

SUPPORT FOR THE "LET WALL STREET PAY FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAIN STREET ACT" INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, years of deregulation and exorbitant risk-taking in the financial markets contributed to the financial turmoil we're in today. Last week, the House passed a bill that would bring common sense reforms on Wall Street so that taxpayers would never again be on the hook for bailing out firms and banks for their risky, irresponsible behavior.

Congress must now pass legislation that puts people back to work. Through TARP, the federal government loaned billions of taxpayer dollars to Wall Street. It's time for Wall Street to help create jobs on Main Street.

This can happen in two ways: by using some of the available TARP funds and by imposing a modest Wall Street transaction tax on certain securities trades. This latter proposal could raise up to \$150 billion a year, part of which could go toward infrastructure investment and partly to debt reduction.

I ask my colleagues to support these proposals so that we can curb speculation and create jobs that will put Americans back to work again.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO FIND FUGITIVES

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud a new Public Safety Partnership launched in my home state of Florida during this holiday season. This unique effort, entitled "12 Days of Fugitives," is an innovative public outreach plan with the end goal of helping the state and local law enforcement apprehend 12 of Florida's oldest and most violent prison escapees.

The Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Department of Law Enforcement are working with the U.S. Marshals Service, local law enforcement, and the media on this new initiative. Specifically, members of the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association are donating space on digital billboards to display a tip line telephone number together with pictures of the fugitives. In addition, Florida newspapers have committed to feature the fugitives online and in print.

The idea is to empower the public to come forward with information about the whereabouts of these escapees. The most recent escape occurred in 2000; others have been on the run for decades.

Florida has consistently been a pioneer in these types of public safety partnerships. From the beginning, the outdoor advertising

industry was part of the AMBER Alert system in Florida. Now, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children posts AMBER Alerts on digital billboards across the country.

Madam Speaker, protecting our society from violent crime is extremely important, and often overlooked during this holiday time. This intensive public outreach in the state gives hope to the families and friends of the victims of crime that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice. I commend the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and the media for working together to make Florida a safer place to live, work, and visit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 14, 2009, rollcall vote 969, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended—H. Res. 779, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 970, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 942, Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup—I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the two rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately, I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 969 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 970 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was un-

avoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall No. 969 and rollcall No. 970. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4284, a bill that would increase our trade deficit, compromise our labor laws, and delay a much-needed reform to our nation's trade policy.

Since the last extension, in October 2008, Congress has still not adequately addressed the fundamental problems in relation to agriculture and labor practices in this trade preference agreement.

With the on-going debate surrounding the Colombia Free Trade Agreement and the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, and the sharp economic recession, it would be irresponsible to simply extend these preferences without thorough discussions on the effects of our trade policy on American jobs.

Originally passed in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) was designed to develop economic alternatives to narcotics production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

However, ATPA has failed to reduce cocaine production and it has harmed American farmers.

As a result of the ATPA, the U.S. had a \$7 billion trade deficit with the four ATPA countries in 2008.

Overall, the U.S. trade deficit has grown to more than \$738 billion and trade policies have cost America 3.2 million manufacturing jobs over the past 10 years.

Because both the Bush and Obama administrations deemed that Bolivia failed to meet eligibility criteria, H.R. 4284 would extend trade preferences only with Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Before extending the Andean Trade Preferences Act for a fourth time, Congress should take a closer look at damage it has done to American farmers and how it has failed to reduce illegal drug production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Among the great economic challenges our nation faces is creating new trade and globalization policies that serve America's workers, consumers, farmers, and firms.

The Obama administration and Congress have an opportunity to rewrite our trade policy and to create a trade framework that supports American jobs.

Let's seize this opportunity to create a new framework for trade agreements.

New trade agreements must meet basic standards to protect labor rights, environmental standards, food safety regulations, financial regulations, and taxation transparency.

Most importantly, new trade agreements must protect American workers first.

I urge you to vote against H.R. 4284 when it comes to the House floor today so that we can focus on reforming America's trade laws.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 969 and 970, I would have voted "yes." I was absent because I joined a congressional delegation inspecting military facilities in Iraq, which did not return until the following morning. Hence, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXTENDING ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCES

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I am a strong and long-time supporter of the Andean Trade Preferences Act, ATPA, and I support extending this vital program. Fostering economic development and the rule of law in the Andean region is essential to our national security, foreign policy and economic interests. H.R. 4284 extends ATPA benefits for Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador until December 31, 2010.

I believe there are two essential components to making ATPA work as effectively as possible. First, there must be continuity, so that American businesses and workers can get the greatest benefit. The U.S. jobs that are supported by engaging in the Andean region through ATPA require a sound investment environment, which in turn demands certainty that the program will be maintained. Taking action to extend ATPA for an additional year beyond December 31, 2009, is a positive step. However, demonstrating a stronger commitment to continuity by extending the program for at least 2 years would improve the program's effectiveness and provide greater opportunity for job creation here in the U.S.

Second, there must be accountability. While two of the three current participant countries—Colombia and Peru—have made enormous strides in implementing economic reforms, solidifying the rule of law and engaging as strong partners with the U.S., Ecuador has moved backwards in many regards. Most troubling has been the failure to strengthen the rule of law, as this is the bedrock upon which all economic and political reforms are built. While I believe that engagement through trade is the best way to encourage progress, we must take steps to ensure that there is accountability along the way. Unfortunately, H.R. 4284 removes measures currently in place to conduct a special review of Ecuador's progress. This action diminishes the incentives for Ecuador to play by the rules. It also sends the message to our partners that those who take steps backwards will get the same treatment as those who make enormous forward progress. This lack of accountability diminishes the effectiveness of both the carrot and the stick.

As we consider long-term proposals for our trade preferences programs, including ATPA, I believe that we must ensure there is both greater continuity and greater accountability. Continued failure to do so will only limit our

ability to achieve the national security, foreign policy and economic objectives these programs are designed to achieve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, due to weather-related flight cancellations that delayed my return to Washington until this morning, I was absent from the House Floor during Monday's two rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 779 and H. Res. 942.

CALLING ON THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITS PROMISE AND UPHOLD ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Iraqi authorities not to forcibly remove Camp Ashraf residents from the home where they have lived for over twenty years. International human rights groups such as Amnesty International have warned that forcibly relocating the Camp Ashraf residents will put the Iranian opposition group "at risk of arbitrary arrest, torture or other forms of ill-treatment, and unlawful killing."

On July 29 of this year, I spoke out against the brutal attack that began on July 28 carried out by Iraqi security forces who were acting at the behest of the Iranian regime. The Iraqi security forces rolled over unarmed Camp Ashraf residents with tanks and beat them with sticks, killing at least nine residents and injuring many more. An injustice of this magnitude must not happen again.

If the Iraqi government forcibly moves these residents from their Camp Ashraf home, it will be breaking its promise to the United States and violating its obligations under international law. When these Iranian exiles voluntarily surrendered their weapons to U.S. forces in 2003, they did so in exchange for a promise that the U.S. would protect them. When the United States withdrew from the Camp Ashraf region, the United States and Iraq signed an agreement that the Iraqi government would continue to ensure their safety. Furthermore, Camp Ashraf residents are also shielded by international law because they are "protected persons" under Article 27 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

This attempt to move the Camp Ashraf residents to a remote prison in the middle of the deserts appears to be an ugly attempt by the Iraqi government to appease the Iranian regime. Groups such as Amnesty International warn that it may even lead to their forcible return to Iran. If returned to Iran, these members of the Iranian opposition would face almost certain torture and even death.

Madam Speaker, I call on the Iraqi government to keep its promise to the United States

and uphold its obligations under international law. Attempting to mollify the tyrannical, illegitimate Iranian regime at the expense of these pro-democracy activists would be a tragic mistake. I call on the Iraqi government to ensure the protection that these exiles were promised and to which they are entitled under international law.

HONORING SONOMA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor the 100th anniversary of the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has long served as a spirited defender of the Valley's interests, by encouraging new industry, organizing beautification projects and managing flood control efforts.

The Chamber began the evening of April 10, 1909, when 32 businessmen convened over dinner to discuss how they could stimulate commerce for the benefit of local merchants and professionals.

Membership quickly grew to 100 and the Chamber began their first initiatives, like publishing marketing material and establishing committees to begin tackling an ambitious agenda. In the early years, the Chamber called for transportation improvements and successfully lobbied Congress to protect a local federal facility from closure.

During the Great Depression, the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce was instrumental in addressing needs of a paralyzed business community. To generate renewed interest in the organization, the Chamber hosted an event benefiting street and driveway improvements.

In the subsequent years, the Chamber pioneered many efforts, including the creation of a commuter bus service to San Francisco, the endorsement of a municipal water system, support for State Parks and advocacy for underground utility and telephone lines. Notably, the Chamber raised local matching funds for a job stimulus program that was part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Chamber was designated as a farm labor office tasked with steering workers to local farmers. In the years following the war, the Chamber focused on supporting an adequate sewage system, the introduction of local hospital and the adoption of a zoning plan. By mid-century, the Chamber hosted an industrial conference, boldly escalating efforts to bring new industry to the Valley.

Today the Chamber has expanded its membership to more than 700 leaders who continue to help ensure a thriving economy through advocacy, promotion, networking, education and services.

Operating under the mantra that "Strong businesses make strong communities," the Chamber hosts events, publishes a business magazine and offers comprehensive business, community and visitor resources. The Chamber also leads recognition efforts, honoring the business of the year and green businesses.