

small businesses who are being pummeled day in and day out by soaring energy prices.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of this bill, but I call on the Speaker and the Democratic leadership to bring for a vote bills, among them the American Energy Act introduced last week by the House Republicans, to explore for more oil and to lower the cost of energy in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to get us back to H.R. 6576, the Reducing Information Control Designations Act, I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SRES). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6576, 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.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6073) to provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6073

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

SECTION 1. ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Personnel Management shall take such measures as may be appropriate to ensure that all employees who receive their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “electronic funds transfer” has the meaning given such term by section 3332 of title 31, United States Code;

(2) the term “employee” means an individual employed in or under an Executive agency; and

(3) the term “Executive agency” has the meaning given such term by section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 6073 would require the Office of Personnel Management to allow Federal employees to receive electronic pay stubs. Most Federal employees receive their pay electronically, which is faster and less costly than using paper checks. This bill helps extend that cost savings to the rest of the payroll process.

More than a decade ago, Congress passed a law requiring that almost all Federal employees be paid by electronic funds transfer, commonly known as direct deposit. Electronic funds transfer is more secure and costs less than printing and distributing paper checks. Employees also have access to their funds sooner, because they do not have to deposit or cash their checks. However, many Federal agencies still print and distribute paper pay stubs for their employees, limiting the gains in efficiency from using electronic funds transfer.

This bill will encourage agencies to handle their entire payroll process electronically. The Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget have no objections to this bill. It's a commonsense measure that will help make payroll faster and more efficient, and I want to commend and thank Representative FOXX for introducing it. I appreciate her work in helping us get this bill to the floor and all of her work on the committee.

I also want to thank Chairmen WAXMAN and TOWNS and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their support for the bill and urge its swift adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Ranking Member DAVIS, and Mr. DAVIS from Illinois for their assistance in bringing this bill out of committee and to the floor. I think it is our responsibility as Members of Congress to seek every way possible to save money for the taxpayers of this country, and I appreciate the fact that we're moving this bill along because it is an excellent way for us to save the taxpayers of this country some money.

There are currently 2.7 million Federal employees. Many of these 2.7 million Federal employees have the option of accessing their leave and earnings statement, pay stubs electronically rather than the paper version which we receive in our mailboxes. But there are still executive branch agencies that do not offer this option to their employ-

ees. H.R. 6073 would direct the Office of Personnel Management to take such measures as they see appropriate to ensure that all executive agency employees have the option of receiving their pay stub electronically.

The reason that H.R. 6073 affects only the executive branch agencies and not the legislative branch or the judicial branch is because each branch of the Federal Government has different rules and means of payment regulations. Currently, there are 17 executive branch agencies that do not offer their employees the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically. H.R. 6073 would give these employees the option of having access to their pay stubs electronically. This is not a mandate.

Finally, this sensible legislation will save millions of taxpayer dollars and immeasurable amounts of paper.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

□ 1415

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the folks who have helped bring this bill to the floor.

I am pleased, again, that we have the potential for saving taxpayers much money, but I hope that by the end of this week we're also going to vote on legislation that would bring down gas prices and save much, much more money on behalf of the American people. I think that we need to do that as responsible Members of this Congress.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6073.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PAPERWORK ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6113) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require each agency to include a contact telephone number in its collection of information, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: