

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3183,
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP-
MENT AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to address briefly the language of Section 401 of the conference report, which requires the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to provide a report on barriers to the issuance of a combined construction and operating licenses (COLs).

As the Chairman of the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the NRC, I want to ensure that the Commission, in responding to Section 401, remains cognizant of its responsibilities to comply with the substantive and procedural requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and NRC regulations in the issuing of COLs to new nuclear power plants. These laws cannot be overridden or even challenged by a reporting requirement appended to an annual appropriations bill.

The NRC should, of course, review COL applications in an efficient fashion, without undue or unwarranted delays. However, speed of action is not the only policy interest that the Congress has with respect to licensing. Public confidence in the fairness and integrity of the licensing process requires the Commission to ensure that licensees comply with the substantive safety requirements of the law and of NRC regulations. The Commission must therefore assure that it does not sacrifice crucial safety evaluations, public input or adequate environmental review as part of any effort to streamline or accelerate its regulatory functions.

Under Section 185 of the Atomic Energy Act, the NRC is directed, after holding a public hearing, to "issue to the applicant a combined construction and operating license if the application contains sufficient information to support the issuance of a combined license and the Commission determines that there is reasonable assurance that the facility will be constructed and will operate in conformity with the license, the provisions of this Act, and the Commission's rules and regulations."

The Act further stipulates that in conducting its licensing activities, "The Commission shall identify within the combined license the inspections, tests, and analyses, including those applicable to emergency planning, that the licensee shall perform, and the acceptance criteria that, if met, are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that the facility has been constructed and will be operated in conformity with the license, the provisions of this Act, and the Commission's rules and regulations."

Moreover, the Act mandates that: "Following issuance of the combined license, the Commission shall ensure that the prescribed inspections, tests, and analyses are performed and, prior to operation of the facility, shall find that the prescribed acceptance criteria are met."

In addition, NRC regulations 10 CFR Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 52 implement the require-

ments of the Atomic Energy Act and NEPA in regards to the licensing process. Under these regulations, for example, the NRC is required to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) as part of the COL application. According to the NRC website, "the NRC staff estimates that the environmental review process will take approximately 24 months. This includes scoping, issuance of the draft EIS, a comment period, and issuance of the final EIS."

While it is true that the necessary reviews take time, the NRC's licensing regulations were enacted to protect the public from poorly sited locations, untested reactor designs, and other factors that could lead to environmental damage, unsafe construction, or even catastrophic nuclear emergencies. I support an efficient and effective NRC licensing process as long as it does not come at the expense of the safeguards codified in existing law.

In point of fact, it does not appear that the licensing process itself is to blame for any delays in new reactor approval. In 2007 the NRC established the Office of New Reactors (NRO), separate from the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, so that the NRO can focus solely on the review of new reactors. Indeed, NRC Chairman, Dr. Gregory Jaczko, has repeatedly stated that the licensing delays are "almost exclusively tied to challenges with the [reactor] designs not being complete," resulting in license applications that reference uncertified design plans. This bottleneck has far more to do with the iterative design approval process, than with potential internal NRC barriers such as inefficient administration or inadequate funding. Certainly all must agree that it is impossible for the NRC to approve a license application for which there is not yet an approved design!

Finally, I would note that while Section 401 mandates report submission to the committees on Appropriations, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which is the NRC's authorizing committee, also expects to receive copies of any reports submitted pursuant to this Section.

I look forward to seeing the Commission's report on this matter, and I urge the Commission to pay careful heed to the current laws and regulations under which the NRC operates, so that we ensure that the nuclear reactor application process works properly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, I missed three recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 753, "nay" on rollcall 754, and "yea" on rollcall 755.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2997,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOP-
MENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN-
ISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Conference Report for H.R. 2997, the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010.

My district is home to some of the most fertile farm land in our great nation, as well as some of the hardest working farmers.

While so many people identify Michigan with manufacturing, it can be easy to forget that agriculture is Michigan's second leading industry, and the bright spot in a struggling Michigan economy.

As you drive through my district, you will see fields full of dry beans, sugar beets, corn, wheat, soybeans, various vegetables, and other crops needed to feed our nation and the rest of the world. You will also see thriving cattle and pork industries.

This bill is important because it provides much needed funding for the Farm Services Agency which administers disaster and loan programs, farm commodities and conservation programs directed towards producers.

The bill also goes a long way in providing money for continued agriculture research which is so important in increasing harvest yields and furthering education for our producers. Agriculture research is vitally important to ensure that America remains the greatest food producer in the world.

Finally, this legislation will provide necessary money for our nation's struggling dairy farmers. In these tough economic times, dairy producers have been struggling with a steep drop in price for their product. My district is home to a large dairy industry, and it is of vital importance that we do all that we can to help these producers out.

While there are certainly challenges with this bill, it is vital that we move this important funding bill forward. The funding provided by this bill will serve as strong support for an industry that is crucial for our national economy.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on rollcall no. 754, a motion to instruct Conferees on H.R. 2647, the Department of Defense Authorization, FY2010.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF MARK W. LIBELL

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Mark William Libell, a member of my staff who is leaving my office to pursue the next phase in his career.

Mark grew up in Alabama and received his bachelor's degree in History from Maryville College in East Tennessee. After getting his start on the Senate side of the Hill, Mark returned to school to pursue a J.D. at the University of Alabama, which he completed in 2 years.

Mark was drawn to the pace and promise of Washington at a young age. With a love of American history, Mark grew up reading the stories of our Nation's leaders. In fact, I think he has the record in my office for the number of books he requested from the Library of Congress. His commitment to public service is evident in his work and has earned the respect of his colleagues.

As the Senior Legislative Assistant in my office, Mark was a valuable resource to me and my staff. His broad knowledge of policy, his appreciation for the rules of the House, and his enthusiasm for the job helped me to advance my legislative priorities and better serve my constituents.

While Mark's work-related contributions have been greatly valued, his sheer presence in the office will be sorely missed. Mark was always one of the first in the office to grab lunch, usually around 11:30 a.m. His choice of food was always a topic of discussion in the office as the aroma filled the air, whether fish from the cafeteria or Chinese food.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that Mark's character of thoughtfulness, dry humor, and fun spirit is strong and will be missed by all.

Mark, I thank you for your service and wish you the best of luck in the future and in your new position.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES FOR INDIA
AND AFGHANISTAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to express my deepest sympathies for the people of India and Afghanistan after a cowardly homicide bomb attack outside the Indian Embassy in Kabul this morning. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have lost loved ones. As the former co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans and current co-chair of the Afghanistan Caucus, I am personally concerned.

These bloodthirsty attacks are a clear sign that we face a determined enemy. But our fight in Afghanistan not just against terrorist elements like Al Qaeda who murdered Americans on September 11. We face a larger threat to the people and to the stability of the

entire region especially our longtime partner Pakistan.

We need to heed the advice of our commanders on the ground who are requesting more reinforcements and more resources. We need to implement a strategy that will capture or kill those responsible for terrorist acts as well as destroy their financial and logistical networks. We must ensure they will not find a safe haven anywhere from which to plot. I join with Republican Whip ERIC CANTOR to urge Democrats and Republicans to uphold President Barack Obama's campaign pledge to protect American families by defeating terrorists in Afghanistan.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK STELLA

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today in tribute to Mr. Frank Stella, an icon of Metropolitan Detroit, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on October 30, 2009.

A successful entrepreneur and eternal philanthropist, Mr. Stella embodies the American Dream. The son of Italian immigrants, he bravely served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during the Second World War and founded the F.D. Stella Products Company, a food service distributor, in 1946. His company is today a preeminent national supplier and designer of restaurant equipment.

Over the past six decades, Mr. Stella has not just built a business in Detroit: he has built a legacy in service to the community. His involvement spans prominent educational and medical institutions, civic and business organizations, and charitable and political causes. He has served as a Board Member to the University of Detroit—Mercy for more than two decades, in addition to the Board of Directors for the Detroit Medical Center, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Club of Detroit, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall, and the National Italian American Foundation of Washington, D.C., among many, many others. The impact of his philanthropy was recognized by five of our country's presidents and three of our state's governors.

Frank Stella has received many awards, though none can fully capture his contributions to the public and private arenas. His catalogue of honors only begins to highlight the gratitude of those he has served: Mr. Stella was awarded the decoration of 'Grande Ufficiale,' the Government of Italy's highest honor; named 'Michigander of the Year' by the Detroit News and 'Executive of the Year' by the Detroit Executive Association; received the George Romney Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteerism, the Urban League Warrior Award, and the Bnai Brith Award, to name just a very few; and was granted three honorary doctorates.

As he turns 90, and is joined by his family, friends, and colleagues in celebration, Mr. Stella is unsurprisingly choosing to honor this landmark occasion with a fundraiser for four of his favorite charities—the National Italian American Foundation Scholarship Fund, Orders of the Sons of Italy in America, Italian Language Inter-cultural Alliance, and Boys Town of Italy. These charities proudly cele-

brate Italian-American culture while inspiring new generations of civic involvement and generosity, fitting tributes to Mr. Stella's continued work.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Frank Stella for his lifetime of service and dedication. I wish Mr. Stella a joyous 90th year full of health and happiness.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNSHINE SLOPERS SKI CLUB

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club, the first African-American ski club in the state of Florida.

Skiing, a sport that is an exhilarating activity that allows individuals and families to enjoy a natural environment and participate in physical activity, may seem uncommon for residents in the State of Florida. Yet, the Sunshine Slopers Ski Club prospered throughout the last 20 years into a popular and successful club that positively impacts African-American communities through programs that provide opportunities for adults and youth to participate in recreational and competitive skiing.

On June 28, 1989, the first organizational meeting of the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was held at the North Dade Regional Library in Miami Gardens, Florida. Subsequent meetings were held at the same location while the group developed a club logo, selected club colors, and elected officers. By September 5, 1989, the club was established with 36 charter members and was accepted as a developmental club of the Eastern Region of the NBS. The Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was incorporated on October 2, 1989, thereby becoming the first African-American ski club in the State of Florida. Soon thereafter, the officers began to get the club active through involvement in ski-better workshops and attending eastern regional board meetings.

The groups first trips were: Beech Mountain, North Carolina; Snowshoe, West Virginia; Lake Tahoe, Nevada, Mini-Summit, and Smugglers Notch, Vermont, Winterfest. On March 22, 1990, during the American Challenge Cup Mini-Summit at Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe, the Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was officially accepted into the National Brotherhood of Skiers by the national president Paul Ray, national membership director Naomi Bryson and eastern region vice president Jeanie Polk. Sunshine Slopers, Inc. was recognized by Polk as the fastest growing club in the country. At the end of its first year, membership was approximately 140 which included singles, married couples and children. Currently, there are about 200 members of the club.

The Sunshine Slopers strongly supports the NBS' key focus of finding and developing Olympic caliber skiers. Their focus is one of a kind, and fosters assertiveness, self-actualization, and self-determination. Additionally, they aim to develop leaders that are a benefit to various communities. The NBS provides funding to its youth programs in support of young athletes who otherwise would not have the opportunity or financial resources to ski competitively or recreationally.