

a valuable, usable commodity. With the research and development set forth in the Produced Water Utilization Act, we can make it happen. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. GINGREY, Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2339—the Produced Water Utilization Act of 2008—introduced by the Ranking Member of the Science Committee, Mr. HALL of Texas. I want to thank Mr. HALL for constructing this important legislation and for the leadership he has provided to the Committee throughout the 110th Congress.

Produced water is comprised of mainly salty water that is trapped in reservoir rock below ground. It comes to the surface when drilling for oil or natural gas and usually contains oil and metals from production. Approximately 10 barrels of produced water are captured for every barrel of oil derived, and that results in a total of 15–20 billion barrels of produced water generated here in the United States on an annual basis.

H.R. 2339 directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program for research and development to harvest produced water in an environmentally safe way for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes. Once this program is established, we can help address the droughts that are occurring across the country—including in my Northwest Georgia district—simply by providing the public with additional water resources.

Madam Speaker, the United States could be generating even more produced water if the Democratic Majority would allow for the environmentally safe drilling of oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Polls show that a majority of Americans would support energy exploration in a small portion of ANWR, which could yield an additional 1.5 million barrels of oil a day. These efforts have unfortunately been foiled by radical environmentalists, content with skyrocketing gas prices.

So, Madam Speaker, to be clear: if we open up ANWR for drilling and enact this legislation, not only will we help reduce the price that the American people are paying at the pump, but we will also be better prepared to stave off anticipated drought conditions across the country.

H.R. 2339 only reinforces the need for us to drill here and drill now: to save money at the pump and increase the amount of water we have available in the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MATHESON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2339, 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.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-140)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons are to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2008.

The actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty contribute to political and economic instability in that country and the region and constitute a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 30, 2008.

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.

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

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

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

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

DISASTER RELIEF FOR IOWA

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to speak about the natural disaster that has hit Iowa, first tornados and then floods, in the most recent weeks. This is a natural disaster obviously that also hit other parts of the Midwest. Some 10 States in the Midwest have been struck by massive flooding since June.

First of all, I want to commend my colleagues from Iowa in the House and in the Senate. We have worked together, I think, in stellar bipartisan fashion since the floods struck Iowa, and I commend my colleagues. I am very proud of the fact that we have come together to do what we can for our great State. I have every confidence that we are going to continue to work together in the coming months and indeed in the years ahead.

The people of Iowa are self-sufficient and self-reliant. We are strong. We are the salt of the earth. We do not believe in asking for much. We would rather earn things on our own. When faced with a disaster, Iowans stand together to move forward and rebuild.

Our commitment to community and resilience may lead some to believe that the tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding which hit the State of Iowa was only a minor event. However, having spent the majority of my time back home, I can assure you that this is anything but a minor event.

Indeed, in my district alone, the Second District of Iowa, we have several rivers, and in virtually every case they flowed out of their banks in early to mid June. Whether it's Cedar Rapids that saw the Cedar River rise 50 percent above its previous record and overflow its banks and displace 20,000 to 25,000 individuals; or the Iowa River in Iowa City, where it again spilled over the Coralville Reservoir and exceeded its previous record level by 3 feet and caused some \$232 million damage to the University of Iowa; or whether it was the Iowa River coming together with the Cedar River in Columbus Junction and engulfing much of that city, and particularly its commercial areas; or whether it was the Iowa River that split off just before it hit Oakville, the tiny town of Oakville, and formed two channels but included the town of Oakville really in one large channel, a town of just over 400 people; or the Mississippi from Muscatine on down to Keokuk; or the Des Moines River from Ottumwa on to Keokuk. All of these rivers flowed out of their