

programs help companies develop cutting edge technologies for the government and for the private sector. However, the SBIR and STTR programs expire at the end of this month. H.R. 3614 temporarily extends the authorization of these programs while we work to finalize reauthorization efforts.

The House and Senate both passed legislation earlier this year to reauthorize these programs. We have been working to find common ground on areas we disagree on, and while we still have yet to reach a final agreement—we all have the same goal: to reauthorize important programs that drive small business.

As we work to get our economy back on track, small, high tech companies will play an important role creating good paying jobs. It is important that SBIR and STTR continue to provide critical funds for research at small businesses. It is also important that these programs reflect the innovation economy of 2009. I look forward to continue working with the House Small Business Committee and the Senate to reauthorize this program.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3614.

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. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. 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.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO TAIWAN ON TYPHOON

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 733) expressing condolences to the people and government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the aftermath of the devastating typhoon that struck the central and southern regions of the island on August 8, 2009, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 733

Whereas Typhoon Morakot hit the island of Taiwan on August 8, 2009, dropping approximately 2.6 meters or 102 inches of rain, more than half the average annual rainfall in many places;

Whereas central and southern Taiwan were hardest hit by the storm;

Whereas mudslides overwhelmed some places in south Taiwan, including the village of Hsiaolin, where 247 homes were lost;

Whereas floods or mudslides damaged more than 191,936 homes;

Whereas infrastructure and farm losses alone have totaled approximately \$46,500,000 in Taiwanese dollars to date;

Whereas the devastation left by Typhoon Morakot is the worst the island has seen in 50 years;

Whereas as of late August 2009, the official death toll reached 602 with an additional 81 missing, where many of those are believed to be buried by mud in the village of Hsiaolin, which was almost completely covered in a mudslide triggered by several days of extremely heavy rainfall;

Whereas beginning on August 22, 2009, Taiwan held a three-day mourning period in memory of those who were killed in mudslides and floods after Typhoon Morakot;

Whereas the United States assisted efforts by providing Marine Corps C-130 aircraft from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa to deliver humanitarian relief supplies in addition to KC-130 aircraft and MH 53 and MH 60 helicopters from strategic United States bases located in Japan;

Whereas on March 24, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 55 to mark the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8), codifying in law the basis for continued commercial, cultural, and other relations between the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan); and

Whereas Taiwan has been a steadfast ally of the United States and a responsible and compassionate member of the world community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the terrible loss of life caused by Typhoon Morakot that occurred on August 8, 2009, in Taiwan;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the many victims;

(3) recognizes the deep ties between the United States and Taiwan and expresses continued solidarity with its people during this time of crisis; and

(4) expresses gratitude to the people of the United States who have generously supported those humanitarian aid agencies working to assist the people of Taiwan in this time of need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

□ 1100

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution expresses condolences to the victims of the devastating typhoon that struck Taiwan on August 8, 2009. I would like to thank my good friend, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for sponsoring this important resolution that allows the House to voice its support for Taiwan and its people.

Typhoon Morakot hit Taiwan on August 8 and deluged the island with over 8 feet of rain. The loss of life and destruction of property in the wake of

the typhoon has been devastating and is the worst that Taiwan has seen in 50 years. The central and southeastern parts of Taiwan were hardest hit by the storm, with floods and mudslides damaging almost 200,000 homes. The official death toll is over 600, and there are still 81 people missing.

The United States assisted recovery efforts in Taiwan by providing humanitarian relief supplies and heavy-lift helicopters to the disaster areas.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to all of the families that lost loved ones caused by the typhoon and to those who have lost their homes. The people of the United States stand in solidarity with the Taiwanese people as they undertake the painstaking process of recovery, and we stand ready to advocate further assistance for the recovery process if needed.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise in strong support of this resolution addressing the recent natural disaster of typhoon winds and mudslides that struck Taiwan. This resolution expresses our sincere condolences to our Taiwanese friends who lost loved ones, homes, and businesses due to the devastation which struck the island on August 8. At least 602 people were killed, 81 others are missing, and over 190,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in the fury of the storm and in the aftermath of mudslides. Over 100 inches of rain turned streams into raging rivers which destroyed everything in their path. Whole villages were inundated by floodwaters and mud.

But, Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States feel those sympathies even more deeply today at a time when so many of our fellow Americans are suffering from tragic and deadly flooding in Georgia and Tennessee, and our deepest condolences go to our neighbors in the South.

On Taiwan, it is noteworthy that for the first time since official ties with Taiwan were severed in 1979, the United States dispatched humanitarian relief to the island to aid the victims of the typhoon. In response to this critical emergency for our Taiwan friends, the U.S. Marine Corps, based in Okinawa, sent two C-130s to southern Taiwan to deliver relief supplies. The amphibious transport ship USS *Denver* was also dispatched to the area and provided helicopters to engage in humanitarian operations as well. Thus, these deeply tragic circumstances served as a means to demonstrate the enduring, the unbreakable ties which exist between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan.

In this 30th anniversary year of the Taiwan Relations Act, Mr. Speaker, the United States can do no less than to continue to aid the people of Taiwan in their hour of need. I urge all of my

colleagues to join us in vigorous support of this timely and heartfelt resolution.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank my dear friend, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and also Ms. WATSON. And I would like to thank my distinguished cochairman of the Taiwan Congressional Caucus, Dr. GINGREY, for introducing this very timely resolution. I see Ms. BERKLEY here also, the other cochairman, along with Mr. WEXLER.

We hold very deep in our hearts our relationship, the United States' relationship with the Republic of China. The people of the Republic of China, Taiwan, have suffered tremendously due to this horrible typhoon. As Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN pointed out, from our military base in Japan, the United States Armed Forces, representing the people of the United States, took humanitarian assistance to the Republic of China, Taiwan. We will always, in this Congress, stand with our friends, our allies. We have no better friend than the people of the Republic of China, Taiwan.

So we take this opportunity, as our hearts go out here to the victims of the flooding in Georgia and the United States, to remember the victims of the horrible flooding in the typhoon of August on the island of Taiwan, and we reaffirm our friendship and solidarity with the people of the Republic of China, Taiwan.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for sponsoring this resolution, and I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Las Vegas, Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding me this time, and I thank my colleague from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as cochairman of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus and in support of this resolution and in support of the people of Taiwan. It was a horrific and frightening thing to see the devastation that the typhoon wrought on Taiwan; over 600 dead, scores missing, and so many thousands hurt. Nearly 200,000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed. We mourn these losses and send our deepest condolences to the people and Government of Taiwan.

At the same time, I am so proud of the United States of America, the fact that we sent timely aid and helicopters to help our friends in their recovery efforts. While the Taiwanese people are strong, certainly strong enough to recover completely on their own, I hope that as a friend of Taiwan, we will continue to show our support for them and help them through this difficult time.

Taiwan is an important trade partner, fellow democracy, and a strong

U.S. ally in a very volatile region of the world. It is my sincere hope that our two democracies, that our two countries, will continue to have a close and strong relationship for many years to come through the good times and the bad. This certainly is as bad as it gets, but it will get better.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), the author of this important resolution.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 733, expressing condolences to the people and the Government of the Republic of China, Taiwan, in the aftermath of Typhoon Morakot, which struck the central and southern region of the island on August 8, 2009.

Additionally, I want to thank Chairman BERMAN, Representative WATSON, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee for helping to bring this resolution to the floor today. As one of the four co-Chairs of the Taiwan Caucus, I want to express my gratitude to my fellow co-Chairs, Representatives SHELLEY BERKLEY, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, and ROBERT WEXLER, as well as RSC Chairman TOM PRICE for helping to marshal support for this resolution.

Natural disasters like Typhoon Morakot are never respectful of persons or nations. Their devastation knows no political boundaries nor social divisions. In fact, as we debate this resolution, my mind cannot help but turn to my own home State of Georgia where historic rains and flooding have claimed the lives of 10, at the latest count, and caused hundreds of millions of dollars of damage while ravaging many communities in my district; in fact, four counties. So, Mr. Speaker, I rise not only with a sympathetic heart, but also with an empathetic heart for the people of Taiwan as they move forward after Typhoon Morakot caused flooding and mudslides that have claimed the lives of over 600,000 people and created billions of dollars of damage.

While this resolution expresses condolences to the victims' families and mourns the loss of life, it also honors our Nation's deep ties and dedication to Taiwan. This dedication was reflected in the relief efforts provided by the U.S. military through helicopter and airlift support.

Mr. Speaker, this past March, this House spoke in one voice with the passage of H. Con. Res. 55 that marked the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act. It reinforced our Nation's deep-seated commitment to Taiwan and the defense of Taiwan.

This resolution is another demonstration of that commitment and an expression of our sorrow for Taiwan's loss. My thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the people of Taiwan, as well as to the people of my home State

as these waters begin to recede and its families and communities begin to put their lives back together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. What this resolution does is to express the condolences on our part to the people and Government of the Republic of China, Taiwan, in the aftermath of this very devastating typhoon that struck this region and that affected so many families.

Last month this typhoon ripped through South Asia, and it drowned that region in about 7 feet of rain. It killed over 600 people. Government officials called it the worst storm that has hit the island of Taiwan in over 50 years.

Later today, this House of Representatives is going to take up a resolution expressing condolences to the families of the individuals killed during the storms and floods in the State of Georgia. So we know all too well that these storms can be devastating, and so it is with sorrow that we take up these two resolutions today.

I rise today to express my heartfelt condolences, especially because Taiwan and the United States have such a valued partnership. For over half a century, this close relationship has brought significant economic advantages, I think, as well as cultural and political advantages to the people of Taiwan and the United States. We have seen in mere decades Taiwan go from poverty to prosperity; and, of course, with the Taiwan Relations Act, Taiwan will remain a close ally of the United States. It is a country, one of the few, that has gone from U.S. aid recipient to international provider of aid across the globe. Without question, Taiwan is one of our key partners in Asia.

So again, we express our sincerest condolences to the people of Taiwan. This devastating typhoon may have ravaged the landscape and infrastructure, but it didn't rattle their will and determination.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 733, which expresses condolences to the people of Taiwan who suffered so much as a result of the devastating typhoon that struck the island last month.

I visited Taiwan on August 20–22, 2009 as member of a congressional delegation led by the Honorable HOWARD BERMAN, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. At the time of our visit, Taiwan remained in the early stages of its response to typhoon Morakot, and the extent of the loss of life and damage done had yet to be fully determined. As we now know, Morakot was the deadliest typhoon to strike Taiwan ever recorded. Extreme

amounts of rain from the typhoon triggered enormous mudslides and severe flooding throughout southern Taiwan. In perhaps the worst single tragedy, one of those mudslides buried the entire town of Xiaolin, killing more than 500 people.

Fortunately, during our brief visit to Taipei, all of us in the congressional delegation had a chance to express our personal condolences to the people of Taiwan while in meetings with President Ma Ying-jeou, Foreign Minister Francisco H.L. Ou, and Legislative Yuan President Wang Jin-pyng. With this resolution, now all Members of the House—on behalf of the people and government of the United States—will have a chance to extend their sincerest condolences as well.

As the resolution notes, and as we were told while in Taiwan, the United States was able to provide aircraft, helicopters, and other forms of assistance to speed the recovery efforts. And as we found out, one of the important factors enabling our swift and robust response was President Ma's success in working to reduce tensions across the Taiwan Straits.

Taiwan expects the hard work of repair and reconstruction will continue for the next 3 years. But our friends in Taiwan should know that the United States and the American people understand their suffering and stand ready to continue assisting them as they repair the devastation wrought by the typhoon. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 733.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 733, which expresses condolences to the people and government of the Republic of China, Taiwan, in the aftermath of the devastating typhoon that struck the central and southern regions of the island on August 8, 2009. I support this resolution because natural disasters know no boundaries and the tragedy that befell Taiwan appeals to our common humanity.

After Typhoon Morakot landed on Taiwan at midnight on August 8 of this year, it dropped over 100 inches of rain on the island. To put that number in perspective, 100 inches is more than half the average annual rainfall of many places on the island. The torrential rain caused massive mudslides and floods, destroying roads, farms, businesses, and homes. This typhoon was the wettest in the history of Taiwan.

Typhoon Morakot was particularly devastating in central and southern Taiwan. The world watched in horror as the reports came in. In the southern village of Hsiaolin, mudslides had destroyed almost all of the roughly 250 homes in the village, stranded thousands, and buried almost 400 people alive. A rescue helicopter trying to reach villagers stranded in the mountains crashed, killing all three crew members. In all, estimates have put the devastation to infrastructure and farms totaling more than \$46 billion and the national death toll over 600. A tragedy of that magnitude traumatized Taiwan and required an official period of 3 days to mourn the lost. This typhoon was the deadliest in Taiwan's history.

I applaud the effort of the United States to help with the relief effort. The U.S. gave humanitarian assistance by providing military aircraft, planes and helicopters, to deliver relief supplies on the island. Our service men and women performed their job admirably and I am thankful for their solid performance.

I would like for the people of Taiwan to know how very sorry we are that they have experienced this tragedy. Having witnessed first-hand the devastation brought by Hurricane Ike on my own district in Houston, Texas, and the surrounding areas, I know how a terrible natural disaster such as a typhoon can cause deep anguish. Moreover, from our experience witnessing Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, we know how the horror of weather-related devastation can scar a nation. My heart goes out to the families and the people of Taiwan.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for House Resolution 733 and to convey my deepest sympathies and sincerest wishes to the people of Taiwan who have been affected by Typhoon Morakot. I especially want to give my condolences to the families of the more than 600 people who died in this devastating storm, particularly those who perished in the mudslide in Hsiaolin village.

I wish the people of Taiwan well as they work to rebuild and recover from the worst typhoon to hit the island in 50 years. I am confident that the Taiwanese people will continue to come together to help those in need.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 733, 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.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution expressing condolences to the people and Government of Taiwan in the aftermath of the devastating typhoon that struck the central and southern regions of the island on August 8, 2009."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAUTHORIZING RADIO FREE ASIA

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3593) to amend the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to extend by one year the operation of Radio Free Asia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3593

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

SECTION 1. ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF OPERATION OF RADIO FREE ASIA.

Section 309(f) of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208(f)) is amended by striking "2009" and inserting "2010".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gen-

tlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

□ 1115

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. 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 gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Radio Free Asia provides timely, accurate and useful news and information to countries whose leadership prohibits access to truly free media. Listeners in China, Tibet, Vietnam, Laos, North Korea and Burma can learn about what is happening in their own countries and in their own languages and dialects through professional and objective reporting and discussion programs on RFA.

RFA's performance is impressive in parts of the world where governments make independent broadcasting difficult or even impossible. It is one of our most dynamic surrogate broadcasters.

RFA uses well-established means of information dissemination, such as shortwave transmissions and hand-cranked radios, that are spirited to listeners who are otherwise entirely cut off from the world. It also makes use of modern media technologies such as live streaming over the Internet in regions where access to computers is relatively common but where governments place controls on news reporting. The listener feedback to these programs by e-mail and during call-in talk shows is very impressive. It provides a credible window on the pervasiveness of corruption and autocracy.

I think most of us agree that it is useful to continue operating RFA, as it serves to help maintain freedom of information overseas as well as promoting better understanding of United States values such as democracy.

The legislation before us, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) would reauthorize RFA to continue its operations for the next fiscal year. I strongly urge all of our colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 3593. I want to thank my good friend from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, for introducing this measure.

Thirteen years ago next week, on September 29, 1996, Radio Free Asia first went on the air with a Mandarin language broadcast into China. Today,