Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)	Boozman	Gingrey	Meek (FL)
Butterfield	Herger	Neal (MA)	Allen	Hulshof	Radanovich	Boren	Gonzalez	Meeks (NY)
Calvert	Herseth Sandlin	Neugebauer	Becerra	Hunter	Reyes	Boswell	Goode	Mica
Camp (MI)	Higgins	Oberstar	Berman	Israel	Reynolds	Boucher	Goodlatte	Michaud
Campbell (CA)	Hinchev	Obey	Blackburn	Johnson (IL)	Roybal-Allard	Boustany	Gordon	Miller (FL)
Capito	Hinojosa	Olver	Boucher	Johnson, Sam	Rush	Boyd (FL)	Granger	Miller (MI)
Capps	Hirono	Ortiz	Boyd (KS)	Jones (OH)	Ryan (OH)	Brady (PA)	Graves	Miller (NC)
Capuano	Hobson	Pallone	Burton (IN)	Kanjorski	Sánchez, Linda	Brady (TX)	Green, Al	Miller, George
Cardoza	Hodes	Pastor	Buyer	Kaptur	T.	Braley (IA)	Green, Gene	Mitchell
Carson	Holden	Paul	Cannon	Kilpatrick	Schiff	Broun (GA)	Hall (NY)	Moore (KS)
Carter	Holt	Pence	Cantor	Kind	Schwartz	Brown (SC)	Hall (TX)	Moore (WI)
Castle	Honda	Perlmutter	Carnahan	Kingston	Sestak	Brown, Corrine	Hare	Moran (VA)
Castor	Hooley	Peterson (MN)	Carney	Knollenberg	Shea-Porter	Brown-Waite, Ginny	Harman	Murphy, Patrick
Cazayoux	Hoyer	Petri	Cohen	Langevin	Shimkus	Buchanan	Hastings (FL)	Murtha
Chabot	Inglis (SC)	Pitts	Costa	Loebsack	Sires	Burgess	Hastings (WA)	Musgrave
Chandler	Inslie	Platts	Costello	Maloney (NY)	Solis	Butterfield	Hayes	Myrick
Childers	Issa	Poe	Costorney	McNulty	Souder	Heller	Heller	Nadler
Clarke	Jackson (IL)	Pomeroy	Davis (IL)	Miller, Gary	Space	Calvert	Hensarling	Napolitano
Clay	Jackson-Lee (TX)	Porter	Doyle	Mollohan	Tancredo	Camp (MI)	Herger	Neal (MA)
Cleaver	Jefferson	Price (GA)	Drake	Moran (KS)	Thompson (MS)	Campbell (CA)	Herseth Sandlin	Neugebauer
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)	Engel	Murphy (CT)	Udall (CO)	Cantor	Higgins	Oberstar
Coble	Johnson, E. B.	Putnam	Ferguson	Murphy, Tim	Udall (NM)	Capito	Hinchev	Obey
Cole (OK)	Jones (NC)	Rahall	Frank (MA)	Murtha	Walden (OR)	Capps	Hinojosa	Olver
Conaway	Jordan	Ramstad	Nunes	Nunes	Waters	Capuano	Hirono	Ortiz
Conyers	Kagen	Rangel	Gilchrest	Pascrell	Weiner	Cardoza	Hobson	Pallone
Cooper	Keller	Regula	Gohmert	Payne	Weldon (FL)	Carson	Hodes	Pastor
Cramer	Kennedy	Rehberg	Grijalva	Pearce	Weller	Carter	Holden	Paul
Crenshaw	Kildee	Reichert	Gutierrez	Peterson (PA)	Wilson (OH)	Castle	Holt	Pence
Crowley	King (IA)	Renzi	Hill	Pickering	Young (FL)	Castor	Honda	Perlmutter
Cubin	King (NY)	Richardson				Cazayoux	Hooley	Peterson (MN)
Cuellar	Kirk	Rodriguez				Chabot	Hoyer	Petri
Culberson	Klein (FL)	Rogers (AL)				Chandler	Inglis (SC)	Pitts
Cummings	Kline (MN)	Rogers (KY)				Childers	Inslie	Platts
Davis (AL)	Kucinich	Rogers (MI)				Clarke	Issa	Poe
Davis (CA)	Kuhl (NY)	Rohrabacher				Clay	Jackson (IL)	Pomeroy
Davis (KY)	LaHood	Ros-Lehtinen				Cleaver	Jackson-Lee (TX)	Porter
Davis, David	Lamborn	Roskam				Clyburn	Jefferson	Price (GA)
Davis, Lincoln	Lampson	Ross				Coble	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
Davis, Tom	Larsen (WA)	Rothman				Cole (OK)	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Deal (GA)	Larson (CT)	Royce				Conaway	Jones (NC)	Ramstad
DeFazio	Latham	Ruppersberger				Conyers	Jones (OH)	Rangel
DeGette	LaTourette	Ryan (WI)				Cooper	Jordan	Regula
Delahunt	Latta	Salazar				Cramer	Kagen	Rehberg
DeLauro	Lee	Sali				Crenshaw	Keller	Reichert
Dent	Levin	Sanchez, Loretta				Crowley	Kennedy	Renzi
Diaz-Balart, L.	Lewis (CA)	Sarbanes				Cubin	Kildee	Richardson
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lewis (GA)	Saxton				Cuellar	King (IA)	Rodriguez
Dicks	Lewis (KY)	Scalise				Culberson	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Dingell	Linder	Schakowsky				Cummings	Kirk	Rogers (KY)
Doggett	Lipinski	Schmidt				Davis (AL)	Klein (FL)	Rogers (MI)
Donnelly	LoBiondo	Scott (GA)				Davis (CA)	Kline (MN)	Rohrabacher
Doolittle	Lofgren, Zoe	Scott (VA)				Davis (KY)	Kucinich	Ros-Lehtinen
Dreier	Lowey	Sensenbrenner				Davis, David	Kuhl (NY)	Roskam
Duncan	Lucas	Serrano				Davis, Lincoln	LaHood	Ross
Edwards (MD)	Lungren, Daniel	Sessions				Davis, Tom	Lamborn	Rothman
Edwards (TX)	E.	Shadegg				Deal (GA)	Lampson	Royce
Ehlers	Lynch	Shays				DeFazio	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
Ellison	Mack	Sherman				DeGette	Larson (CT)	Ryan (WI)
Ellsworth	Mahoney (FL)	Shuler				DeLauro	Latham	Salazar
Emanuel	Manzullo	Shuster				Dent	LaTourette	Sali
Emerson	Marchant	Simpson				Diaz-Balart, L.	Latta	Sanchez, Loretta
English (PA)	Markey	Skelton				Diaz-Balart, M.	Lee	Sarbanes
Eshoo	Marshall	Slaughter				Dicks	Levin	Saxton
Etheridge	Matheson	Smith (NE)				Dingell	Lewis (CA)	Scalise
Everett	Matsui	Smith (NJ)				Doggett	Lewis (GA)	Schakowsky
Fallin	McCarthy (CA)	Smith (TX)				Donnelly	Lewis (KY)	Schmidt
Farr	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (WA)				Doolittle	Linder	Scott (GA)
Fattah	McCaul (TX)	Snyder				Drake	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
Feeney	McCotter	Speier				Dreier	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner
Filner	McCrery	Spratt				Duncan	Lofgren, Zoe	Serrano
Flake	McDermott	Stark				Edwards (MD)	Lowey	Sessions
Forbes	McGovern	Stearns				Edwards (TX)	Lucas	Shadegg
Fortenberry	McHenry	Stupak				Ehlers	Lungren, Daniel	Shays
Fossella	McHugh	Sullivan				Ellison	E.	Sherman
Foster	McIntyre	Sutton				Ellsworth	Lynch	Shuler
Fox	McKeon	Tanner				Emanuel	Mack	Shuster
Franks (AZ)	McMorris	Tauscher				Emerson	Mahoney (FL)	Simpson
Frelinghuysen	Rodgers	Taylor				Engel	Manzullo	Skelton
Garrett (NJ)	Gillibrand	Terry				English (PA)	Marchant	Slaughter
Gerlach	Meek (FL)	Thompson (CA)				Eshoo	Markey	Smith (NE)
Giffords	Meeks (NY)	Thornberry				Etheridge	Marshall	Smith (NJ)
Gillibrand	Melancon	Tiahrt				Everett	Matheson	Smith (TX)
Gingrey	Mica	Tiberi				Fallin	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Gonzalez	Michaud	Tierney				Farr	McCarthy (CA)	Snyder
Goode	Miller (FL)	Townes				Fattah	McCarthy (NY)	Speier
Goodlatte	Miller (MI)	Tsongas				Feeney	McCaul (TX)	Spratt
Gordon		Turner				Filner	McCotter	Stark
Granger		Upton				Flake		Stearns
		Van Hollen				Forbes		

NOT VOTING—86

□ 1856

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.” So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 438, H. Res. 1242, Honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF BLACK MUSIC MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 372, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 372.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 353, nays 0, not voting 81, as follows:

[Roll No. 439]

YEAS—353

Abercrombie	Baca	Bartlett (MD)
Ackerman	Bachmann	Barton (TX)
Aderholt	Bean	
Akin	Baird	Becerra
Altmire	Baldwin	Berkley
Andrews	Barrett (SC)	Berry
Arcuri	Barrow	Biggart

Stupak	Turner	Welch (VT)
Sullivan	Upton	Westmoreland
Sutton	Van Hollen	Wexler
Tanner	Velázquez	Whitfield (KY)
Tauscher	Visclosky	Wilson (NM)
Taylor	Walberg	Wilson (SC)
Terry	Walden (OR)	Wittman (VA)
Thompson (CA)	Walsh (NY)	Wolf
Thornberry	Wamp	Woolsey
Tiahrt	Wasserman	Wu
Tiberi	Schultz	Yarmuth
Tierney	Watson	Young (AK)
Towns	Watt	
Tsongas	Waxman	

NOT VOTING—81

Alexander	Israel	Reynolds
Allen	Johnson (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Berman	Johnson, Sam	Rush
Blackburn	Kanjorski	Ryan (OH)
Boyd (KS)	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Burton (IN)	Kilpatrick	T.
Buyer	Kind	Schiff
Cannon	Kingston	Schwartz
Carnahan	Knollenberg	Sestak
Carney	Langevin	Shea-Porter
Cohen	Loeb sack	Shimkus
Costa	Maloney (NY)	Sires
Costello	McNulty	Solis
Courtney	Melancon	Souder
Davis (IL)	Miller, Gary	Space
Delahunt	Mollohan	Tancredo
Doyle	Moran (KS)	Thompson (MS)
Ferguson	Murphy (CT)	Udall (CO)
Frank (MA)	Murphy, Tim	Udall (NM)
Galleghy	Nunes	Walz (MN)
Gilchrest	Pascrell	Waters
Gohmert	Payne	Weiner
Grijalva	Pearce	Weldon (FL)
Gutierrez	Peterson (PA)	Weller
Hill	Pickering	Wilson (OH)
Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)
Hulshof	Radanovich	
Hunter	Reyes	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes to vote.

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 439, H. Con. Res. 372, Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

WELCOMING HENRY NELSON GILLIBRAND

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce the birth of the newest upstate New Yorker, Henry Nelson Gillibrand, and to announce his birth to the Members of the 110th Congress.

I want to thank the Members for all their encouragement and good wishes. And I want to thank the friends and all the constituents of upstate New York, from the 20th District of New York, for their good wishes and their prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1051, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1051, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 354, nays 0, not voting 80, as follows:

[Roll No. 440]

YEAS—354

Abercrombie	Castle	Farr
Ackerman	Castor	Fattah
Aderholt	Cazayoux	Feeney
Akin	Chabot	Filner
Altmire	Chandler	Flake
Andrews	Childers	Forbes
Arcuri	Clarke	Fortenberry
Baca	Cleaver	Fossella
Bachmann	Clyburn	Foster
Bachus	Coble	Fox
Baird	Cole (OK)	Franks (AZ)
Baldwin	Conaway	Frelinghuysen
Barrett (SC)	Conyers	Garrett (NJ)
Barrow	Cooper	Gerlach
Bartlett (MD)	Cramer	Giffords
Barton (TX)	Crenshaw	Gillibrand
Bean	Crowley	Gingrey
Becerra	Cubin	Gonzalez
Berkley	Cuellar	Goode
Berry	Culberson	Goodlatte
Biggett	Cummings	Gordon
Bilbray	Davis (AL)	Granger
Bilirakis	Davis (CA)	Green, Al
Bishop (GA)	Davis (KY)	Green, Gene
Bishop (NY)	Davis, David	Hall (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Davis, Lincoln	Hall (TX)
Blumenauer	Davis, Tom	Hare
Blunt	Deal (GA)	Harman
Boehner	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Bonner	DeGette	Hastings (WA)
Bono Mack	Delahunt	Hayes
Boozman	DeLauro	Hensarling
Boren	Dent	Herge
Boswell	Diaz-Balart, L.	Herseth Sandlin
Boucher	Diaz-Balart, M.	Higgins
Boustany	Dicks	Hinche
Boyd (FL)	Dingell	Hinojosa
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Hirono
Brady (TX)	Donnelly	Hobson
Braley (IA)	Doolittle	Hodes
Broun (GA)	Doyle	Holden
Brown (SC)	Drake	Holt
Brown, Corrine	Dreier	Honda
Brown-Waite,	Duncan	Hooley
Ginny	Edwards (MD)	Hoyer
Buchanan	Edwards (TX)	Inglis (SC)
Burgess	Ehlers	Inslee
Butterfield	Ellison	Issa
Calvert	Ellsworth	Jackson (IL)
Camp (MI)	Emanuel	Jackson-Lee
Campbell (CA)	Emerson	(TX)
Cantor	Engel	Jefferson
Capito	English (PA)	Johnson (GA)
Capps	Eshoo	Johnson, E. B.
Capuano	Etheridge	Jones (NC)
Cardoza	Everett	Jones (OH)
Carson	Fallin	Jordan
Carter		Kagen

Kaptur	Miller (NC)	Serrano
Keller	Mitchell	Sessions
Kennedy	Moore (KS)	Shadegg
Kildee	Moore (WI)	Shays
King (IA)	Moran (VA)	Sherman
King (NY)	Murphy, Patrick	Shuler
Kirk	Murtha	Shuster
Klein (FL)	Musgrave	Simpson
Kline (MN)	Myrick	Skelton
Kucinich	Nadler	Slaughter
Kuhl (NY)	Napolitano	Smith (NE)
LaHood	Neal (MA)	Smith (NJ)
Lamborn	Neugebauer	Smith (TX)
Lampson	Oberstar	Smith (WA)
Langevin	Obey	Snyder
Larsen (WA)	Olver	Speier
Larson (CT)	Ortiz	Spratt
Latham	Pallone	Stark
LaTourette	Pastor	Stearns
Latta	Paul	Stupak
Lee	Pence	Sullivan
Levin	Perlmutter	Sutton
Lewis (CA)	Peterson (MN)	Tanner
Lewis (GA)	Petri	Tauscher
Lewis (KY)	Pitts	Taylor
Linder	Platts	Terry
Lipinski	Poe	Thompson (CA)
LoBiondo	Pomeroy	Thornberry
Lofgren, Zoe	Porter	
Lowe	Price (NC)	Tiahrt
Lucas	Putnam	Tiberi
Lungren, Daniel	Rahall	Tierney
E.	Ramstad	Towns
Lynch	Rangel	Tsongas
Mack	Regula	Turner
Mahoney (FL)	Rehberg	Upton
Manzullo	Reichert	Van Hollen
Marchant	Renzi	Velázquez
Markey	Richardson	Visclosky
Marshall	Rodriguez	Walberg
Matheson	Rogers (AL)	Walden (OR)
Matsui	Rogers (KY)	Walsh (NY)
McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (MI)	Walz (MN)
McCarthy (NY)	Rohrabacher	Wamp
McCaul (TX)	Ros-Lehtinen	Wasserman
McCollum (MN)	Roskam	Schultz
McCotter	Ross	Watson
McCrery	Rothman	Watt
McDermott	Royce	Waxman
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Welch (VT)
McHenry	Ryan (WI)	Westmoreland
McHugh	Salazar	Wexler
McIntyre	Sali	Whitfield (KY)
McKeon	Sanchez, Loretta	Wilson (NM)
McNerney	Sarbanes	Wilson (SC)
Meek (FL)	Saxton	Wittman (VA)
Meeke (NY)	Scalise	Wolf
Melancon	Schakowsky	Woolsey
Mica	Schmidt	Wu
Michaud	Scott (GA)	Yarmuth
Miller (FL)	Scott (VA)	Young (AK)
Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner	

NOT VOTING—80

Alexander	Israel	Reyes
Allen	Johnson (IL)	Reynolds
Berman	Johnson, Sam	Roybal-Allard
Blackburn	Kanjorski	Rush
Boyd (KS)	Kilpatrick	Ryan (OH)
Burton (IN)	Kind	Sánchez, Linda
Buyer	Kingston	T.
Cannon	Knollenberg	Schiff
Carnahan	Loeb sack	Schwartz
Carney	Maloney (NY)	Sestak
Cohen	McMorris	Shea-Porter
Costa	Rodgers	Shimkus
Costello	McNulty	Sires
Courtney	Miller, Gary	Solis
Davis (IL)	Miller, George	Souder
Ferguson	Mollohan	Space
Frank (MA)	Moran (KS)	Tancredo
Galleghy	Murphy (CT)	Thompson (MS)
Gilchrest	Murphy, Tim	Udall (CO)
Gohmert	Nunes	Udall (NM)
Graves	Pascrell	Waters
Grijalva	Payne	Weiner
Gutierrez	Pearce	Weldon (FL)
Heller	Peterson (PA)	Weller
Hill	Pickering	Wilson (OH)
Hoekstra	Pryce (GA)	Young (FL)
Hulshof	Pryce (OH)	
Hunter	Radanovich	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1913

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 440, H. Res. 1051, Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend several votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 1242, Honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth; "yea" on final passage of my bill, H. Con. Res. 372, supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States, and "yea" on final passage of H. Res. 1051—Congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6041

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 6041.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4040, CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4040.

The form of my motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4040 be instructed to insist on the provisions contained in the House bill with regard to the definition of "children's product".

NO FREEDOM OF SPEECH AT U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. Human Rights Council was formed to have open, lively debate on the basic human rights of all peoples. However, some Muslim nations have put a strong

arm on the council and prevented free discussions of practices that are advocated in the name of religion by a few Muslims. Those practices include female genital mutilation and so-called "honor killings," or murder, of women.

One would think that the mutilation and killing of women would be a front-burner topic with the Human Rights Council. But some Muslims have said this subject is taboo and the discussion of this religious practice and the religious practices of other faiths is off-limits.

So much for the basic human right of free speech.

Those that advocate the mutilation and honor killings of women in the name of religion should be proud of this doctrine of faith and be able to justify it before the U.N. Human Rights Council. But I guess not.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that in the history of humanity, more murders, tortures, and wars have been justified and done in the name of the world's numerous religions than any other reason or cause.

Reason enough in 2008 to discuss this practice of abusing women.

And that's just the way it is.

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 Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TORTURE UNDERMINES OUR VALUES AND MAKES US WEAKER

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, nothing has stained the honor of the United States in recent years like the use of torture against detainees, detainees in Iraq and detainees elsewhere. Torture goes against our Nation's most basic values, and it undermines the American people's reputation as a compassionate and committed people to human rights.

Torture is not only immoral; it has a practical damaging effect on our foreign policy. When America is involved in torture, we lose the moral authority that is our most powerful weapon in the fight against terrorism. How can we lead the world against terrorism when the world believes that we don't respect the rule of law ourselves?

That is why I want to call attention to a new report on torture that was issued last week by the group Physicians for Human Rights. This group assembled a team of doctors and psychologists to evaluate former detainees held in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay. The team found that the detainees were tortured, even though no charges were ever brought against them or any explanation ever given for their imprisonment.

The torture consisted of beatings, electric shocks, involuntary medication, shackling, and sexual humiliation. Other techniques were used, but they are far too awful for me to mention here. One Iraqi detainee who was held for a time in the notorious Abu Ghraib prison said he was subjected to psychological abuse as well as physical torture. He said that his captors threatened to rape his mother and his sisters.

Former Major General Anthony Taguba, who conducted the Army's investigation of the Abu Ghraib scandal in 2004, wrote a preface to the report. He said, "In order for these individuals to suffer the wanton cruelty to which they were subjected, a government policy was promulgated to the field whereby the Geneva Conventions and the Uniform Code of Military Justice were disregarded. The U.N. Convention Against Torture was indiscriminately ignored . . ."

He continued: "Through the experiences," he said, "of these men . . . we can see the full scope of the damage this illegal and unsound policy has inflicted, both on American institutions and our founding values."

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that there will be some people who will try to discredit this report by charging that it was prepared by a group determined to embarrass the administration. But if they don't believe this report, perhaps they will believe the reporting of the McClatchy newspapers, which conducted an 8-month investigation of the U.S. detention system created after 9/11. The McClatchy investigation found "that the United States imprisoned innocent men, subjected them to abuse, stripped them of their legal rights, and allowed Islamic militants to turn the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay into a school for jihad."

This House did the honorable thing a few months ago when it voted to stop the use of waterboarding and other illegal interrogation techniques. Forty-three retired generals and admirals supported that bill. Eighteen national security experts, including former Secretaries of State and national security advisers, supported it as well. But the President vetoed this bill, sending the world a message that America condones torture.

Torture doesn't work. It doesn't produce good information. It exposes our own troops to torture if they are captured. It creates enemies. In short, torture doesn't make us stronger; it makes us weaker.

Congress must recognize these facts and move to restore our Nation's good name. The best way to begin to do that is by redeploying our troops out of Iraq and then help the Iraqi people to rebuild their lives and their country. I know that this won't happen soon given last week's vote on funding for the occupation of Iraq. But sooner or later, Congress must act. Redeploying out of Iraq will help to heal the wounds of torture and right the wrongs.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for America to be America again: peace loving, compassionate, and a true champion of human rights, and restore our dignity.

HADITHA, IRAQ, FIREFIGHT THE MARINES AND THE PRESS

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the New York Times called it the "nightmare" killings of Haditha, Iraq, and the "defining atrocity" of the Iraq War. Maureen Dowd of the New York Times referred to the incident as the "My Lai Acid Flashback." Another New York Times reporter filed 36 stories on what he called the "cold blooded killing," saying, "This is the nightmare everyone worried about when the Iraq invasion took place." Self-proclaimed expert and "worst person ever," Keith Olbermann of MSNBC, called it "willful targeted brutality." Nation Magazine said of the event in Iraq that "members of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment perpetrated a massacre." And even a Member of this House of Representatives said, "Our troops overreacted . . . and killed innocent civilians in cold blood."

It has become the largest investigation in the history of Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which has 65 government agents assigned to this one case. Mr. Speaker, as a former judge and prosecutor, I have never heard of 65 criminal investigators assigned to one case except the 9/11 attack.

What is the terrible atrocity these news sources are talking about?

Well, Mr. Speaker, the Haditha, Iraq, incident took place in November of 2005 when our Marines were attacked by the use of a roadside bomb that exploded, killing one Marine and wounding two others. The Marines were then engaged in a firefight. Twenty-four Iraqis were killed, including some civilians.

After the gun battle was over and the smoke cleared, our government charged four Marines with murder and four others with not properly investigating the case. In a rabid rainstorm of criticism by U.S. journalists who were looking for the scalps of these eight Marines, the eight Marines were tried by a hysterical jury of journalists in the press and apparently found guilty on all charges.

But normally, Mr. Speaker, in America we try folks in our justice system and give them a trial before we send them off to the hangman and the gallows. Be that as it may, now, 2½ years after expensive, intense, and thorough investigation, the facts as portrayed by the sensational National Enquirer-type journalists are not as they were portrayed to be.

According to columnist Michelle Malkin, who covered these cases in depth, seven of the eight Marines have had their cases dropped or dismissed. The eighth is awaiting trial in a real

court, rather than the court of yellow journalism.

These journalists, ironically, are the same ones wanting to close down Guantanamo Bay prison and are worried about the treatment of those alleged terrorists there who may get cold blueberry muffins for their breakfast. But these writers could care less about the presumption of innocence for these eight U.S. Marines, seven of which have had their cases dismissed already. Only in America does the press get teary eyed about the Gitmo detainees but is blissfully ignorant about the justice in the prosecution of our Marines.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Marines are still in the midst of battle in Iraq and Afghanistan and standing vigilant in other places of the world protecting American interests and values. Those values include the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press to say anything it wants, even when the press is totally inaccurate and unfair in the expression of those fundamental rights. And for the U.S. Marines, we say Semper Parati.

And that's just the way it is.

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

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

THE PROSECUTION OF FORMER U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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, as the Members of the House are aware, in February of 2006, U.S. Border Patrol agents Ramos and Compean were convicted of shooting and wounding a Mexican drug smuggler who brought \$1 million worth of marijuana across our borders into Texas. The agents were sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison and now have been in Federal prison for 523 days.

Last week I sent a letter, signed by Congressmen TED POE, DANA ROHRBACHER, VIRGIL GOODE, LOUIE GOHMERT, JOHN CULBERSON, and DON MANZULLO, to ask the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Professional Responsibility to investigate the actions of U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton in this case.

□ 1930

One of the main reasons for this request stems from the firearm charge used by his office in prosecuting the agents. This charge carried a 10-year minimum sentence. Without this charge, one of the agents, Agent Ramos, would have already completed his sentence and would be out of prison and with his family today.

The office of U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton charged the agents with the discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence. Yet, there is no such crime. The law makes it a crime to use or carry or possess a firearm in relation to any crime of violence. The Supreme Court ruled last year in United States vs. Watson that discharge of a firearm is only a sentencing factor for a judge to consider at the conviction, not for the jury to determine if a crime occurred. However, you can imagine how difficult it would be to convince a jury that two Border Patrol agents, law enforcement officers, were unlawfully using, carrying, or possessing their firearms.

When you look at the history of why Congress enacted this statute, one reason stands out: To warn criminals to think twice before they stick a gun in their pocket on the way to the scene of a crime. This is the reason the statute clearly does not apply, does not apply to law enforcement officers like Ramos and Compean. These men were not carrying guns so they could commit a crime, they were required to carry guns as part of their job.

By focusing the jurors' attention on this nonexistent crime of discharging a firearm, there is reason to believe that Johnny Sutton intentionally manipulated the Federal criminal code to obtain a conviction against these two Border Patrol agents at all costs.

The American people must be confident that prosecutors will not tailor the law to make it easier to secure a conviction in a particular case. Federal prosecutors take an oath to enforce the law, not to make it.

I want the families of Ramos and Compean to know that my colleagues and I will continue to bring this injustice to the attention of the American people and to the White House.

I am most grateful, I am most grateful to Chairman JOHN CONYERS and his staff for their interest in investigating the prosecution in this case. I hope that the House Judiciary Committee will soon hold a hearing on this injustice, and I am also hopeful that the Department of Justice will take this matter seriously and will investigate Mr. Sutton's conduct in this case.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, I want the family, again, of Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean, that those of us in Congress on both sides of the aisle, we care about their families, we care about these Border Agents, and never, under any circumstances, should they have been indicted and prosecuted.

I want to thank Chairman JOHN CONYERS for holding hearings on this matter.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2008.

Re Complaint for Prosecutorial Misconduct
Against Johnny Sutton, United States
Attorney, Western District of Texas

H. MARSHALL JARRETT,
Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility
United States Department of Justice, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR COUNSEL JARRETT: As Members of Congress, we write this letter to bring to your attention for investigation what we have concluded to be a serious miscarriage of justice by United States Attorney Johnny Sutton. Mr. Sutton supervised, and has vigorously defended, his office's actions in a case wherein two United States Border Patrol agents—Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean—have been convicted, and each are now being punished by imprisonment of 10 years, for a crime that does not exist, and therefore, for a crime that could not have been committed.

Specifically, Mr. Ramos and Mr. Compean were charged with violating 18 United States Code Section 924(c)(1)(A) by the “knowing[] discharge[] [of] a firearm . . . during and in relation to a crime of violence.” (Emphasis added). There is, however, no such crime. Rather, Section 924(c)(1)(A) makes it a crime to “use or carry . . . during and in relation to any crime of violence” or to “possess a firearm” “in furtherance of” any such crime. And, as the United States Supreme Court recently pointed out, “discharge” is only a sentencing factor to be considered by the judge after conviction, not by the jury in the effort to determine whether the law has been violated. *United States v. Watson*, 169 L.Ed.2d 472 (2007).

While this distinction might, at first glance, be merely technical, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the circuit in which Mr. Ramos and Mr. Compean were convicted, ruled that an indictment that did not allege that a defendant had so used or carried, or so possessed, a firearm was insufficient to charge an offense under Section 924(c)(1)(A). See *United States v. McGilberry*, 480 F.3d 326, 329 (5th Cir. 2007). Indeed, six years before McGilberry, the Fifth Circuit, ruled that “discharging a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence” was not an “actus reus” element of the offense defined by 18 U.S.C. Section 924(c)(1)(A), but only a factor to be considered at “sentencing” after conviction.” See *United States v. Barton*, 257 F.3d 433, 441–43 (5th Cir. 2001). And one year after Barton (and five years before Watson), the United States Supreme Court agreed, ruling that Section 924(c)(1)(A) did not define “discharge” of a firearm as a separate offense, but only as a “sentencing factor[] to be considered by the trial judge after conviction.” See *Harris v. United States*, 536 U.S. 545, 550–53 (2002).

Notwithstanding these binding precedents in the Western District of Texas, United States Attorney Sutton secured an indictment charging Mr. Ramos and Mr. Compean with the non-existent crime of “discharging” a firearm “in relation to a crime of violence.” By this charge Mr. Sutton facilitated the conviction of the two border control agents by means of jury instructions that focused the jury’s attention upon the “discharge” of the agents’ firearms, rather than upon the lawfulness of the possession, carrying, and use of such firearms in the ordinary course of their employment. Moreover, by this indictment and these instructions, Mr. Sutton obtained a conviction of an offense that carried a minimum 10-year sentence, as provided by the statute, rather than the lesser sentence for violation of Border Patrol rules and regulations. See also,

Brief Amici Curiae of Congressman Walter B. Jones, Gun Owners Foundation, United States Border Control Foundation, United States Border Control, and Conservative Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., In Support of Appellants, *United States of America v. Jose Alonso Compean and Ignacio Ramos*, No. 06-51489, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit (May 27, 2007).

It is our firm conviction that, by these actions, Mr. Sutton is guilty of prosecutorial misconduct, the effect of which has imposed an irreversible and substantial effect upon Mr. Ramos and Mr. Compean and their families. Prior to the return of the indictment against Mr. Ramos and Mr. Compean, Mr. Sutton must have known that it was impossible for there to be probable cause for a “crime” never enacted by Congress, as authoritatively and previously decided by the United States Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. According to Rule 3.09 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, a prosecuting attorney is to “refrain from prosecuting . . . a charge that the prosecutor knows is not supported by probable cause.”

Indeed, the Comments to Rule 3.09 of the Texas Rules of Professional Conduct admonish prosecutors to remember their “responsibility to see that justice is done, and not simply be an advocate.”

On April 1, 1940, then Attorney General Robert Jackson, speaking to United States Attorneys serving in each federal judicial district across the country, reminded them why justice should be their goal, not winning their cases. “The prosecutor,” he said, “has more control over the life, liberty, and reputation than any other person in America. His discretion is tremendous . . . We must bear in mind that we are concerned solely with the prosecution of acts which the Congress has made federal offenses.”

Mr. Sutton has manipulated the federal criminal code to obtain a conviction against two U.S. Border Patrol agents, preferring to win at all costs over his duty as a United States Attorney, and his duty under the Texas Rules of Professional Conduct. This is a matter which your office has a duty to investigate and, on the basis of what we now know, to remedy.

Sincerely yours,

WALTER JONES,
TED POE,
VIRGIL GOODE,
DANA ROHRBACHER,
LOUIE GOHMERT,
JOHN CULBERSON,
DONALD A. MANZULLO,
Members of Congress.

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.)

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

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

OPERATION STREAMLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CULBERSON. Speaker CUELLAR, it’s perfectly appropriate that you’re in the chair today because you and I have served together in the Texas House, and we have worked together, Mr. Speaker, in cooperation with our friend, Congressman CIRO RODRIGUEZ of Del Rio. You and I and CIRO have worked together to successfully implement a program that I want to single out for praise tonight.

In the Laredo sector and the Del Rio sector, the immigration laws of this country are being enforced with a zero tolerance in a program called Operation Streamline. With the full support of the local community that you represent, Mr. Speaker, because the crime rate in Laredo has dropped 70 percent—excuse me; in Del Rio we have seen a 70 percent drop. I think you have seen about a 60 percent drop in the crime rate in the Laredo sector as a direct result of simply enforcing existing law in a team effort, Mr. Speaker, between the Border Patrol, the U.S. Marshals, the prosecutors, the judges, the magistrates, and the sheriffs, with their local Congressman, Congressman CUELLAR. You, Mr. Speaker, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, and myself on the Appropriations Committee, we have been able to bring together that team approach in a bipartisan way that has resulted in a dramatic decline in the crime rate. The illegal crossings in the Del Rio sector are now at the lowest level they have been since the Border Patrol started keeping statistics in 1973.

I bring this to the attention of the House tonight, Mr. Speaker, first of all, to congratulate and praise those fine men and women in the law enforcement community of the Border Patrol in Del Rio and Laredo, also in the Yuma sector, where this is working so well. In particular, in the Laredo and Del Rio sectors we have seen real success because of the teamwork of those law enforcement officers and the judges and the cooperation we have seen at an unprecedented level between members of both parties in making sure the community and the Nation are safe in those sectors.

I am working with you now, Mr. Speaker, as well as with the local Members of Congress in rolling out Operation Streamline, it’s called, the zero tolerance program, in the Rio Grande Valley sector. So that the goal is, of course, from the mouth of the Rio Grande now, up through the Del Rio sector, Lake Amastad, that the border will be secure.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it is a very different story in Tucson, Arizona. In Tucson, Arizona, the local U.S. Attorney refuses to enforce existing law, and in Tucson, if you are arrested by the Border Patrol, for example, in Del Rio or Laredo, you have a 100 percent chance of being prosecuted and serving some time in jail, obviously

with the exception of women and children. The officer will use their good judgment and their good heart.

But if you're arrested in Del Rio or Laredo, you're going to jail. If you're arrested in Tucson, Arizona, Mr. Speaker, carrying less than a quarter ton of dope, you have a 99.6 percent chance of nerve going to jail, and you will probably be home in time for dinner.

It's an unbelievable and outrageous situation that I have worked on behind the scenes as quietly as I can with the Department of Justice, with the U.S. Attorney out there, Diane Humetewa, who refuses to meet with me, who refuses to talk to me, who refuses to cooperate. She, to this day, Mr. Speaker, refuses to do anything to improve the prosecution rate in the Arizona sector of the border. As a result, those officers' lives are in danger. As a result of her refusal to enforce the law, the lives of the people of Arizona are in danger. This Nation is in danger because of the refusal of the U.S. Attorney in Arizona, Diane Humetewa, to do her job.

Frankly, I am sick and tired of it, and it needs to be brought to the attention of the American people here on the floor because we have found a bipartisan solution to this. We have found a solution that people on the border support.

You represent the Laredo sector, Mr. Speaker. I know your community, the people you represent are thrilled with the reduction in the crime rate. It has been a team effort. There are no party labels when it comes to Texans. My good friend, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, will be speaking in a moment, and we are Texans first. There are no party labels when it comes to what is good for Texas and the Nation.

We have found a solution, Mr. Speaker, in Operation Streamline and the Zero Tolerance Program, enforcing existing law with existing resources and existing personnel in a unified team effort, and it's about time for the U.S. Attorney in Arizona to get with the program and recognize that she has an essential role in protecting this Nation.

Frankly, Mr. Speaker, if the U.S. Attorney in Arizona will not enforce the law and live up to her oath of office, I think she ought to find another job. It's about time for her to just step aside. It's unacceptable for a U.S. Attorney to refuse to enforce the law. Those officers' lives are in danger.

We on the Appropriations Committee, I serve on the Homeland Security subcommittee, Mr. Speaker, we sent 40 additional U.S. Attorneys, prosecutors to the southwest border with specific instructions that those attorneys be used to prosecute border crime. The U.S. Attorney in Arizona got 21 of them, and she will not use them to protect the border or this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, we have done great work in Laredo and Del Rio, and the U.S. Attorney in Arizona needs to get with the program and enforce the law with zero tolerance or find another job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

ENERGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. TOWNS. I want to talk about the energy situation tonight. When I go back to my district, the number one subject today is that people are talking about the cost of fuel. Of course, the other one is affordable housing. But when you look at it, they are all connected.

Of course, when you talk to the taxi drivers, they are saying we cannot make a living because of the fact that gasoline is so high. The bus drivers, the same thing. Hardworking people are finding it almost impossible to make it today because of the price of fuel.

Of course, this is something that has happened all of a sudden. In 2005, gasoline was \$2.20 per gallon in December of 2005. Now, today the price of gasoline is \$4.10 per gallon. That is June 19, 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration, the agency that collects official energy statistics for the United States Government. In other words, gas is just creating a tremendous problem in this Nation.

Now I know people will say, Well, here's the solution. But let me just say to you there is no silver bullet here, that there is no single solution to this problem. But I think the worst thing in the world to do is to continue to ignore the problem.

You have people saying, Well, ethanol is the solution. Then you have others will say that the fact that ethanol might not be the solution, but we need to make certain that we create cars that will go further. All these things are good, but when we are dealing with a problem like this, whenever you make a decision or make an adjustment, there's always something else that is going to happen.

Hybrid cars. People are coming in now saying that, Look, we are having problems. The blind, in particular. We travel by sound. We can't hear. We are getting knocked down in the parking lots. Senior citizens are getting knocked down.

So we need to look at all these things to be able to bring about safety, but at

the same time we have to be able to make certain that the fuel prices come down so people don't have to make a decision as to whether they buy gas or whether they buy food. I mean that is where we are. People who have been volunteering, providing care for seniors, driving them to the shopping mall and driving them to various places, are now saying, I can't do it any more because of the price of gasoline. That, to me, is a shame and a disgrace in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, that we are not paying more attention to our seniors, and of course, as a result, things are getting worse.

What I would like to do now is to yield some time to the gentlewoman from Texas, who has been very involved in these issues over the years. Of course, it's my pleasure to yield to her because she understands how important this issue is, the gentlewoman from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I want to thank my distinguished friend, Congressman ED TOWNS. I think it's important to note of his leadership on the Energy and Commerce Committee for any number of years. We have joined together on understanding this issue as it impacts our very broad communities.

The distinguished Congressman, as I note, my good friend from Georgia, is on the floor as well. We all come from different districts. He comes from an urban-centered northeastern district that has mass transit very deeply, but as well it's interesting to note that the cost of gasoline impacts all of our constituents.

I come from a broad, if you will, expensive district in the State of Texas that has not only a fledgling metro system, a metro system that we are just beginning to build, mass transit, but as well it is a community that uses its cars.

□ 1945

We carpool. We carpool to work. We live very far apart. It is a very large district. Therefore, the cost of gasoline is very, very costly. So we have to come together to address this question from the perspective of how will the consumer feel? We know there has been a question, a bracelet everybody used to wear asking the question how would a certain heavenly person feel about a question. We now ask, how does the consumer feel?

So I rise today to say that I think it is important for this Congress to come together and to be able to push forward an energy agenda that really gets down to the real individuals that are burdened by this cause. So let me explain, Mr. TOWNS, what I believe is important.

First, let me applaud the leadership for their new direction in energy. It is an important direction. It is a greening direction. It focuses on alternatives. It focuses on creating green jobs and getting a sense of understanding about the smallness of the resources that are

available now, the fossil fuel and other energy resources that need to be utilized, and therefore it is important to, if you will, impress upon Americans the value of conservation. But, at the same time, I think there are a lot of other issues that we can discuss.

I believe we should accept the premise that there are a number of energy resources that this Congress needs to address. For example, I come from Texas, and obviously we utilize fossil fuel. I think it is important to recognize that fossil fuel is present, but I think we need to emphasize looking at independent producers. They were very prominent in years past. These are smaller companies.

I do believe we need to look at where we are exploring off the Gulf, where those States of Louisiana and Texas have willingly accepted the exploration of the Gulf in a safe and environmental way.

Two or three years ago, Congressman NICK LAMPSON and myself passed legislation to encourage the Federal Government to do an inventory of what was available in terms of fossil fuel resources in the Gulf. I think it is important. We know that there are challenges to exploring the Outer Continental Shelf. There are challenges to exploring ANWR. There are challenges in exploring the coast off the East Coast and the California coast and the Florida coast. I believe those issues are issues that we have to work with the local jurisdictions and the governors and consumers for that to be a comfortable process.

But let us not get stuck on that. There are resources in the Gulf. We have found that there is oil shale, I believe, that has been discovered in West Virginia. There are other domestic resources that have been discovered in Mississippi. We need to be able to utilize and to be able to encourage the safe development of existing resources.

We know that our own multinational energy companies are holding leases they have not utilized. I believe it is important to call these individuals into Washington. The President needs to call these individuals into Washington, the heads of these major companies, and let us discuss why these oil leases are not being utilized, because there lies a possibility of additional resources.

Mr. TOWNS, you know that we have been discussing over the years the increasing of minority energy entrepreneurs. They come in all shapes and sizes. But I happen to know an energy company in the State of Texas, Osyka, that is held solely by African Americans with domestic deposits. They have resources. But what do they need? They need investment. They are not overseas. They are right here in the United States, but they need investment.

So I think there are a lot of small, independent producers that the legislative scheme here in the United States does not foster their development, does

not provide them access to capital, does not allow them to build on the resources that they have. You can be assured that the more resources we put out allows us to have the ability to bring down the cost of gasoline.

Let me add an additional point that I think should be considered. When you talk to the multinationals about the cost of gasoline, they will refer you to the antiquated refineries, that they need to build more refineries. That too requires a coming together at the table. I believe we need to have a discussion so they can explain what does it mean by having an antiquated refinery?

There is a new refinery being built in East Texas and in Louisiana. That refinery took a long time to build. But maybe we need to update the refineries. I know that is a questionable proposal and policy to make them more environmentally efficient and safe. That is a key element to dealing with this.

Before I yield back and wait a moment as you yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, I want to cite some numbers that say that the Energy Information Administration estimates that the United States imports nearly 60 percent of the oil it consumes. The world's greatest petroleum reserves reside in regions of high geopolitical risk, including 57 percent which are in the Persian Gulf.

Replacing oil imports with domestic alternatives such as traditional and cellulosic ethanol cannot only help reduce the \$180 billion that oil contributes to our annual trade deficit, it can end our addiction to foreign oil. These alternatives should be matched with domestic production. That may help a lot of these small interested producers.

Also the individual oil companies, the large ones who have leases here in the United States, we need to have an inventory and get a determination, as I said, as to why these leases are not being developed. According to the Department of Agriculture, biomass can replace 30 percent of our Nation's petroleum consumption.

So there are ways we can confront this issue. One other way, of course, is to develop more professionals, which we have discussed, and I want to discuss that later.

Let me conclude by saying we have a real crisis in addition to the cost of gasoline. That crisis includes jet fuel. We are seeing the merger of airlines and also a crisis in the airline industry because of the cost of jet fuel. That too impacts on our consumers.

So I frankly believe as we discuss this, Mr. TOWNS, we should talk about what speculators have done to the energy industry. We should talk about minority entrepreneurs who are able to participate in this industry. We should talk about independent producers. We should talk about greening America. We should talk about conservation. And really we should get to the bottom

line of how we help our consumers. I think if we bring all these elements together, we will be able to do so.

I will yield back to the gentleman and will join you at a later time.

Mr. TOWNS. Let me thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her remarks, because, let's face it, she is right. We need to end our addiction to foreign oil. We have to do that. I mean, there are no ifs, ands and buts about it. That is something we must address.

Of course, the gentleman from Georgia has been out at the forefront talking about this issue, and, of course, we are delighted he has joined us in this discussion tonight. We are happy to have HANK JOHNSON from the great State of Georgia, who is a leader on this issue as well. Thank you for joining us. I yield to you.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I thank my colleague from New York, the esteemed Congressman ED TOWNS. I appreciate very much you speaking on this very important issue. It is an issue that has been creeping like a thief in the night into the pocketbooks and into the pockets of Americans, everyday working Americans.

We have seen the price of gas escalating quietly but steadily ever since 2001. I say to Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE from Houston, Texas, whom I am proud to serve with. And I see my other colleague, BARBARA LEE from California. So we have got all parts of the Nation covered here.

But ever since 2001, when the price of gas was at \$1.50, it has steadily gone up. And that is kind of ironic, given the fact that we elected an oilman to be our President and an oilman to be our Vice President. You would have thought that America would be taken care of by our President and our Vice President. But what we have seen since that administration came to power is prices going through the roof. And, like a thief in the night, people have now awakened to see that they have been gouged and stolen from by the oil industry, and it has all been while we were enjoying a deregulated and unregulated market and we were allowing the speculators, instead of the producers, to get a stranglehold on the American economy. So these speculators are driving up the price of gas, driving up the price of oil. It has become the number one issue in this country.

Mr. Speaker, while it is easy to peddle quick fixes, the hard truth is that there is no quick fix. It is kind of like the war in Iraq. We got in a little easier than it is going to take us to get out. By the way, ironically, some people believe that it was for the 35 billion barrels of oil beneath al-Anbar Province in Iraq that we went to war for. Some people believe that.

So oil has driven much of the policies of this administration. And quick fixes will not do at this point. We are rapidly reaching the point of peak oil, peak oil being the moment, Mr. Speaker, after which global oil supplies will

forever decrease. That moment is approaching. Meanwhile, global demand for oil is ever increasing. So we are reaching a point where we have dwindling supply and skyrocketing demand, and that means one thing, among others, but the biggest thing is that gas prices, high gas prices, are here to stay.

Now, the President came up with an energy plan, it was done in secrecy back in 2001, if you will remember. It seems to me that it was Vice President CHENEY who convened a group of people, whom we still have not found out who those people were, in a task force to formulate this country's energy policy. Someone went to court to have the names and identities of those task force members revealed, and I don't think that lawsuit was successful. But I can only speculate on who was in that room setting the oil policy.

That policy went into effect back in August of 2005. When President Bush signed energy legislation into law, gas at the pump was selling for about \$2.85 a gallon. Then, just 1 year later, in 2006, July 26, Energy Secretary Bodman celebrated the 1-year anniversary of energy legislation, kind of like "mission accomplished." And that didn't pan out either. At that point, 1 year after the anniversary of the signing of the Bush administration energy policy, 1 year later gas had gone up to \$3 a gallon. And, of course, back in May it went up, it continued to go up, to \$3.81 in May. But now we are in June heading towards July, and folks are speculating that we will hit \$5 a gallon by the end of the summer, and Americans are hurting.

So it comes as no surprise that the big oil President and the big oil Vice President propose more drilling, instead of suggesting real, lasting solutions to our energy problem.

The most effective way to address this problem is to start conserving. There is so much we can do to conserve energy. It means so much for our environment. We need to clean this environment up.

I returned from a trip just 1 month ago to the North Pole, Mr. Speaker. The folks up there are talking about what is going to happen as the ice melts and it will open up the shipping lanes, so there will be more traffic, more opportunity to traverse that area, and more opportunity to get at that oil that is up in the North Pole. And I suppose we will run all of the polar bears out trying to get to that oil, trying to sip every last drop of oil that this Earth has to offer, while at the same time creating environmental havoc.

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So I would be happy to continue to have dialogue on this issue, but I know that there are other colleagues here who want to address this issue, so I would yield back at this point.

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you, the gentleman from Georgia, for his remarks.

Of course, he's right on the issue. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

We look at the fact that there has been a 5-year trend of record oil profits under this administration. In 2007, the big five oil companies raked in a profit of \$127 billion. That's "B" as in "boy." It is simply unacceptable that consumers are bearing these costs while corporations continue to profit.

Now, the gentlewoman from California, to whom I'm getting ready to yield, has been at the forefront. She has been saying this now for a number of years. Of course, I would say to you that I wish that the country had listened to her because I'm certain, if they had listened to her, we would not have the mess that we have now.

It's my honor to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much, Mr. TOWNS.

First, let me thank you for yielding, but let me thank you also for your leadership on this issue and for so many other issues. Your voice is extremely important; your work has been important, and it continues to be quite amazing.

In your coming from New York and in my coming from California, we have very similar issues that we have to deal with in terms of this horrific energy crisis, and so thank you for giving us the opportunity to talk about it one more time.

Also, just as I was listening to my colleague Mr. JOHNSON from Georgia, thank you for that very brilliant presentation and for that historical context. You know, sometimes we forget the past. In the Ghanaian language, in the Akan language, there's a term called "sankofa." In order to move forward, we must look back at our mistakes, and I think what you talked about tonight really makes it very clear that we have to understand how we got to where we are so that we don't make those mistakes again, such as you talked about, which was the drilling in the pristine area in Alaska—in ANWR—and all of the proposals that this administration wants to embark upon.

So thank you very much for that.

To my colleague from Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE, you have been on this for many, many years. You come from oil country, and you understand very clearly the oil industry and what we need to do to dig ourselves out of this hole, and so your voice continues to be important in coming from Texas, in understanding that the American people deserve not to have to pay \$5 a gallon for gas. The courage that you've displayed has been amazing. Thank you for your voice and for your leadership.

As we work to reduce skyrocketing prices at the pump, we continue to face opposition from the Bush administration, and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to be content to subsidize the big oil companies' record profits that Mr. TOWNS talked about

and that you talked about, Mr. JOHNSON and Ms. JACKSON-LEE. They reach record profits quarter after quarter rather than adopt a real solution to meet the energy needs across our Nation.

More specifically, we have proposed legislation that would invest in true, clean and renewable energy sources. Our proposals would also bring much needed accountability, which we need desperately, to the energy markets in order to eliminate the price gouging—do you hear me?—that's taking place and the market manipulation and the speculation that have inflated energy prices to record levels. This week, we will also take up legislation to expand the use of public transit systems to save energy and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In light of this growing energy crisis, I cannot help but to reflect upon the Bush administration's determination to squander our resources on the immoral occupation of Iraq that has directly contributed to the current economic downturn of the high gas prices that the American people are seeing at the pump. Make no mistake. We are in the middle of the Bush-Iraq recession. The economic hardships that Americans face today are the direct result of this administration's failed and flawed policies at home and abroad.

When President Bush took office in January of 2001, the price of oil was \$23 a barrel, and gasoline cost as little as, I think it was, \$1.35 per gallon. Now, after more than 5 years of bombing and bloodshed in Iraq, since the Iraq invasion, oil has topped \$130 a barrel, and gasoline is averaging more than \$4 a gallon. As Congressman JOHNSON said, it probably will hit the unfortunate cost of \$5 per gallon. By some estimates, the war and continued occupation of Iraq could cost the United States more than \$3 trillion. That's a \$3 trillion bill for this administration's failed policies in Iraq that our children and grandchildren will be paying for years to come.

The American people recognize the toll this immoral occupation has taken on our economy. They're in dire need of assistance. Many face the impossible choice of buying food for their families or of purchasing the gasoline they need to go to work. If we want to see prices at the gas pump go down, one of the first and most essential steps we must take is to end the war and occupation in Iraq.

We must also focus on transitioning our economy away from fossil fuels to the greener alternative fuels of the future. This will be a long-term process that will affect communities throughout our nations in different ways. It's very important to note that, as we continue to forge these new frontiers to achieve energy independence and to safeguard the environment, communities will face many complex environmental and public health challenges. The drastic acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions has often been concentrated in low-income and minority

communities, putting these vulnerable populations on the front lines of the fight against environmental degradation and global climate change.

The communities in my district, like in Mr. JOHNSON's district and in Mr. TOWNS' district and in Ms. JACKSON-LEE's district, all face the severe consequences of pollution, of urban sprawl and of environmental injustice, which harshly affect people of color and low-income communities. Sadly, this epidemic is hitting our children the hardest.

For example, back at home in my own district, when children grow up in the area of West Oakland, they're seven times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than is the average child in California. None of us can afford to take this lightly. The health of our community and neighbors affects all of us.

I would also like to just take a moment and recognize the role that California's East Bay is playing at the forefront of the green jobs and green industry movement, which is really a critical part in terms of addressing the energy crisis. One of the most exciting and inclusive solutions to the many issues facing environmental health and our energy crisis is the possibility afforded to us by promoting green jobs' training and the growth of the green economy in America.

A true green economy, one that is sincere in its mission and that is deeply rooted in local communities and businesses, can provide innovative answers to many of the problems that our environment faces. Green jobs provide pathways out of poverty for those most affected by environmental injustice, namely, people of color and our urban youth.

We have been working closely in my district with the Ella Baker Center and with the Apollo Alliance. Mayor Ron Dellums—my predecessor here and our colleague—has been working very hard on a new initiative to support the development of green model cities and to focus on economic development through green job training academies and to create a national green institute to serve as a clearinghouse for the green movement. So there are many, many initiatives to which we need to look forward in terms of providing for an alternative to our dependence on foreign oil.

Let me just conclude by saying and by reminding the country that, most recently, the Bush administration has threatened to veto the House-passed H.R. 5351, which is the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. This legislation makes critical investments in clean and renewable energy and energy efficiency that will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and that will help to maintain the United States' position as a leader in innovation as we move toward true energy independence.

So I have to thank my colleagues again, especially the Congressional

Black Caucus and Congressman TOWNS, for allowing us to come down for an hour to talk about the basic components and reasons for this energy crisis and also for allowing us to provide what we see as some real and practical solutions that we can embrace right now—not next year, but today—if, in fact, the Bush administration and his oil industry administration would accept the fact that they're responsible for this energy crisis. The American people deserve a way out.

Thank you.

Mr. TOWNS. Let me thank the gentlewoman from California for her remarks and to say that you're right. Our priorities are definitely upside down. There's no question about that.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Thirty minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you very much.

At this time, I'd like to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas, Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank you very much. I'm glad to have an opportunity to engage again and to thank Congressman TOWNS.

As I have listened to both Congressman JOHNSON and Congresswoman LEE, I hope that what is gleaned to our colleagues as they listen to us is that there is a consensus, a meeting of the minds, that we've got to do something different. I applaud Congresswoman LEE's collaboration with her mayor, Mayor Dellums.

As I was standing here, I was reflecting on the work that our city is doing. We have Mayor Bill White, but I'm quite familiar with the Apollo Alliance, and I was just thinking that it's time now for another meeting to be able to join in that kind of expansive effort.

So, if the Apollo Alliance is listening, let me congratulate them, and let me tell them to come on down to Texas. We've had some meetings early on, but it's the whole concept of educating individuals to change their lives.

You said something else, Congresswoman, about energy. You used the word "energy" and the words "energy industry." That's coming from what we perceive to be the oil capital of the world—Houston, Texas. I want you to know a lot of hardworking people are working in the energy industry, and they, too, see a new world of alternative fuels and also an opportunity to match, if you will, efficiently explored fossil fuels, because it does exist. There is something called "clean coal." As I indicated to you, there is something in the gulf, outside of your birthplace in Texas and Louisiana, where they have been quietly exploring oil and gas for a number of years, and it has been efficient. Even during Hurricane Katrina we noted that those rigs still stayed safe in the gulf. So we can find ways to combine these efforts.

As I listened to Congressman JOHNSON and he took us chronologically to

2001, I want to remind him that post 2001, in 2002, there was created the havoc and the travesty and obviously, as he indicated, the crisis of the Iraq war. Whether or not the Iraq war was for oil, as has been debated, it destabilized the region. When you destabilize the region where all of the oil is coming from, you obviously dumb down the resources coming from that area.

But I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues that we know that Saudi Arabia, in this meeting that they've held in the last 48 hours, has suggested that they will increase oil production by 200,000 barrels a day to 9.7 million barrels a day, starting on July 1, in response to the current energy crisis.

The concern there, of course, is that China is increasing its needs, and even though we're sort of plateauing out, I do believe that this is an issue that might not be resolved by the increase in the per barrel per day, meaning the 200,000 barrels per day.

We need a summit. We need a summit here in the United States. We need to get all of the parties together, discussing these components—the high gasoline price, the lack of utilization of the independent producers, not giving capital an access to African Americans and to other minorities who, in fact, might be good stewards of the energy resources, such as those who are finding oil in the Deep South, such as those who are engaged in green and in alternative fuels such as wind.

I offered a bill on cellulosic ethanol, which, I think, is really one of the next steps. Of course, this was embodied in the Democratic conservation bill that included cellulosic ethanol. I know there has been debate over corn ethanol, but here is an approach: Through cellulosic ethanol, costly though it may be, it has a long-term impact.

I also believe it's important to support the legislation that has been offered by two of our colleagues—one to be, I believe, JOHN LARSON, who is moving forward on legislation that has to do with the speculator. We have heard, even today, oil analysts who have said that the speculators are adding an artificial price. In fact, the Enron loophole that was offered by Senator GRAHAM has given a whole array, a whole new industry on speculation, and more and more energy companies are pulling back from that. They're dealing with their own product and with their own need, and I want to applaud them for that.

I want to cite Representative VAN HOLLEN's Energy Markets Anti-Manipulation and Integrity Restoration Act. I happen to be a cosponsor of that legislation. I think it's important. I voted to stop the filling on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which will help American families by temporarily diverting the 70,000 barrels of oil that goes to the SPR a day and putting them out on the market.

What I think is important, again, Congressman TOWNS, is that we're not

having face-to-face discussions. I asked the question of one of the members of OPEC: What would be the possibility of Members of Congress being observers at the OPEC meeting?

The OPEC meeting has large numbers of African countries. It has large numbers of countries from South America. Then, of course, it has those from the Middle East. I, frankly, believe it's somewhat similar to treaty discussions, that it's somewhat similar to the discussion on race in South Africa when they were on track, that it's somewhat similar to the United Nations. It would be Members of Congress' representing the most powerful law-making body in the world, as described by others, their being able to go to the OPEC meetings as observers and understanding the process of how this oil and gas moves.

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This does not diminish the call for conservation. But I do think it will open our eyes.

Ms. LEE. Let me just say how important that is because we are the people's House. Americans don't understand why they are paying \$4.50 per gallon. They expect us to be able to tell them. I think by observing OPEC, being there, interacting and understanding, listening to the dialogue, will give us a much better handle on what the crisis is from OPEC's perspective and what proposed solutions are coming out of OPEC.

I hope we can move forward on that because I think that is a very creative idea. We have to do things out of the box and do things that are creative because so many people are suffering. Thank you for that, and hopefully we can work together to support that.

Mr. TOWNS. Let me say one other thing. I think the energy summit is just a terrific idea because you have so many people who feel there is a single solution to the problem. There is no single solution to the problem. It is going to require less dependence on foreign oil. We must recognize that. We must promote market-based programs that recognize and reward clean energy technology. We need to do that. And we must launch a cleaner, smarter energy future for America that lowers costs for consumers.

We must look at ethanol and consider wind and look at all of these different things in order to make certain that the problem is solved.

I yield to the gentlelady from Houston, Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If I may quickly conclude so my distinguished friend from Georgia, who has made some valid points about the Iraq war that we are still suffering, I was reading something, Congressman JOHNSON, about the condition of the Iraq oil wells and the difficulty of bringing them online and the need for U.S. investment or other investment.

It is interesting, a lot of people think we are making a lot of money in Iraq;

we are spending a lot of money in Iraq, I will tell you that.

Let me say this. I will thank all three of my colleagues. I will continue to work and pursue an answer. The Representative indicated he was very interested, and would go back and ask. The meeting is in September and I will pursue that. I don't have the exact location, but I believe it is in Europe. If so, it would be easy for us to go.

I think the other part would be to give the energy leadership of these multinationals, and obviously they are in my congressional district, but a forum to be able to have a conversation outside of a hearing setting. We need to ask the hard questions. We need to ask how much of the cost of gasoline is the refinery cost? How much of the cost of jet fuel is refinery cost? What is attributable to having old refineries, and what can you do to make the energy name of your industry more diverse, to have more green and more alternatives such as wind and biomass.

I am told that wind is very expensive, but you can't get that answer if we are not sitting down at the table.

I thank the gentleman for the idea of a summit. We may work on that. Let me conclude by saying we have been working in this Congress. I don't want anyone to think that we have not been sensitive. You listed a whole road map that you, Mr. TOWNS, as a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee have been very much involved in. For example, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008, a combination of the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy Committee, which I think is very important because it encourages the development of innovative technologies, creating new jobs, reducing carbon emissions, protecting consumers, shifting production to cleaner renewable energy, and modernizing our energy infrastructure.

The note I want to end on is we have to get more young people involved.

Mr. TOWNS. And it also has gas price gouging and market manipulation included in that legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. And that is very important.

What I want to end on is we must get more of our young people involved in the energy industry. We worked on this, Congressman TOWNS. We had a bill about geologists. I have listened to Congresswoman LEE as the chairwoman of the Energy Brain Trust, and we are going to try and focus on that and push our communities, Hispanics and African Americans and other minorities and women, to get into this industry and provide their sensitivity and provide their perspective so that they can talk eloquently about what gasoline prices really mean when they are this high. And then to add to the broader community of America who is crying out for relief, I believe we can turn the corner, or we should, and to bring to all of America an opportunity to have reasonable energy resources,

heat in the winter and air conditioning in the summer, and reasonable gasoline prices; because, frankly, I don't think that we can last much longer if we don't bring relief.

I thank you for bringing this very important special order to the floor tonight.

Ms. LEE. I just want to emphasize one point raised by Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE with regard to getting our young people involved. This is a huge new industry. We have proposed the green job training academy to begin to look at the green industry.

It is my understanding that now venture capitalists are looking at this as investment opportunities that will create trillions of dollars in terms of job creation and in terms of an industry. And these are jobs that do not require necessarily a 4-year college degree or a Ph.D. These are jobs, once trained, young people will qualify for and will be able to make a living wage with benefits, good-paying jobs. So we have to provide our young people with these alternatives because they are going to school now and they are getting out of school, and there are no jobs. They have not been trained for the jobs of the future. This has to be an initiative that we pursue.

Mr. TOWNS. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you, Congressman TOWNS.

Just listening to the comments of my colleagues, I am intrigued with so many things. My colleague from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is pretty much saying we have to have dialogue with our partners around the world, be they friends or foe. Because the bottom line, people talk about the global economy. It is true, we have a global economy. It doesn't always work as fairly as it should, but the bottom line is that we have a global economy. And some folks are making out like bandits, and others are sinking. And so it is time that we have equity in this world.

I know Congresswoman LEE, you have been a woman who has throughout your career insisted on taking care of the have-nots while the haves can continue to be prosperous as well. And so dialogue with our oil-producing nations is so important.

Because by the way, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, drilling is one of the tools that we need in our tool basket to address this issue. We must take advantage of the leases that have already been granted by this government to the oil companies, that they have been sitting on for years waiting for the price to go up so they can start drilling.

And Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, you talked about the children, and the children are so important. I am looking at an article in today's Washington Post. It says "Fuel Costs May Force Some Kids to Walk." It means that our local boards of education have to pay for the price of diesel fuel which is going through the roof. And to get our

children to school costs a whole lot more money than it did last year. And so that means less money for teachers and less money for school infrastructure, the buildings, less money for books.

This oil crisis is wreaking havoc on us, and our children are looking to us to make the right decision. They are counting on us to make the tough choices for the future. They are counting on this Congress to understand that the most effective way to adapt to this changing reality or this new reality, which is dwindling supply with increased skyrocketing demand, we must as a tool in our toolbox insist upon conservation while we also extend tax incentives to companies to develop solar energy. I mean, we have a vast desert where I think it was 107 degrees out there, or more, sun brightly shining down. Do you mean to tell me that we can't put some solar panels out there and start capturing that sunlight and changing it to electricity, to help take some of the demand away from fossil fuels. It is much cleaner, but I think the oil companies would have a hard time trying to get their fingers and their hands around the sun. So we haven't seen a lot of solar energy.

We are getting more wind coming through because of the global-warming phenomenon, the disruption of our climate. We are getting the wind, but we are not using that wind to help us with our energy needs. We need to do that.

Biofuels. And all of these new things are on the table, but instead what we get is a new plan announced by the President which is more drilling, and drilling in our sensitive areas in our environment.

Ms. LEE. If the gentleman would yield, what you are talking about, which is so important, is a comprehensive energy independence plan. We need a national plan for energy independence that provides for this toolbox, as you describe it, that allows for all of the alternatives.

I read in the newspaper that rural communities, because people have to drive so far to jobs, people are having to make decisions whether or not they can afford to go to work because the cost of gasoline is higher than the cost of their wages. Rural communities throughout our country are being devastated by the price of gasoline. This is an emergency.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. The price of food is going up. So we have food going up. We have energy costs going up. And the American people feel squeezed. They are counting on us to do something to address this issue.

Congressman TOWNS, I just appreciate so much your emphasis on this dilemma that we face. We are, I think, proving that all Americans are concerned about the future of this country insofar as energy is concerned.

Mr. TOWNS. It affects a lot of things. First of all, when you look at young people and you talk about the gas prices and what it costs for them to go

to work, it prevents them from purchasing a home. They can't afford to buy a home and pay all of these high prices for gas. And of course the fact that some buses are not running, which as you indicated means children are going to have to walk to school because of the fact that these buses are saying we are not making a profit because of the gas prices.

So when you look at the facts, they do not have affordable housing, and the fact that they can't afford to buy a home because of the gas prices, and of course we need to look at tax incentives and things that will bring about this discussion that we need to have because this is a serious problem. And to ignore it, it is not going to go away. It is going to get bigger and it is going to get worse.

We have to come together with a policy that is going to protect not only the seniors, the young, and the middle-aged, to protect America. This is something that we must do. We can no longer allow and have the rich continue to get richer and at the same time having people in a position to have to make a decision whether they are going to buy gasoline or whether they are going to buy food. That is wrong, and we should not stand for it.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. You have given an eloquent summary of the crisis that I think most Americans are facing.

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Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would like us to move past these hot months that we have right now and begin to look forward into particularly the colder areas of America and begin to think about what is going to happen with heating fuel and this new coming winter season. We sort of got the tail end of the high price of gasoline sort of as we were leaving the winter months or as we were getting into the summer months, and we saw a crisis of people going on a vacation and taking their kids places during the summer facing this very high cost for gasoline per gallon.

But I met with some of my power companies who provide energy, and, of course, I am in a warmer climate than many of my colleagues. But I am concerned about what we will confront with natural gas and other fossil fuels that may be utilized for heating people's homes. What a crisis for elderly and others and families who can't afford their heating fuels.

So I believe that today on the floor of the House we have offered a suggestion. A summit doesn't mean 3,000 people. It means getting all of the parties together that can sit at the table. Get this energy industry at the table. Let them lay out what is a concept of your company, because energy for me means that you are diversified under the concept of energy, green energy, alternative biomass, begin to look at how we can lay down this roadmap.

And then I think, of course, we need to emphasize the environmentally safe exploration of drilling, as my colleague indicated, and the reason why I say that is because it's still going on in the gulf, not as they say—I know it's difficult in other areas. But in the gulf, it's still going on, and it should be environmentally safe.

Then I think as members of the Congressional Black Caucus we need some meetings with the heads of the nations in the Continent in Africa, Angola, Guinea Bassu, Nigeria. Ghana is finding oil. And it would be very helpful to sit down and have a discussion as to how their product can be marketed where there is—I know the bottom line has to do with dollars—but where there is a sense of morality, a sense of rightness on how that works. And again, it ties into my inquiry and outreach that I am going to make to OPEC because I think a lot of heads are better than none. And you listed all of the good works of the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008, and I think it's important to note this is what the Democrats did.

But I want to invite people to come together during the Congressional Black Caucus, Mr. TOWNS, and we can join together under the energy brain trust. I must pay tribute to my predecessor, and you certainly knew him, Congressman Mickey Leland, who organized the brain trust, on the basis of getting a sense of morality in this industry. In fact, he was coming into it with another energy crisis that was certainly in that time.

So I believe that with all of the hidden resources that we still have, we will open resources that we can address. And the only reason why we're not coming together is I don't think that we're putting our heads together to be able to develop the kind of balanced policy that brings these people together.

I do want to make mention of the fact that I am looking forward to a roundtable discussion with leadership in my district. However, that is the beginning stages of what I think can be a larger question for this Congress to address, for leadership, for members of the Congressional Black Caucus, for our caucus members to address, because our constituents and poor constituents and elderly constituents and ailing constituents are impacted by the high cost of gasoline and heating oil.

And I thank the distinguished gentleman for giving us an opportunity to raise these crucial issues that I believe have to be raised.

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Thank you for yielding, Mr. TOWNS. I thank you again for your leadership for bringing us together, but it's going to be through your leadership and others here on the floor tonight, our great Speaker, and bringing together Members of this body to make sure that we can have a bipartisan national energy plan.

I said earlier, and I hope we will always remember, that the jobs that are going to be created by the development of new, innovative energy independent industries, such as the green industry, will be millions of jobs for our young people. And we have to also remember, as I talked earlier, about the long-term public health consequences and the environmental concerns as we move toward energy independence and clean energy, green energy, wind, solar, all of the alternatives that will provide for a much better quality of health for all Americans, as well as for a cleaner environment.

So we do have a chance for a win-win-win. We can create millions of new jobs, we can create a trillion-dollar industry, we can create a cleaner environment, we can create livable communities throughout our country if we would just understand the moment we're in and be honest with the American people and be serious and do some of the things we talked about.

But also I think it's important, as I close, to also remember that the occupation of Iraq, the bombing and invasion of the country of Iraq that was a country that was not an imminent threat to the United States of America where there were no weapons of mass destruction, the havoc that we have wreaked on the country of Iraq and Iraqi civilians and our brave troops, this is a big part of why, when the war started, we were paying about \$1.35 per gallon, \$35 per barrel; now we are paying \$4.50, soon to be \$5 a gallon, close to \$140 per barrel.

So we can not forget the economic impacts of this occupation of Iraq and remember that we have to include a demand that we end it and we bring our young men and women home.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank Representative TOWNS for holding this special order tonight on an issue that is on the minds of so many of my constituents.

As the Democratic Majority works to reduce skyrocketing prices at the pump, we continue to face opposition from the Bush administration and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who appear content to subsidize the Big Oil Company's record profits quarter after quarter rather than adopt real solutions to meet the energy needs of people across the Nation.

More specifically, we have proposed legislation that would invest in truly clean and renewable energy sources.

Our proposals would also bring much-needed accountability to the energy, markets in order to eliminate the price gouging and market manipulation and speculation that have inflated energy prices to record levels.

This week, we will also take up legislation to expand the use of public transit systems to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

But, Mr. Speaker, in light of this growing energy crisis, I cannot help but also reflect upon the Bush administration's determination to squander our resources on the immoral occupation of Iraq that has directly contributed to the current economic downturn and the high gas prices the American people are seeing at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, we are in the middle of the Bush Iraq recession. The economic hardship that Americans face today is the direct result of this administration's failed and flawed policies—at home and abroad.

When President Bush was signed into office in January of 2001, the price of oil was \$23 a barrel and gasoline cost as little as \$1.35 per gallon.

Now, after more than five years of bombing and bloodshed in Iraq, oil has topped \$130 a barrel and gasoline is averaging more than \$4 per gallon.

By some estimates, the war and continued occupation of Iraq could cost the United States more than \$3 trillion. That's a \$3 trillion bill for this administration's failed policies in Iraq that our children and grandchildren will be paying for years to come.

The American people recognize the toll this immoral occupation has taken on our economy. They are in dire need of assistance. Many face the impossible choice of buying food for their families or purchasing the gasoline they need to go to work.

If we want to see gas prices go down at the pump, one of the first, and most essential steps we can take, is to end the war and occupation of Iraq.

We must also focus on transitioning our economy away from fossil fuels to the greener alternative fuels of the future. This will be a long term process that will affect communities throughout our Nation in different ways.

But it is important to note that as we continue to forge new frontiers to achieve energy independence and safeguard the environment, communities will face many complex environmental and public health challenges.

The drastic acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions has often been concentrated in low-income and minority communities, putting these vulnerable populations on the "front lines" of the fight against environmental degradation and global climate change.

The communities in my district face the severe consequences of pollution, urban sprawl, and environmental injustice—which harshly affects people of color and low-income families.

Sadly, this epidemic is hitting our children the hardest. Back home in my district, children growing up in West Oakland are seven times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than the average child in California.

None of us can afford to take this lightly. The health of our community and our neighbors affects all of us.

As the Representative of California's 9th Congressional District, I would also like to take a moment to recognize the role that California's East Bay is playing at the forefront of the green jobs and green industry movement.

One of the most exciting and inclusive solutions to the many issues facing environmental health is the possibility afforded to us by promoting green jobs training and the growth of the green economy in America.

A true green economy, one that is sincere in its mission and deeply rooted in local communities and businesses, can provide innovative answers to many of the problems our environment faces.

Green jobs provide pathways out of poverty for those most affected by environmental injustice, namely minorities and our urban youth.

To that end, my office has been working closely with the Ella Baker Center, and the

Apollo Alliance in my district, to expand green jobs and green job training programs.

I am also working with the mayor of Oakland on a new initiative to support the development of green model cities that focus on economic development through green job training academies and to create a national green institute to serve as a clearinghouse for the green movement.

While we are convincing long-standing businesses to go green and new businesses to start green, we must ensure that we are also funding opportunities to train our local youth and qualify our existing work force to be able to work in these industries.

I want to end by saying what so many of us deeply understand: over the last eight years the Bush administration has been openly hostile to the environment.

His administration has repeatedly cut funding for the EPA and put forth disastrous environmental policies that have rolled back environmental protections and undermined the safety and well being of our Nation and our planet.

Most recently, the Bush administration has threatened to veto the House passed H.R. 5351, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008.

This legislation makes critical investments in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency that will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and help to maintain the United States' position as a leader in innovation as we move toward true energy independence.

I urge my colleagues to help bring an end to policies that place corporate profits ahead of the long-term interest of public health and the environment, and instead work toward a greener and more prosperous future for the United States and the world.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. About 4 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. On that I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Thank you, Congressman TOWNS.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out the fact that in the short time that the Democrats have been in leadership in Congress, we've passed no less than eight bills, passed them on to the President, the President has either threatened to veto them or vetoed them; and now the President proposes a plan that will have little or no impact on gas prices. It will take years to implement, it will threaten the environment and does nothing to decrease our dependence on foreign oil. And this is a plan that JOHN MCCAIN opposed as recently as last week when he made his announcement that he's now in support of this failed policy. So we look like we're headed for Bush-McCain a third term.

And instead of pandering to the oil industry, the President should work with this Congress to come up with a plan to address our long-term energy challenges. And I want to thank you, Congressman TOWNS, for leading up this effort. I'm proud to be among my members of my fellow colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus because we're showing that we are broad based. We understand what is happening down

home with the average Americans. And we stand with average Americans, regardless of what color, regardless of what shape or size or even sexual inclination. We stand with you because we're all in the same boat together.

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you.

Let me thank all of you for participating in this Special Order. It was said earlier on, I think by Congresswoman LEE, that one reason the food costs have increased along with fuel costs is that fuel is required to both produce and transport food. So in this regard, the rise in fuel costs is felt not only at the pump but at the grocery store as well because people are paying more for our gas.

So I want to thank you for highlighting this tonight because this is something that we just can no longer stand back and ignore.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I want to thank Congressman TOWNS, and let me extend to my colleagues an invitation to come to Houston and let us have a summit, a discussion, beginning discussion for energy and getting a roadmap for energy.

I would like to thank my fellow CBC Member, Representative TUBBS-JONES for her consistent leadership on the issue of energy. "I am proud to have worked with my dear colleague in the CBC on a number of occasions to promote a most energy responsible America.

We are all painfully aware of the devastation high energy prices have had on American families. This New Direction Congress, of which I am proud to be a part, is fighting to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and bring down record gas prices, and launch a cleaner, smarter energy future for America that lowers costs and creates hundreds of thousands of green jobs.

It is undeniable that America, today, is in the midst of an energy crisis. Just this weekend, Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, announced that it will increase oil production by 200,000 barrels a day to 9.7 million barrels a day starting July 1st in response to the current energy crisis. While this is an important step in the right direction, it is not enough. At a recent world economic forum in Doha, I called for Members of Congress and the United States Government to participate in OPEC's deliberations, in regards to energy production.

I am extremely supportive of the legislation introduced by my distinguished colleague from Maryland, Representative VAN HOLLEN, The Energy Markets Anti-Manipulation and Integrity Restoration Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor. This important legislation would close the so-called Enron loophole by adding energy to the list of items that cannot be traded on deregulated "exempt commercial markets", as well as closing the Foreign Board of Trade (FBOT) loophole by forbidding an exchange from being deemed an unregulated foreign entity if its trading affiliate or trading infrastructure is in the U.S., and it trades a U.S.-delivered contract that significantly affects price discovery.

Just last month, I voted to stop the filling on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which will help American families by temporarily diverting the 70,000 barrels of oil that go into the SPR

a day, and consequently has the potential to reduce gas prices from 5 to 24 cents a gallon, helping American families, businesses, and the economy as a whole.

There is an undeniable consensus on the importance of America achieving energy independence in the 21st century. It is critical that we terminate our dependence on foreign sources of oil, the majority of which are located in regions of the world which are unstable and in most circumstances, opposed to our interests. Accordingly, there is no issue more essential to our economic and national security than energy independence.

I was happy to vote for the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008, which is significant and comprehensive legislation that will make substantial strides towards energy independence for our Nation, while also encouraging the development of innovative technologies, creating new jobs, reducing carbon emissions, protecting consumers, shifting production to clean and renewable energy, and modernizing our energy infrastructure.

In addition to being a representative from Houston, Texas, the energy capital of the world, for the past 12 years I have been the Chair of the Energy Braintrust of the Congressional Black Caucus. During this time, I have hosted a variety of energy braintrusts designed to bring in all of the relevant players ranging from environmentalists to producers of energy from a variety of sectors including coal, electric, natural gas, nuclear, oil, and alternative energy sources as well as energy producers from West Africa. My Energy Braintrusts were designed to be a call of action—to all of the sectors who comprise the American and international energy industry, to the African American community, and to the nation as a whole.

Energy is the lifeblood of every economy, especially ours. Producing more of it leads to more good jobs, cheaper goods, lower fuel prices, and greater economic and national security. Bringing together thoughtful yet distinct voices to engage each other on the issue of energy independence has resulted in the beginning of a transformative dialectic which can ultimately result in reforming our energy industry to the extent that we as a nation achieve energy security and energy independence.

Because I represent the city of Houston, the energy capital of the world, I realize that many oil and gas companies provide many jobs for many of my constituents and serve a valuable need. The energy industry in Houston exemplifies the stakeholders who must be instrumental in devising a pragmatic strategy for resolving our national energy crisis.

That is why it is crucial that while seeking solutions to secure more energy independence within this country, we must strike a balance that will still support an environment for continued growth in the oil and gas industry, which I might add, creates millions of jobs across the entire country.

We have many more miles to go before we achieve energy independence. Consequently, I am willing, able, and eager to continue working with Houston's and our Nation's energy industry to ensure that we are moving expeditiously on the path to crafting an environmentally sound and economically viable energy policy.

Furthermore, I think it is imperative that we involve small, minority- and women-owned,

and independent energy companies in this process because they represent some of the hard working Americans and Houstonians who are on the forefront of energy efficient strategies to achieving energy independence.

According to the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS), America's deep seas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) contain 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (the U.S. consumes 23 TCF per year) and 86 billion barrels of oil (the U.S. imports 4.5 billion per year). Even with all these energy resources, the U.S. sends more than \$300 billion (and countless American jobs) overseas every year for energy we can create at home.

I believe that we should mandate environmentally safe and efficient exploration techniques in the Gulf Coast which energy companies have demonstrated a willingness and capacity to utilize. By ensuring access to increasing sources of energy in an environmentally conscious way, I believe we can decrease our dependence on foreign oil.

I support innovative solutions to our national energy crisis, such as my legislation which alleviates our dependence on foreign oil and fossil fuels by utilizing loan guarantees to promote the development of traditional and cellulosic ethanol technology.

The Energy Information Administration estimates that the United States imports nearly 60 percent of the oil it consumes. The world's greatest petroleum reserves reside in regions of high geopolitical risk, including 57 percent of which are in the Persian Gulf. Replacing oil imports with domestic alternatives such as traditional and cellulosic ethanol can not only help reduce the \$180 billion that oil contributes to our annual trade deficit, it can end our addiction to foreign oil. According to the Department of Agriculture, biomass can displace 30 percent of our nation's petroleum consumption.

Along with traditional production of ethanol from corn, cellulosic ethanol can be produced domestically from a variety of feedstocks, including switchgrass, corn stalks and municipal solid wastes, which are available throughout our nation. Cellulosic ethanol also relies on its own byproducts to fuel the refining process, yielding a positive energy balance. Whereas the potential production of traditional corn-based ethanol is about 10 billion gallons per year, the potential production of cellulosic ethanol is estimated to be 60 billion gallons per year.

In addition to ensuring access to more abundant sources of energy, replacing petroleum use with ethanol will help reduce U.S. carbon emissions, which are otherwise expected to increase by 80 percent by 2025. Cellulosic ethanol can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 87 percent. Thus, transitioning from foreign oil to ethanol will protect our environment from dangerous carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. With its commitment to American biofuels, this legislation calls for a significant increase in the Renewable Fuels Standard. It encourages the diversification of American energy crops thus ensuring that biodiesel and cellulosic sources are key components in the America's drive to become energy independent.

By investing in renewable energy and increasing access to potential sources of energy, I believe we can be partners with responsible members of America's energy producing community in our collective goal of reaching energy independence.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the balance of the time I yield to the Congresswoman from Jacksonville, Florida, (Corrine Brown).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I first of all want to thank Congressman TOWNS for hosting this energy information transportation session today.

And I was very excited last weekend that I was in your district, and I was able to ride the train from Union Station to downtown New York. That distance, I was able to do it in 2½ hours, and the goal of our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is to be able to do it in less time.

Mr. TOWNS. From Washington to New York 2½ hours?

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. That is right. And we want to do it in 2 hours.

But the key is we were able to do that, and I was able to take that train ride and read and contemplate what we've got to do. We've passed the Amtrak bill. We've got to move this country forward, and I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue.

We've had our heads in the sand long enough on the issues of global warming, and I'm glad that the House Leadership is making this issue a top priority. You only need to look at the constantly rising gas prices to understand why we need to focus on energy independence.

My home State of Florida is particularly vulnerable to weather pattern changes brought about by climate change. Florida on average sits just 98 feet above sea level and each year battles hurricanes with increased frequency and intensity.

Fortunately, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is taking the bull by the horns and looking at ways that we can decrease the negative effect our transportation system has on the world's ecosystem.

One simple way to do this is increasing the use of passenger and freight rail. Freight railroads have made major gains in fuel efficiency through training and improved locomotive technology. A single intermodal train can take up to 280 trucks off our highways. Today, one gallon of diesel fuel can move a ton of freight an average of 414 miles, a 76 percent improvement since 1980. And General Electric will soon unveil the world's first hybrid locomotive.

Passenger rails' ability to reduce congestion is well known, with ridership numbers increasing steadily each year. One full passenger train can take 250–350 cars off the roads. Passenger rail also consumes less energy than automobiles and commercial airlines. But we need to get people to wake up and start making passenger rail a priority in this country.

Unfortunately, this also brings up the bigger issue of capacity and what we are able to accomplish with the limited rail capacity that currently exists in the United States. We need to find a dedicated source for increasing rail capacity and we need to do it now to prepare for the future.

This may not be an easy task, but it is the right thing to do for future generations.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge Congress to enact legislation to lower gas prices and invest in alternative energy.

In Texas, the price of a gallon of gasoline has risen more than \$1.05 in the past year.

No one drives more than Texans do. With thousands of miles of highways and cities located far from one another, efficient transportation is frequently on our minds.

Nationwide, gas prices have risen from \$2.20 per gallon in December 2005 to \$4.10 per gallon on June 19, 2008, according to the Energy Information Administration, the entity that collects official energy statistics for the United States Government.

Gas prices are hurting our local families. Citizens must make tough economic choices because of the crippling effect that high gas prices is having on their lives.

Congress must show leadership and take action to address this problem of high gas prices.

Congress should work toward the goals of long-term energy solutions that promote economic and environment stability.

We should invest in research to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Wind-, solar-, hydrogen-, nuclear-, and geothermal energy sources are all viable options that should be considered.

We should mandate stricter fuel economy standards on all automobiles.

We should utilize alternative fuels that are environmentally sustainable.

We should incentivize the use of public transportation and improve our transportation infrastructure.

We should conduct stronger oversight to determine if gas prices are being artificially inflated.

My years on the Transportation and on the Science Committees have heightened my sensitivity to this subject of rising gas prices.

I have worked to help these committees pass legislation that:

Funds research for environmentally-friendly highway materials;

Secures dollars for our local transportation infrastructure; and

Supports research on alternative fuels, plug-in hybrid cars, hydrogen, ethanol, and other energy sources.

In Texas, we spend a lot of time in our cars. High gas prices are particularly impactful to our economy.

There is no simple or quick solution to this problem of gas prices, but Congress must show leadership and take action to address it.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about my constituents. They are asking for relief from escalating gas prices, and I want to be proactive.

The time to act upon this issue is today.

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity on this special order this evening to talk about a very, very important issue that's facing this country, if not the most important issue, and that is energy.

We have several Members this evening that will be addressing the

House to talk about the energy policies, or lack thereof, in this country. And the first gentleman that I would like to recognize is the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as I drove around the district today, I got to speak to a number of folks, in fact, even over the weekend; and the number one issue on their mind is our energy policy in this Nation. And they asked me, Rob, what are we going to do about fuel prices? What are we going to do about making sure that we have the long-term interests of this country at heart when we develop this energy policy?

You know, I get to experience that every day. I'm privileged to live close enough to the Capitol here where I commute back and forth every day. I live in a little town that's about 80 miles from here, and I drive that every day. So I get to know what the cost of gas is, and I can really relate to folks back in the district when they ask me, What are we going to do about making sure that we have a good, comprehensive energy policy and making sure that we address fuel prices.

For me, it is about an 80-mile commute, and it is very similar to other folks who live back in the district, whether they live in the upper part of the district in the Fredericksburg area or down in Hampton Roads. Many of them commute day after day. They have to deal with the cost of commuting to get to their work. And they also have to deal with that as they commute to take their families, whether it's to school or whether it's to after-school activities for their children. It's really putting a crimp in their budgets, and they are very, very concerned.

As I drive through the district, I get to see the price of gas each day, and it ranges anywhere from \$4.10 a gallon up in the Washington metro area down to \$3.83 a gallon down in the Tappahannock area. So I know the range of fuel prices in the district, know where the best places are to buy fuel. But it's still extraordinarily expensive for people. And that really makes it difficult on them. It really puts a crimp in their budgets. It creates challenges for them, and it creates hardships for them. And that's something that they say, Why isn't Congress acting? Why aren't you coming up with a solution for these real problems that we have to deal with day in and day out?

And it's frustrating for them. They watch a Congress that really kind of stumbles and doesn't do anything. And I can understand their frustration and understand why they are frustrated with us.

You know, I would like to relate a couple of different stories.

Earlier in the district, I spoke with some folks in the Fredericksburg area,

the Sherman family, and they run a small business, and they rely on diesel trucks in their business. And they said, ROB, we bought diesel trucks for a specific reason. We bought them because of the hauling that we have to do, and diesels are more economical as far as hauling and heavy work. And diesel fuel, when they first bought those vehicles, was less than gasoline. And now we know today diesel is significantly more expensive than gasoline, and they're frustrated. They said, We made that decision. We made that decision based on good business sense, and now today their business is being affected by that.

□ 2045

In fact, they're having to park their trucks, and it's cutting into their business. So not only is it costing them more to operate, but they also have to make up for that by parking trucks, which reduces the amount of business that they're able to do and affects their bottom line. So not only are they in a situation of having to deal with higher fuel prices, but their margins get pressed, and they do less business because of these higher fuel prices. And they said, ROB, we can't stand that for very long. This really is going to affect what they're able to do.

So we don't have businesses that are growing. We have businesses that are retracting, and they're asking me, ROB, what are you going to do? Why isn't the Congress coming up with a sensible energy policy? And why isn't there a sense of urgency?

You know, folks are saying, look, this is something that affects us day in and day out. We want to feel like Congress has a sense of urgency and is going to Washington to get things done. And they don't want us to sit by idle. They are tired of words. They want action, and I can't blame them.

You know, we have the opportunity to work together to develop a comprehensive energy policy that provides relief to consumers for these high gas and diesel fuel prices and also addresses the issue of our reliance on foreign oil.

A lady today told me she had a great analogy, and I think it's perfect. She said, ROB, did you ever see the movie "Apollo 13?" And I said, yes, I did. She reminded me of a scene there where, as the command module and the service module were going to the moon, there was an explosion in one of the oxygen tanks there, and it damaged the primary oxygen tank, which was there to fuel the rocket to send it to the moon. So, obviously, they cut that trip short. But then all the members of the crew, the three members had to move to the command module, and the command module wasn't designed for them to stay in there. You know, those command modules had scrubbers to take out carbon dioxide, these lithium oxide scrubbers, and they weren't designed to keep folks alive for 4 days.

So what happened? They called back to mission control, and the folks in

mission control went to the engineers, and they went together and they put together all the pieces of equipment that they had on board in both the service and command modules, and they put it in a box and they took it in the room with the engineers, and they dumped those items on the table, and they said, come up with a solution to the problem. And they gave them a very specific time limit because obviously their oxygen was going to run out. And those engineers took that time and they came up with an idea, and they solved that problem which assured that those astronauts got back to Earth alive.

That's the same sort of spirit of ingenuity to solve problems that we need to bear with this energy problem. We can do it. We've seen that. We've seen that American ingenuity come to light. We've seen it solve problems, and we know with this particular situation we can put together a comprehensive energy policy that includes everything. We need to put everything in that box, just like those Apollo engineers did, and put it on the table and say let's develop a comprehensive energy policy for this country.

And again, it has to include everything. We have to make sure that we look at domestic sources of energy, again to create energy independence, and looking at our refining capacity to make sure that meets our future needs.

You know, we have vast resources here of energy. We need to make sure that we bring those things to the table, whether it's oil shale out west, oil sands, oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf. And we can do those things, and we can do those things in an environmentally sound manner. We have the technology to do that to make sure that we don't harm the environment, at the same time creating energy independence for this country. And we do have that ability. Whether it's in ANWR, whether it's offshore, or oil sands, or oil shales, we need to be doing that.

You know, we haven't constructed a refinery in this country in over 30 years. We need to do that. We have the ability to do that. We have the ability to create and build environmentally sensitive refineries and develop our energy here in environmentally sensitive ways.

You know, at the same time, it's critical that we encourage the development of clean energy sources, again, all different parts of the puzzle, and we need to bring those pieces together. We need to look at clean energy sources like wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal power. The technology is there. The technology is really developing at this particular point. We need to make sure that we enhance that, that we encourage that.

You know, environmentally friendly power production needs to be part of our portfolio, too, in addition to conservation. You know, I think we all agree that development of our domes-

tic sources has to be part of the puzzle, but we can't take that off the table. It has to be part of what we do in this suite of available resources that we have to solve our energy problems here and to come up with a comprehensive energy policy.

You know, it's that energy policy that's going to determine the health of our economy in years to come. We have to conserve. We have to look at alternative and renewable sources of energy. We have to look at the existing sources that we have here. We have to look at nuclear power. We have to look at every available means to make sure that this country can meet its energy needs and to create energy independence.

You know, we have to really ramp up the effort for research and development, not only of these resources, but of conservation and of other sources of energy. And we have to do that aggressively, in addition to aggressively pursuing the sources of energy that we have already. And we can incentivize conservation, and we can make sure that we encourage the use of more energy efficient equipment, in addition to developing our domestic sources.

So, again, we have to look at an across-the-board comprehensive energy policy and realize that there's no silver bullet for increasing gas prices. You can't just say we're going to do one thing and that's going to create a solution to this problem. We have to, just as the *Apollo 13* engineers did, put everything on the table, put everything in that box, and then put that on the table for us to solve these issues.

But the American people are looking for Congress to take clear-cut action to try to solve this problem, and they expect us to work to come up with that policy. They expect us to hear them, to literally feel their pain, and to make sure that we get things done here. They want to make sure that we're investing in these clean sources, in addition to investing and making sure that we develop the sources that we have here in our continental United States.

And you know, we should not cut off resources within our borders. I mean, we have that available. We don't see other countries throughout the world saying, well, we have these resources and we're not going to use them. And you know, we're in a world economy where we're competing against those other nations, and those other nations are buying energy abroad. They're developing their own sources. If we are going to compete with those economies, we cannot neglect the resources that we have here. We have to make sure that we have those resources available for us just to be able to compete.

I know there's some folks that say, well, you know, that's not going to come on line for 2, 3, 4, 15, 20 years down the road. Well, we need to do this now because it does have an effect on price. We all talk about speculation in the market, and speculation is based

on the expected supply, and if the expected supply goes up because the United States develops its own sources, that will have an effect on prices, in addition to the effect on prices that conservation and other alternative sources will have. So we can multiply that effect if we make sure that we don't take anything off the table in developing this energy policy.

And you know, as I said, I know that we as Members of Congress have an obligation to act, and the American people demand that we act, and they demand that we take a comprehensive look at what we do to address these energy needs, and we come up with a comprehensive energy policy.

You know, we had the opportunity years ago when we went through an energy crisis to develop a policy, and we didn't. Now, we have a renewed opportunity to do that and do what's best for the American people. They demand it. They tell me every day the things that I need to be doing as a Congress Member, and they say, look, you and your colleagues need to be doing that across the board.

So I think we need to make sure that we're cognizant of what the demand is and what the requirement is from the American public on what we should be doing here, and that's a comprehensive energy policy that includes everything.

Again, we need to take that *Apollo 13* box, dump it out there, and say let's have at it, let's create a comprehensive energy policy that ensures the long-term economic viability of this country.

I can tell you, we can no longer afford to wait, and my constituents demand that as well of every other Member of Congress. Now is the time to create a comprehensive energy policy, taking all the tools that we have.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman for his statement on energy policy in this country.

I'd like to next recognize the gentelady from Minnesota, Representative BACHMANN. Good evening.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank Representative LATTA. I appreciate your leadership on the issue of energy, and although you are a brand new Member of Congress—you haven't been here for a long time—you've shown just extraordinary leadership on the issue that's probably facing more Americans today than any other, and that's the dramatic increase in the price of energy, and I know how passionate you've been on this issue. You've worked tirelessly in your district, and the people of your district in Ohio are fortunate to have you as their representative. Thank you so much for working so hard on this issue.

It's one, Mr. Speaker, that I believe probably every Member of this body is hearing from their constituents over and over and over again. I know that I have as well. I had conducted a meeting with several members of my community who own gas stations, independent owners of gas stations. And

one thing that they told me that broke my heart, they told me that they are seeing 30 percent fewer sales at the pump, and they're also seeing 30 percent fewer sales inside their store, and they're hurting.

One gentleman told me that normally he would spend \$10,000 to purchase the gasoline that would go into the ground in the holding tanks, \$10,000, and that's money that's out of his pocket, sitting there in inventory until it can be sold. And he said, now, I pay \$40,000 to have that inventory in the ground, and now sales are 30 percent less. And so he has more money in the ground, not producing for him, at a higher and higher price level, and he said this is eating up my entire profit margin. There are people going out of business.

And so what he told me is we've got to do something to get gasoline back down from its \$4 a gallon, and that's what we're about here tonight to say there's very good news on the horizon.

It's doom and gloom when you wake up in the morning and you see and you hear on the radio and you see when you drive to the gas station what the price at the pump is. But the good news is, there is an answer, and America can go back to \$2 a gallon gasoline or less. It's entirely possible.

Why? Because we have the answer right here in our country. We are standing on our own solution. We have energy that's available to us, 86 billion barrels, that's according to our own United States department, 86 billion barrels of energy right now that's available to us in the form of oil in the Outer Continental Shelf area.

We have over 10 billion barrels of oil that's fully recoverable up in the arctic energy slope. This is an area of land that Congress originally set aside specifically for the purpose of accessing that energy through drilling to bring back down to the United States. I had the privilege back in the mid-1970s of working two summers up on the Aleutian Chain in Alaska. That's when the Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, trans-Alaska oil pipeline was built. That oil pipeline is currently up. It's running, but it is only half full.

With very little effort, we could actually tap into that oil pipeline, the 10 billion barrels that we know are already in Alaska, and we could fill that pipeline. Rather than having it half empty, we could fill it and bring down another million barrels of oil a day.

And Mr. Speaker, 1 million barrels of oil a day translates into 27 million gallons of gasoline, and that would mean a 50 percent increase in American reserves than we're already tapping today. That's just those 10 billion barrels. That doesn't include the 85 billion barrels that are also available in the Outer Continental Shelf in the deep sea energy reserves that America only has.

But Mr. Speaker, I think most Americans aren't even aware that America is the only country in the world that has voluntarily made it illegal to ac-

cess its own energy. That's right, Mr. Speaker, we are the only country in the world that's made it illegal to access our own energy.

Congress caused this problem. The problem is not OPEC and the problem is not speculators. The problem is the United States Congress. I believe part of the reason why we are seeing Congress's approval ratings at an astoundingly low 12 percent is because Congress has chosen to make it illegal to access the answer that we need, and that's our own energy resources.

Here's another great fact. In the gulf coast region, we have what is probably the world's largest reserve of natural gas. We have 420 trillion, 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that's available to us right now off the shore in the Gulf of Mexico. We can access this, and we can bring natural gas into our country, use it to fire up our electrical grid, and also, we could even change our cars and buses, run them on natural gas as well.

□ 2100

America also is home to 25 percent of the Earth's supply of coal right here in the United States, almost an unlimited supply. We have clean coal technology today that's available to us that can process coal and transmit that almost unlimited supply of energy all across the United States.

And as well, nuclear energy. I have a nuclear energy facility in my home district in the Sixth Congressional District of Minnesota, Mr. Speaker. And I'm so grateful we have that because nuclear power supplies almost 20, 25 percent of Minnesota's energy needs. It's a clean, safe, reliable form of energy, and it has zero emissions. I am so excited about this wonderful technology, but unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, again, Congress has made it illegal for us to be able to tap into this wonderful source of energy.

Whether it's nuclear, whether it's coal, whether it's natural gas, whether it's the oil reserves that we have, America has the answer. In fact, this is the industry that we can tap into right now. We don't need to find a magic bullet or a magic alternative. This is energy that we have available to us today that we could tap into today so we can see the American people very soon get back to paying \$2 a gallon.

One thing that happened not too long ago was this body, the United States Congress, sent out stimulus checks to Americans all across the country. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because people in the United States Congress were worried about the economy, so we went to the United States Treasury and we wrote checks that are still being sent out to Americans all across this country. Why? We wanted to encourage Americans to spend money to stimulate the economy.

Do you know what I believe the greatest stimulus would be to Americans? It would be to get gasoline back to \$2 a gallon. And it's so possible. It

was just about 18 months ago that the Democrat majority took over in this body. And when they took over, gasoline, on average, at the national level was \$2.33 a gallon. Mr. Speaker, that average today is about \$4.07 a gallon. That's a dramatic increase in the price of gasoline, unheard of increase in the price of gasoline. It took us 25 years in the United States for gasoline to go from \$1 a gallon to \$2 a gallon. And just in the time that the Democrats have held the gavel they have taken this country from \$2.33 to \$4.08 a gallon.

I was listening to the previous discussion that occurred, and I heard some suggestions about why the price of gasoline has gone up so dramatically. And I find it interesting, because if you look at the votes from 1994 until today, this Congress has already voted on whether or not we should explore in ANWR. We voted on it. In fact, the Congress, back in 1995, sent a bill to President Bill Clinton to say that we should be drilling in ANWR. The House passed that bill, the Senate passed that bill. Unfortunately, it was President Bill Clinton that vetoed that bill; otherwise, we would have already been drilling in ANWR. We wouldn't be in the pickle that we're in today.

But this is the vote and these are the facts. I'm not trying to be partisan because we need to come together, as Democrats and Republicans, and solve this problem now because Americans are feeling real pain and the economy is reeling over energy prices. But here's the facts, Mr. Speaker. This is a fact. Any American can go and find out what the voting has been on ANWR exploration, of bringing energy down from Alaska.

Ninety-one percent of Republicans have voted to explore in ANWR and drill for oil in ANWR, 91 percent; 86 percent of Democrats have opposed drilling. And that hasn't changed today because we already know what the Democrat plan is for energy, they've made it abundantly clear. It is very simple. Their plan has been, let's have the United States Government—that created this problem—take over the oil industry and nationalize oil refineries. That's what they said last week at a press conference, let's nationalize oil refineries. Well, that's not a new idea, but it's not an American idea. And that's not an idea that the American public wants us to embrace. They don't want us to embrace socialism. But that's what we heard Democrats say last week.

Here's the other part of their plan: It is, drive less and pay more. Drive less and pay more. That's not what the American people want. But Senator OBAMA, the nominee of the Democrat party, just recently said it isn't the high price of gasoline that has him worried, it's how quickly that price went up. Well, I'll tell you one thing, Congressman BOB LATTA, Congressman PAUL BROUN and also Congressman ROB WITTMAN, who was on the floor tonight, it's the high price of gasoline that's bothering us.

Republicans don't want to see gas at \$4.08 a gallon, or \$5 or \$6—or whatever that price could be by the end of summer. We don't want it that price because we know for a fact we can get gasoline back down to \$2 a gallon or less very simply if all we do is explore what we already know we have. We've got the resources, we've got the technology. We can do this thing, we're Americans. We're Americans, and we can do this, just like Congressman WITTMAN said, like we did with the *Apollo 13*. We can do this, and it's exciting.

We don't have to go with the Democrat agenda, which is, nationalize the oil industry, take over the oil refineries. We think the United States Government—who didn't do such a great job at Walter Reed Hospital—is going to be brilliant and bring down the price of gas by taking over oil refineries? I don't think so. I don't think that's who I want to trust, not with the American people saying that we have a 12 percent approval rating; I don't think they would trust us either.

And I don't think the American people want us to drive less and pay more. I think what the American people want is what the Republicans are offering. And that's why I'm so grateful to Congressman LATTA tonight for sponsoring this important hour on energy. Because what Congressman LATTA is trying to let the American people know is that we can get back down to \$2 a gallon of gas or less if we open up the key to our own answer, which is, open up America's supplies and do it in a clean, safe, environmentally sensitive way, which we've already done.

How do I know that to be true? Because the United States was one of the only countries in the world last year that actually reduced its emissions. That's right, Mr. Speaker, the United States is one of the only countries in the world that reduced its emissions. All these other countries that signed onto the Kyoto Treaty, the EU, that signed onto this elaborate, bureaucratic-driven cap and trade system, their emissions all went up, ours went down. What's the difference?

We, in this country, believe in freedom. We believe in freedom and we believe in free markets to solve our problems. And they do, free markets solve the problems. It's not socializing our oil industry like the Democrats have suggested. It's not sitting home, putting a sweater on, turning our thermostat down, that's not going to solve the problem. It's not going to be paying more at the pump; that's not going to solve the problem. It is unleashing American ingenuity and finding these new sources of supply, which we already have, with technology that we already have, and bring the supplies in so we can make it happen.

I am so excited about what Congressman LATTA is doing. And I just want to end now with these other statistics, and they're very simple. House Republicans voted 97 percent of the time to

have coal-to-liquid technology, to give us more oil at cheaper prices. Democrats opposed it 78 percent of the time.

Oil shale exploration. The United States is the Saudi Arabia of oil. We have more oil just in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming than all of Saudi Arabia, over 1.3 trillion barrels of oil. Republicans said yes, let's explore that oil 90 percent of the time. Democrats opposed exploring that oil 86 percent of the time.

Outer Continental Shelf, where we have 86 billion barrels of oil. House Republicans voted 81 percent of the time, let's explore, let's access that energy. Democrats, almost the flip, 83 percent opposed exploration.

On refinery increase. Because, you know, we had over 300 refineries not too long ago in this country, we're now down to somewhere near 150 refineries. The Republicans voted 97 percent to increase the number of refineries, Democrats opposed it 96 percent.

I don't take any glory in reading those numbers, but if you average them all together, over 90 percent of the time, Mr. Speaker, Republicans have voted to explore American energy, explore it now so that Americans can pay less. That's our answer. We're not new to this dance. This has been the answer that Republicans have been giving since 1994. That's the answer we want to have. Democrats, since 1994, almost 90 percent have said no, let's not access American resources; in fact, let's make it illegal to access these resources. Well, that's not what the American people say.

Mr. Speaker, over 70 percent of the American people have had it up to here. They're seeing their lives change; they're seeing jobs lost, jobs sent overseas. They want us to explore here, explore now, so they can pay less.

And, Mr. Speaker, we agree with the American people. And Congressman LATTA is leading the charge tonight to let the American people know that we're with them, we're in their corner. We don't think they are the problem. We think the American people are way out in front on this solution.

So I yield back, Congressman LATTA. I yield back because I can't wait to hear what more you have to say on this issue. And thank you for that opportunity.

Mr. LATTA. Well, I thank the gentlelady for yielding back, and also for her enthusiasm and her knowledge of this subject because this is what we have to do in this country because we've got to get the word out to the American people. But as you said, the American people are actually far ahead of Congress right now and they know what we need to do. So I just want to thank you very much for your eloquence tonight on your statement.

At this time, I would like to yield now to my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN), to speak on energy.

I appreciate your being here this evening. Thank you.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank my good friend for yielding, and I appreciate what you're doing tonight.

Energy is the lifeblood of the American economy. Our economic prosperity is closely tied to the availability of reliable and affordable supplies of energy. Unfortunately, U.S. energy production has grown only 13 percent while energy consumption has increased 30 percent since 1973.

According to AAA, the average American is paying over \$4.07 per gallon for gasoline today. Instead of traveling to spend time with loved ones, record gas prices will keep many Americans home this 4th of July weekend.

Skyrocketing gas prices and a risky dependence upon fuel supply by volatile foreign nations highlight our need for an American energy policy that emphasizes production and decreases our reliance upon foreign oil.

Many here in Congress bemoan America's addiction to foreign oil, yet they refuse to allow access to American oil and gas supplies necessary to cure this addiction. America has been blessed with abundant natural resources, and we should not be hesitant to tap into them, especially at a time when energy cost is so high.

We've heard time and time again about how drilling off the coast in the Outer Continental Shelf will harm the environment. This is pure hogwash. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed or damaged literally hundreds of drilling rigs without causing the spill of a single drop. Yet congressional Democrats continue to pander to the far left environmental whackos instead of mending the pains of hardworking Americans.

We cannot even drill for oil or gas 200 miles off our own shore. Meanwhile, communist China and Fidel Castro's communist Cuba are moving forward with plans for drilling for oil and gas only 45 miles off of the shores of Key West. Liberal Democrats have also prevented any access to the billions of barrels of oil located in ANWR.

The entire area of ANWR is larger than the combined areas of five States—Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Delaware—yet the proposed drilling area is equal to one-sixth the size of Dulles Airport here in Washington, D.C.

Development of American oil and gas on these lands will help bring the price down and help break the stranglehold on energy that hostile countries in the Middle East enjoy. And this can be done in an environmentally sound manner and should be immediately implemented.

The environmental groups haven't allowed a new oil refinery to be built in the United States for decades, about 30 years. It does little good to increase our use of domestic supplies of oil when we do not have the refinery capacity to quickly convert it into a useable form, gasoline. Members on both sides of the aisle need to stand up to these fringe groups and implement policies that en-

courage the construction of new refineries in the United States.

Liberals also suggest mandating ethanol and renewable fuel production and selling it as the answer to America's energy needs. The 2007 "non-energy" energy bill, or "lack of energy" bill has already proven that the Democratic solution is wrong, dead wrong. Mandating the production of renewable fuels has only led to an increase in world food prices. It is, at best, disingenuous, and at worst, an outright lie to say that renewable fuels can meet America's needs in the near future.

□ 2115

As a good southerner, I love my cornbread and grits. It makes no sense to me to put corn in the tank of my pickup truck.

Energy prices are soaring, and the financial pain that families are feeling at the pump is forcing them to decide what they can and cannot spend. Congressional Democrats act as if they have been living under a rock by continuing to ignore the demands of the American people and refusing to do anything to lower these burdensome prices. Skyrocketing gas prices and a risky dependence on fuel supplied by volatile foreign nations highlight our need for an American energy policy that emphasizes production and decreases our reliance upon Middle Eastern oil.

The United States is the only nation on Earth that forbids development of its own natural resources. Listen to me. Right now America is drilling for ice on Mars; yet we cannot drill for oil in America. That makes no sense. It's idiotic. It's stupid. We must drill on our own lands and we must do it now. We must streamline our oil refinery processes, and we must end our dependence upon Middle Eastern oil.

Our energy prices were not created overnight and will not be solved overnight. Congress must act swiftly to address this growing energy crisis. America's energy policy must make us stronger and less reliant on countries that are hostile to freedom. Passing any so-called energy bill that fails to produce even a single kilowatt of new energy or produce a gallon of gas is not a solution. We must pass legislation that will allow for responsible use of our known American supplies of energy, that reduce excessive and burdensome environmental policies, and that encourage the development of alternative forms of energy. We need to increase nuclear power. It's the only thing that has proven to be incredibly safe. It's a successful source of energy, and it's the only thing that makes sense economically.

I stand ready to fight for this, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LATTA, I appreciate your working tonight to bring this issue forward. It's absolutely critical for the American public that we stop this dependence

upon Middle Eastern oil. These countries want to destroy us. They hate our freedom. They hate our market system. They hate everything that we stand for. They even hate women. They want to use them as tools. And yet we are funding these countries that want to destroy us. It makes no sense. We have got to develop an energy policy that makes sense economically, environmentally, and makes us not dependent upon these countries that want to destroy us.

I highly commend your effort tonight. I am glad to have joined you tonight, and I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Members.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, I just love you and I appreciate your passion and your fervor in fighting for change in our policy. It's absolutely critical. So I applaud your efforts. I know last week I saw you fighting down here on the floor again for the same issues, and I am at awe of your fervor towards this. But we must end our dependence on foreign oil, and I appreciate both of you as well as Congressman Whitman's participation tonight in this Special Order. Thank you so much, and I just praise God for you and your efforts tonight.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you very much, my good friend from Georgia. I really appreciate your being here tonight. And, again, what you say is absolutely what we have to be doing in this country, and I appreciate it. And, again, as we said a little bit earlier, the American people back home get it, but we are not getting it down here in Congress. So I appreciate your words this evening.

Mr. Speaker, we aren't listening to the folks back home. I got home on Friday night from Washington at about 8 o'clock, and gas down at the local gas station was \$4.03. I had to speak at our Buckeye Boys State, which was going on at Bowling Green State University on Saturday morning, and I attended one of my county fairs that day and also went to an event at Bowling Green State University that evening. And the only topic that people are talking about right now is what are we going to do in this country about the high prices of fuel? And, again, they understand there's a problem, but, unfortunately, here in this Congress there is a real question if we actually are getting it.

My district, the Fifth Congressional District, is kind of unique in that we are number nine in manufacturing in the entire United States Congress, ninth out of four hundred thirty-five.

What made this country great was the Industrial Revolution. After the Civil War, we watched what happened as the country took off. We had a situation where we had the resources, we had the people, and we were able to produce a product that the rest of the world wanted. And we did great. But the big thing we have to look at today is that energy equals manufacturing, which equals jobs for Americans, and if

we are not going to be doing that, we're in trouble.

Another great privilege and honor that I have got out there, I am able to go around my district and go to the manufacturing facilities and talk with a lot of the people that are working in these plants. And one of the questions that I always ask them right upfront is how many miles do you drive to work? or how many folks do you have that are driving out of the area? It's not uncommon to hear 30, 40, 50 miles one way for people to come into work. So you multiply that out, and some people driving 500 miles a week. And some people are saying to me, you know what? There's a real problem out there. What happens when gas gets to the price that I'm not going to be able to afford to drive to work and it's not going to be sound for me to do that? We have got a real problem. We have got a real problem. Because the Fifth Congressional District is 140 miles east to west. It's not as large as going to Montana or Wyoming or some other spots in Iowa or some of the other States. But when you're driving that many miles to work, people are going to start asking, is it worth it for me to actually get to work?

At the same time, we have a lot of different manufacturing facilities in Northwest Ohio. We also have certain very unique ones. We have a float glass plant in my district. Five years ago their costs were around \$10 million; today they are \$30 million. There are 40 of these facilities being constructed in China today. Their labor force is cheaper. So when we are competing with cheaper labor compared to our more highly skilled labor, but at the same price of fuel, let's just say, they are going to win because their prices are cheaper. We can't have that happen.

The other thing we have in Northwest Ohio, I come from the largest farming area in Ohio, and when you're looking at the farmers today, they have been planting corn and soybeans, and they are getting ready in the near future to be out there and are going to be harvesting that wheat. But it costs money. It costs a lot in diesel. It costs in chemicals. It costs in fertilizer. And this is all from the same thing, and all of it is coming from petroleum. So when people say they are getting X number of dollars for a bushel of wheat or beans or corn, you've got to look at what that production cost is. And it's rising. And not only is it rising for the farmers and the manufacturers, but also for that man and woman going into that grocery store every week to try to make sure they have food on the table for their family. The costs are going up.

In Ohio 80 percent of all the goods that are delivered are delivered by truck. We don't have a rail system. We don't have a metro system. We don't have a bus system. People in my area, if you're going to get someplace, you can't walk. You can't ride a bicycle. You've got to get in that automobile

and get to work or get to that store. So we have to make sure that folks have that ability to be able to purchase things because if we have too high prices for gasoline, home fuel oil, natural gas, electric costs, rising food bills, that's going to prevent consumers out there from having more disposable income. And when they don't have disposable income out there, what's going to happen? Well, they are going to quit buying, and pretty soon this economy is going to be in shambles. So we have got to do something right now. And, again, the American people understand it, but we have got to understand it here in Congress.

A couple weeks ago when we were having another Special Order, a Member from Texas brought up an example of a person from his district. A trucker from Texas had a load to take to California. It cost \$1,500 in fuel costs to get that to California. That trip cost \$1,500, and he got \$1,700 for the entire trip. By the time you take out all the expenses, the taxes, the depreciation on the truck, he lost money. So we have got a real problem in this country, and that problem is coming up on us right now.

The United States uses about 21 percent of the world's energy as we speak tonight, but the rest of the world is catching up. We were years ago able to make some dumb mistakes in this country because we were always able to correct them quickly because everybody was behind us. After World War II, most of the world all lay in shambles but the United States. But as time went by, these other countries have been catching up, and I think this chart explains it really quickly.

When you look at the energy consumption in this country and where the other countries are, and I'm talking about India and China, you will see that right now we are leading. But in 2015 China and India are going to be at parity with the United States. In 2020 China is going to surpass the United States in energy usage. What does energy usage mean again? Energy usage means jobs. It means manufacturing. And if they get ahead of us, it's going to be very, very tough to catch up. Once again, we have got to do what we have to do for the American people, and that is to make sure that we have the energy to make sure that we have the jobs for the future.

As my colleagues discussed a little bit earlier some of the issues, nuclear, let's just talk about nuclear for a few minutes. France, about 75 percent of all their energy comes from nuclear power. Not only do they have that nuclear power, but they also have that nuclear power they can export to the rest of Europe. So they're producing it and they're shipping it over.

Japan has 55 nuclear reactors with 2 under construction. Russia, 31 reactors in operation and 37 to 42 currently or will be under construction and operational by 2020. India is building 30 new plants in 25 years. They're smaller, about 200 megawatts, but they are

building. China, they are building 40 gigawatt nuclear power stations in the next 25 to 30 years. That's 40 in the next 25 to 30 years.

What about coal? As my colleague from Minnesota brought up about all the coal that we have in this country, what is China doing? Well, right now in China, about 80 percent of their power is electrically generated and 18 percent is hydro, and they are getting into nuclear. China is investing in \$24 billion in clean coal technology.

India, the third largest coal producer and consumer in the world. India is right there at number three. India and China account for 45 percent of coal use.

Hydro, China is constructing the Three Gorges hydro plant, which is going to produce about 18.2 gigawatts, and the Yellow River hydro plan will produce 15.8 gigawatts.

Oil, as my colleague from Georgia has mentioned, drilling offshore, the Chinese, as he just mentioned and as my colleague from Minnesota mentioned, China is negotiating for oil leases off Cuba 50 miles from the U.S. Canada is negotiating. Venezuela is negotiating. Those are in waters that would be considered areas that the United States should be drilling in, and we are not.

The alternatives/supplementals, China is mandating by 2020 15 percent of energy from wind, biomass, solar, and small hydro plants.

Things are happening across the world, but the real question is what is happening in this country? What is happening in this country? And I am afraid to report tonight not much at all.

As we have talked about, what's been going with nuclear in this country? The last plant to be licensed in this country was in 1977. The last plant to go online was in 1996. When you're looking at these things, we are getting farther and farther behind. There is a lot of different things we can be talking about with alternatives or maybe you want to call them supplementals, types of powers, but I think people have got to know what we're talking about. When we're looking at what one 1,000 megawatt reactor would need, you would have to erect between 1,250 to 1,700 wind turbines to get there. I think wind is great, but I think you have to remember we have to have a base load out there to make sure that we can run our plants.

As the gentlewoman from Minnesota mentioned, the United States has 24 to 25 percent of the world's coal. Well, what are we doing about it? In Ohio we have higher sulfur in our coal, and the problem with that is it costs more to scrub it. But we have the technology. We have an individual from Northwest Ohio that has helped bring about and invent a clean coal technology that we can consume this coal without emitting it. We have hundreds of years of reserves on our coal.

As has been mentioned, the oil shale in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, over 6

trillion barrels of oil equivalence out there, and what are we doing about it? Absolutely nothing.

□ 2130

Congress is standing in the way. Oil and natural gas. When we reimport 65 percent of our oil in this country, that is a problem. That is a problem. We need to start doing something. Our friend from Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, said a little earlier that what they did with Apollo 13, they had to come up with a solution, and come up with it now. We have got to do that in this country.

John Kennedy, when he was in office, had said that we were going to put a man on the Moon by the end of the 1960s. We did it with Neil Armstrong in 1969. But we have got to have a purpose and make sure we get that done.

We are talking about places where we are restricting ourselves. The only country in the world to fight with both hands tied behind its back is this country. ANWR, we have approximately 10.3 billion barrels of oil. As has been mentioned, we are talking about an area of over 19 million acres, and only talking about drilling and exploring in 2,000 of those acres. When you are looking at 10.3 billion recoverable barrels of oil up there, we have got to get up there. As mentioned a little bit earlier, President Clinton, in 1995, vetoed that legislation, or we would be getting that oil right.

Also, as has been mentioned, we have 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas offshore. We have 86 billion barrels of oil. Of that, the Federal Government denies access to 92 percent for oil drilling and 90 percent of that area for natural gas. As has been mentioned, even if we got that oil to this country, we haven't done anything for over 2½ decades on refinery.

A bill has been introduced here to say if people have that NIMBY, that "don't put it in my backyard," how about using an abandoned military base to put these facilities in, these refineries.

The scary thing we have got going out there is this, is that as we watch more and more American dollars being spent on all of this fuel and all these other dollars going overseas, and of course we have a \$9 trillion debt right now, the scary thing that we have got going out there is who's buying our debt. Right now, we have about a \$9 trillion national debt. About \$2.6 trillion of that is owned by foreign countries. Japan owns, as of the April statement, about \$592.2 billion, and the Chinese have about a half a trillion dollars of that debt.

We have got to act now. We can't wait. We can't make mistakes. We have to explore, drill, we have got to conserve. We have got to do everything that has been mentioned here tonight. We have got to look at those alternatives of supplementals because, again, you talk to a lot of folks out there and the question as to alter-

natives, well, maybe don't have enough base load out there.

So we have to make sure that we get those wind turbines up. Again, people object to those. In my district, out my back door I can see the only four wind turbines in the State of Ohio. We have solar, with two companies, one in production right now in my district, another going to be going online here in the near future, producing solar panels. I have another company in my district working on hydrogen. There's ethanol, there's biodiesel, but everything put together, we have got to go out there and do it all right, and do it all right, and we've got to do it now.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that the time is now. The American people are demanding action from this Congress, and we can't make the mistakes of the past because we don't have time to catch up.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATTA. I yield to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I have got a comment and a question. Last week, we heard members of the other party come to this floor and talk over and over again about the oil companies have thousands of acres that they already have leased and that they are not drilling in them. It's my understanding that a lot of this is land that the oil companies just leased up so that they would have the prerogative to be able to do so in the future.

I think this is correct, is that not so?

Mr. LATTA. To the gentlemen, I believe that is absolutely correct. When you're talking about leases, as you said, you're buying and leasing a lot of an area. It doesn't mean they are all profitable, because if every time you put a well down and struck oil, everybody would be doing it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. That is the point that I was just wanting you to bring up, is that all this land that the oil companies have leased over the years, they have temporary leases, that when those leases expire, the land turn back. In fact, I have got a friend, the Dudleys in Athens, Georgia, who lease some land in Alabama to an oil company to drill for gas. They had that lease for a number of years. The oil company never drilled. That lease has expired. So those friends of mine, Randy and Mary Dudley, in Athens, Georgia, today, don't have the lease money coming in as they did. The oil company never drilled there.

That is true all over this country, from what I understand. We just hear from the Democrats over and over again that the oil companies have all this land, but it's land where there's no oil. They just lease it in case that they may be able to find oil or gas. But we know there's oil, we know there's gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. In fact, it's my understanding that only about 15 percent of the land in the Outer Continental Shelf is actually leased, that we could tap into. Is that correct?

Mr. LATTA. That is correct.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, in fact we know that there is oil and gas out there; in fact, trillions of cubic feet of gas. Gas, when we burn it, is a very clean fuel. Those who adhere to this global warming hysteria, which I think is a hysteria and not fact; in fact, I am a medical doctor and scientifically I have looked at this issue, and there are many scientists on both sides, a lot that say that global warming that we are experiencing is due to natural causes and not due to an increase in carbon output by man's use. But we have got propane that is produced from the refinery of oil. We could produce that. There are a lot of cars and buses that run on propane.

We have natural gas that, in my home in Watkinsville, Georgia, I have a natural gas hot water heater, natural gas stove that I cook my wild game on when I get home and have the opportunity to cook my game and fish that I love to hunt and fish. But all these are clean sources of energy, and we are just not tapping into those.

I thank you for bringing these things up. We have got so many sources of clean fuels, even if global warming is caused by human causes, which I am one that I don't think there's enough scientific data to prove that fact. There are a lot of scientists that do say that. But certainly tapping into our own gas and oil resources can make us less dependent upon foreign oil, make us less dependent upon those who want to destroy us as a Nation. It's a national security interest for us to tap into those resources that we have here.

As I said a few minutes ago, America is the only Nation in the world that won't tap into and develop its own natural resources. It makes absolutely no sense. It's stunningly stupid, stunningly stupid that we don't do that. Right now, we are drilling for ice on mars, yet we cannot drill for oil in America. I just cannot understand that. It makes no sense.

We are being blocked over and over again by the people on the other side who are pandering to the radical environmentalists. I am a conservationist. I started my political activity coming up here as a volunteer, working on conservation issues. I think it's critical that we develop those oil sources.

I congratulate you on bringing this forward tonight.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you. I yield to my good friend from Minnesota.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you, Congressman LATTA. I want to address a point that was brought up by Congressman BROUN and really the absurdity of the remark regarding the oil leases that oil companies have taken up. These lands are owned by the American people and they are leased out to oil companies or natural gas companies. These oil and gas companies have to pay for these leases. They aren't just given to them free of charge. They have to pay for the right to search for the oil.

They take all the risk, and they find the natural resource and they access that natural resource. It doesn't make any sense economically for a company to lease something and waste money on leases that they aren't going to use. It's already in law that if the companies that lease this land, if they are not productive, it's already a law they have to turn the leases back. They can't just lease them forever, get them for free, not pay for that right to lease the land. They have to already turn them back if they aren't productive, because the companies know if there's oil on the land, or if there's gas on the land, they already know if it's there.

Just because they have leased land doesn't mean that there's oil on it or that there's gas on it. It just doesn't make sense someone is going to waste money if they are in a private company. That takes away from profit, and you need to have profits to be able to go forward.

Again, this is the 75th anniversary of the New Deal, and it reminds me of Solomon, who said in Ecclesiastes, "There is nothing new under the sun." And there is nothing new under the sun with a lot of these suggestions we have seen. As a matter of fact, the plan we have seen so far from the Democrats has been this, and it's pretty simple, it is: Drive less, pay more. That is pretty much the plan that we have seen. Oh, yeah, also, let's increase taxes on the domestic production of American energy. That doesn't take too much for the American people to figure out.

If Congress would decide we are going to start taxing food, do you think food would cost more? Of course it would. What about if Congress decided, Let's add taxes to health care, as if that wasn't expensive enough. Would that cost more? Of course it would.

This is not the way the American people want us to go. They don't want us to jack up taxes on American production of oil. They don't want to drive less, they don't want to pay more. They don't want to have America socializing and taking over oil refineries. What the American people want, pure and simple, is freedom. They want freedom, they want the free market, and they want to see energy prices get back down to \$2 a gallon or less.

I know it's possible, I know it can happen, and that is why I am so thankful for your brilliant leadership tonight, Congressman LATTA, and also for Congressman PAUL BROWN, and also for Congressman WITTMAN, who was here earlier this evening speaking, because here's an answer. Here's an answer.

It's here, it's ours, it's for the taking. We can be environmentally sensitive. We can explore here in America now, and we can have Americans pay less. I yield back.

Mr. LATTA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight on this Special Order.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the topics of tonight's Special Order speeches.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

KELO THIRD ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. The fifth amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

June 23, 2005, marks a very sad day in our Nation's history. Exactly 3 years ago today, five unelected members of the U.S. Supreme Court made one of the most despised rulings in our Nation's history, one of the most egregious, unconstitutional rulings in our Nation's history in its ruling of *Kelo v. City of New London*.

The courts allowed a small Connecticut town to seize a private home to make way for a riverfront development. This activist decision was an attack on middle-class citizens for the benefit of the rich. There have been no worse interpretations of the intent of the fifth amendment than when the Supreme Court seized a private home for the profit of a private company. Yes, a private company.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, with whom I have disagreed on many of her decisions, was spot on in her dissent when we stated, "the specter of condemnation hangs over all property. Nothing is to prevent the State from replacing any Motel 6 with a Ritz-Carlton, or any home with a shopping mall, or any farm with a factory."

She added that under the Court's decision in *Kelo*, "any property may now be taken for the benefit of another private party," and "the fallout from this decision will not be random. The beneficiaries are likely to be those citizens with disproportionate influence and power in the political process, including large corporations and development firms. As for the victims, the government now has a license to transfer their property from those with fewer resources, to those with more.

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The Founders cannot have intended this perverse result."

So detested was the Supreme Court's 2005 ruling that the small home that became the center of the New London land grab has been moved and restored near the center of town as a constant reminder of the town's injustice. That small, pink home once represented a

private home, but now it is a symbol of the evils of an activist court that disregards our constitutional rights.

Our Founding Fathers knew that our liberties were only as secure as our property rights. Property rights are a central institution of Western civilization, yet too often our Nation has violated the basic principles of our Founding Fathers. Federal, State and local governments continue to ignore, neglect, disparage and even fail to understand the importance of property rights.

Today I am pleased to introduce a resolution defending private property rights. This resolution in a very clear manner reflects the intent of our Founding Fathers when they listed private property rights as untouchable by government power. By placing property rights in the fifth amendment to the Constitution, the Founders made the protection of private property a primary aim of the American government. There is no provision in Article I, Section 8, or anywhere else in the Constitution, that allows the unnecessary, predatory seizure of private land.

On this, the third anniversary of one of the Supreme Court's most infamous decisions, I am proud to join property rights advocates all over America in renewing our protest against judicial activism. I applaud the many States that have passed legislation to limit their power to eminent domain and the supreme courts of many States that have barred the practice under their State constitution. I applaud the courage of Susette Kelo and other victims of eminent domain abuse who have stood up to their government and fought for their constitutional rights.

As John Dickinson, signer of the Constitution stated: "Let these truths be indelibly impressed on our minds: (1) that we cannot be happy without being free; (2) that we cannot be free without being secure in our property; and (3) that we cannot be secure in our property if, without our consent, others may as by right take it away."

Private property rights are critical for freedom, and we need to fight for private property rights.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and June 24.

Mr. HILL (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. KANJORSKI (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district regarding flooding.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3 p.m. on June 24 on account of personal reasons.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. BUYER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of business in Kansas.

Mr. PEARCE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CULBERSON, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, 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. 3403. An act to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encourage the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7256. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Potatoes; Grade Standards [Docket AMS-2006-0136; FV-06-303] received June 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7257. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Workforce Security, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Treatment of Fees Collected by State Child Support Agencies — received June 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

7258. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Labeling: Health Claims; Dietary Noncariogenic Carbohydrates Sweeteners and Dental Caries [[Docket No. FDA-2006-P-0404] (Formerly Docket No. 2006P-0487)] received June 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7259. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Lead Hazard Information Pamphlet; Notice of Availability [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2004-0126; FRL-8358-6] received June 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7260. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Area Source Standards for Plating and Polishing Operations [EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0084; FRL-8581-3] (RIN: 2060-AM37) received June 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7261. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, SCPD, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets Petition of American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee C63 (EMC) ANSI ASC C63 [WT Docket No. 07-250] received June 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7262. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulatory Improvements to the Nuclear Materials Management and Safeguards System [NRC-2007-0002] (RIN: 3150-AH85) received June 11, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7263. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations based on the 2007 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements [Docket No. 080208146-8148-01] (RIN: 0694-AE23) received June 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7264. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Expansion of the Gift Parcel License Exception Regarding Cuba to Authorize Mobile Phones and Related Software and Equipment [Docket No. 080519687-8707-01] (RIN: 0694-AE37) received June 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7265. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the fifty-sixth Semiannual Report to Congress on management decisions and final actions

taken on audit recommendations, covering the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7266. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the thirty-eighth Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-Up, covering the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7267. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270), the Department's 2007 Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7268. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting two Semiannual Reports which were prepared separately by Treasury's Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) for the period ended March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7269. A letter from the Chair, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General and management's report for the period ending March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7270. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the Bank's semiannual report for the period ending March 31, 2008, in accordance with Section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7271. A letter from the First Vice President and Controller, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting the 2007 management report and statements of internal controls of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7272. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting in accordance with Section 645 of Division F, Title VI, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Commission's report covering fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7273. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270) and OMB Circular A-76, Performance of Commercial Activities, the Administration's FY 2007 inventory of commercial activities performed by federal employees and inventory of inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7274. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting a report on the "Fiscal Year 2007 Accounting of Drug Control Funds," pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 705(d)(Div. C-Title VII); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7275. A letter from the Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report

pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7276. A letter from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7277. A letter from the Secretary and Director, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7278. A letter from the Acting Director Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 071106673-8011-02] (RIN: 0648-XH33) received June 20, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7279. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Framework Adjustment 19 [Docket No. 070817467-8554-02] (RIN: 0648-AV90) received June 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7280. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded \$5 million for the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3285-EM in the State of Wisconsin, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7281. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's annual report on recommendations made by the Intelligent Transportation Systems Program Advisory Committee, pursuant to Public Law 109-59, section 5305(h)(4); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7282. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's feasibility report for hurricane and storm damage reduction for Port Monmouth, Middletown Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7283. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook — C.A.S.E. Reporting and Property Delegations (RIN: 2700-AD40) received June 13, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3546. A bill to authorize the Edward

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012 (Rept. 110-729). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 3195. A bill to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; with an amendment (Rept. 110-730 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3195. A bill to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; with an amendment (Rept. 110-730 Pt. 2). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration, H.R. 3195 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DELAHUNT (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. GALLEGLY):

H.R. 6344. A bill to provide emergency authority to delay or toll judicial proceedings in United States district and circuit courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, considered and passed.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6345. A bill to establish a demonstration program to provide financial incentives to encourage the adoption and use of interactive personal health records and to encourage health information exchange networks to link clinical data to such personal health records; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 6346. A bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (for herself, Mr. MICA, and Mr. GONZALEZ):

H.R. 6347. A bill to facilitate the use of HOPE VI grant amounts by certain public housing agencies that have suffered project delays due to catastrophes or emergencies; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GINGREY (for himself, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LINDER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mrs. DRAKE, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. SHAD-EGG, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PENCE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LATTA, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WAMP, Mr.

ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 6348. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income gain from the conversion of property by reason of eminent domain; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H.R. 6349. A bill to provide energy price relief by authorizing greater resources and authority for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan):

H.R. 6350. A bill to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPACE (for himself and Mr. CHILDERS):

H.R. 6351. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Health Service Corps Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.J. Res. 94. A joint resolution whereas there is no greater expression of freedom and liberty than the defense of the God-given right of an individual to hold, possess, and use private property; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois):

H. Con. Res. 376. Concurrent resolution congratulating the 2007-2008 National Basketball Association World Champions, the Boston Celtics, on an outstanding and historic season; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SKELTON:

H. Con. Res. 377. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of the integration of the United States Armed Forces; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. SCHWARTZ (for herself and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Res. 1294. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself and Ms. FALLIN):

H. Res. 1295. A resolution recognizing and commemorating the efforts and contributions of outstanding female veterans of the Armed Forces, and the vital roles women play today as servicemembers in the defense of the Nation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 594: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. VIS-CLOSKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 643: Mr. CAZAYOUX, Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 820: Mr. GORDON.
 H.R. 871: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
 H.R. 932: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 1078: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.
 H.R. 1108: Mr. KANJORSKI.
 H.R. 1185: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 1283: Mr. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 1321: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
 H.R. 1386: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
 H.R. 1507: Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 1621: Mrs. MUSGRAVE and Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 1665: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 1820: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
 H.R. 2164: Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 2472: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 2552: Mr. HONDA and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 2712: Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. BLUNT.
 H.R. 2721: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.
 H.R. 2880: Mr. HENSARLING.
 H.R. 2911: Mr. WAXMAN.
 H.R. 2994: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 3098: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3116: Mr. CARSON.
 H.R. 3195: Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
 H.R. 3234: Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 3267: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3289: Mr. DINGELL.
 H.R. 3334: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 3347: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3457: Mr. SALLI.
 H.R. 3546: Mr. BOREN.
 H.R. 3650: Mr. CARNEY.
 H.R. 3769: Mr. CARDOZA.
 H.R. 3874: Mr. BOREN.
 H.R. 3934: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mrs. BACHMANN.
 H.R. 4099: Mr. PORTER.
 H.R. 4105: Mr. HODES.
 H.R. 4236: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 4544: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 4930: Mr. CARTER, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. STUPAK.
 H.R. 5131: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 5265: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 5425: Mr. SALLI.
 H.R. 5454: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 5484: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 5507: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 5564: Mr. CHILDERS and Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 5575: Mr. DOGGETT and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 5606: Mr. BOYD of Florida and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 5611: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
 H.R. 5656: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. MANZULLO.
 H.R. 5709: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 5793: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 5821: Mr. HERGER.
 H.R. 5825: Mr. CHILDERS.
 H.R. 5882: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 5894: Mr. WEXLER.
 H.R. 5921: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 5950: Mr. SIRES and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 6017: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 6039: Mr. DELAHUNT.
 H.R. 6087: Mr. TERRY.
 H.R. 6107: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. HENSARLING.
 H.R. 6127: Mr. SIRES, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
 H.R. 6129: Mr. FERGUSON.
 H.R. 6137: Mr. CULBERSON.
 H.R. 6151: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 6184: Mr. SESTAK.
 H.R. 6195: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 6199: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
 H.R. 6207: Mr. GOODE.
 H.R. 6220: Mr. PAUL and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H.R. 6230: Mr. CASTLE.
 H.R. 6251: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HILL, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 6252: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BACA, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR, Mr. Fortuño, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. REGULA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SHULER, Mr. SPRATT, Ms. SUTTON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 6253: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 6256: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. FARR, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H.R. 6274: Mr. HAYES and Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 6278: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 6286: Mr. HERGER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. BACA, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. LEE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. LEWIS of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. STARK, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. CAMPBELL of California.
 H.R. 6298: Mr. WOLF.
 H.R. 6307: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. COOPER, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. STARK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. TAYLOR.
 H.R. 6309: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
 H.R. 6312: Mr. ROSKAM.
 H.R. 6315: Mr. KIRK.
 H.R. 6330: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Ms. CASTOR.
 H.R. 6334: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. MATHESON.
 H.J. Res. 39: Mr. PLATTS.
 H.J. Res. 85: Ms. WOOLSEY and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.J. Res. 89: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
 H. Con. Res. 195: Mr. LEVIN.
 H. Con. Res. 253: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. CASTOR, and Mr. FILNER.
 H. Con. Res. 315: Mr. MCHUGH and Mr. BONNER.
 H. Con. Res. 341: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. TANNER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. HODES, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
 H. Con. Res. 342: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. BACHUS.
 H. Con. Res. 367: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H. Res. 925: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 1008: Mr. TIBERI.
 H. Res. 1090: Mr. WU, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL.
 H. Res. 1179: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
 H. Res. 1202: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 1217: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 1231: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOREN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H. Res. 1266: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. WEXLER.
 H. Res. 1271: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
 H. Res. 1273: Mr. KIND.
 H. Res. 1279: Mr. COHEN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. WEXLER.
 H. Res. 1283: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. POE.
 H. Res. 1291: Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BACA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. REYES.
 H. Res. 1293: Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HOLT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 6041: Mr. POE.

DISCHARGE PETITION

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

(Omitted from the Record of June 20, 2008)

Petition 9, June 18, 2008, by Mr. PHIL ENGLISH on H.R. 2279, was signed by the following Members: Phil English, Todd Tiahrt, Daniel E. Lungren, Bob Goodlatte, Tim Walberg, Devin Nunes, Dennis R. Rehberg, Joseph R. Pitts, Gus M. Bilirakis, Bill Sali, Peter J. Roskam, Mac Thornberry, John T. Doolittle, Kay Granger, K. Michael Conaway, Charles W. Boustany, Jr., J. Randy Forbes, Kevin Brady, Howard P. "Buck" McKeon, Todd Russell Platts, Thomas G. Tancredo, Jean Schmidt, Paul C. Broun, Jim Jordan, Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Frank D. Lucas, Edward R. Royce, Thomas M. Reynolds, Mary Bono Mack, Connie Mack, Dana Rohrabacher, Wally Herger, Mike Rogers of Alabama, Roy Blunt, Patrick J. Tiberi, Steve Chabot, Deborah Pryce, Robert E. Latta, Joe Barton, Michael T. McCaul, Ron Paul, Randy Neugebauer, Sam Johnson, John R. Carter, Howard Coble, Adrian Smith, David Davis, Sue Wilkins Myrick, Tom Price, Tom Latham, Spencer Bachus, Donald A. Manzullo, Bill Shuster, Henry E. Brown, Jr., John Shimkus, Mike Rogers of Michigan, Scott Garrett, Terry Everett, Dan Burton, Lynn A. Westmoreland, George Radanovich,

John Abney Culberson, Fred Upton, Marsha Blackburn, Joe Wilson, Jeff Miller, Mario Diaz-Balart, John Boozman, Sam Graves, Tom Cole, Robin Hayes, Michael C. Burgess, Phil Gingrey, Jeff Flake, Chris Cannon, Christopher Shays, Candice S. Miller, John E. Peterson, Greg Walden, Ron Lewis, John R. "Randy" Kuhl, Jr., Adam H. Putnam, Geoff Davis, Eric Cantor, Patrick T. McHenry, Nathan Deal, John Linder, Frank A. LoBiondo, Mike Ferguson, Thelma D. Drake, John Campbell, Doug Lamborn, Tim Murphy, Bob Inglis, Kenny Marchant, Michael R. Turner, Zach Wamp, Heather Wilson, Ted Poe, Harold Rogers, Lamar Smith, Darrell E. Issa, Cathy McMorris Rodgers,

Dean Heller, Ed Whitfield, Steve King, Ken Calvert, Michael K. Simpson, Ginny Brown-Waite, Thaddeus G. McCotter, Jeb Hensarling, J. Gresham Barrett, Ray LaHood, Ric Keller, Robert J. Wittman, Jo Bonner, Robert B. Aderholt, David L. Hobson, Joe Knollenberg, Jo Ann Emerson, Jerry Moran, Steve Scalise, John A. Boehner, Marilyn N. Musgrave, Jim McCreery, Vernon J. Ehlers, Virginia Foxx, Judy Biggert, Gary G. Miller, Pete Sessions, Barbara Cubin, Stevan Pearce, Kevin McCarthy, Michele Bachmann, Paul Ryan, John Sullivan, Charles W. "Chip" Pickering, W. Todd Akin, and Steven C. LaTourette.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 8 by Mr. WALBERG on the H.R. 3089: VIRGIL H. GOODE, Jr., TODD TIAHRT, JOE KNOLLENBERG, JOHN E. PETERSON, JERRY MORAN, JIM MCCREERY, BARBARA CUBIN, KEVIN MCCARTHY, JOHN SULLIVAN, and TIM MURPHY.

Petition 6 by Mr. BOUSTANY on H.R. 1843: MICHELE BACHMANN.

Petition 4 by Mr. ADERHOLT on H.R. 3584: MICHELE BACHMANN.