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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask today that You bless the Members of this assembly to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve. Purify their intentions, that they will speak the truth about what they believe and work to legislate responsibly, realizing that others are doing the same and that beliefs do differ.

Therefore, we ask a special blessing of patience, an ability to listen, and a shared desire to bring hope to the American people, their constituents, through a united effort to pass legislation that will help all in this Nation during these difficult times.

May the Members be filled with gratitude at the opportunity they have to serve in this people's House. We thank You for the abilities they have been given to do their work. May they use their talents as good stewards of Your many gifts and thereby be true servants of justice and partners in peace.

We thank You as well for this marvelous forum where the important business of this Nation has been done in the past and is done today. May the work being done now be guided by Your Spirit.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN IS RIGHT: DEMOCRATS OWN THIS ECONOMY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during a radio interview last week, Vice President JOE BIDEN acknowledged the current administration has responsibility for the economy. The Vice President stated, ''Right now, we are the ones in charge. I don't blame them for being mad. We're in charge, so they're angry.'' I agree with the Vice President.

While the national unemployment rate continues to remain above 9 percent, this administration continues the failed policies of borrow and spend. It is a failed course.

Last week, I met with constituents across the Second Congressional District of South Carolina during the annual District Bus Tour, and without complaining, they urged: reduce spending, cut taxes, create jobs.

House Republicans have introduced numerous jobs bills designed to encourage hiring and long-term economic growth. Now is the time for liberals and the President to change course. They own it.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECOGNIZING FILMMAKER KEN BURNS

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for two decades documentary filmmaker Ken Burns has been helping America understand who we are. Tonight, in the Visitors Center, there is a 5 o'clock reception and a 5:30 special screening of his new documentary on prohibition. He's had amazing productions dealing with the Civil War, baseball, jazz, the national parks, but this, I think, is going to be perhaps his best.

Based on what I saw last night, nothing is more timely, more profound for the challenges that we face today. And I can't wait for the next two episodes that will be aired tonight at 8 p.m. and again tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Burns. Thank you, PBS. Thanks to previous Congresses for support and the ''pre-funding'' that allows long-term projects like this. Here is another example of the unique and critical role played by public broadcasting, and Congress should make sure that it continues.

SOLYNDRA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, just before we left last week, two executives from a company called Solyndra came before the Energy and Commerce Committee voluntarily, but ultimately did not testify, invoking their Fifth Amendment rights.

Most Americans by now are becoming aware of the Solyndra story, a company that was initially denied a loan guarantee in the last days of the Bush administration but was hastily added to a list of projects that were covered by what was called the stimulus bill in

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February of 2009. In a rush to get the money out the door—ahead of a photo op with the Vice President—apparently mistakes were made, and in the early days of September of this year Solyndra filed bankruptcy. This is a story that is yet to be completely understood. But, Mr. Speaker, here's the important part:

For almost 6 months' time, between February and July, the Committee on Energy and Commerce sought, unsuccessfully, to have records delivered to it from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Energy. It should not take a subpoena from a congressional committee for branches of the executive branch to supply us those documents. When we have questions, they need to respond. When we ask for information, they need to produce. And certainly, when we have a hearing, they need to attend.

It's time for the Secretary of Energy to come before our committee, explain what he knew about this process, and clear the air once and for all for the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by Speaker pro tempore HARRIS on Thursday, September 29, 2011:

H.R. 2005, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006;

H.R. 2017, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 4 p.m.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2608, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment; that the Senate amendment be considered as read; that the motion be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD READINESS ACT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 686) to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 686

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Utah National Guard Readiness Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, CAMP WILLIAMS, UTAH.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall convey, without consideration, to the State of Utah all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to certain lands comprising approximately 420 acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled ''Proposed Camp Williams Land Transfer'' and dated June 14, 2011, which are located within the boundaries of the public lands currently withdrawn for military use by the Utah National Guard and known as Camp Williams, Utah, for the purpose of permitting the Utah National Guard to use the conveyed land as provided in subsection (c).

(b) SUPERSEDENCE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER.—Executive Order No. 1922 of April 24, 1914, as amended by section 907 of the Camp W.G. Williams Land Exchange Act of 1989 (title IX of Public Law 101–628; 104 Stat. 4501), is hereby superseded, only insofar as it affects the lands identified for conveyance to the State of Utah under subsection (a).

(c) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—The lands conveyed to the State of Utah under subsection (a) shall revert to the United States if the Secretary of Defense determines that the land, or any portion thereof, is sold or attempted to be sold, or that the land, or any portion thereof, is used for non-National Guard or non-national defense purposes.

(d) HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.—With respect to any portion of the land conveyed under subsection (a) that the Secretary of Defense determines is subject to reversion under subsection (c), if the Secretary of Defense also determines that the portion of the conveyed land contains hazardous materials, the State of Utah shall pay the United States an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the land, and the reversionary interest shall not apply to that portion of the land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 686 is a bill I sponsored. It is a bipartisan bill, and it has the sponsorship of all of the members of the Utah delegation, Republican and Democrat, and directs the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM to convey to the State of Utah lands that have been withdrawn for military use by the Utah National Guard and known as Camp Williams in Utah.

The National Guard has had this facility and trained at Camp Williams since 1912. The 420 acres proposed for conveyance is located within the boundaries of Camp Williams and has already been withdrawn for military use by the National Guard.

The transfer will simply open up property that is along one of the major corridors there to help support the military use of this camp. For obvious reasons, placing the land in the ownership of the State will allow the State to bond for other facilities that need to be built there. The State of Utah will not bond for building facilities on land it does not own. So the transfer of title to those lands also expedites the building and expansion of Camp Williams and the training facilities to improve the readiness of the Utah National Guard.

This conveyance without consideration is consistent with other bills in which you are doing government to government conveyances. The bill includes a provision directing the land revert to Federal ownership if this property is not used for National Guard or national defense purposes.

So the bill was passed by the House by a voice vote last Congress. The administration supports this bill. It was requested by the Utah National Guard. As I said, it is cosponsored by the entire Utah delegation.

I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 686 will transfer a parcel of Federal land to the State of Utah for use as part of a Utah National Guard facility. The bill specifies that the land would return to Federal ownership if it is no longer needed for national defense purposes.

This legislation passed the House under Democratic leadership in both the 110th and 111th Congresses, and we support its passage again today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 686, "Utah National Guard Readiness Act." The bill requires the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard.

Our National Guard and in some instances combat soldiers of tomorrow must have access to training. Our troops must receive the training they need prior to being deployed in combat zones. By allocating parcels of land for that purpose helps to ensure our nation's security. Camp Williams, located 26 miles south of Salt Lake City, is a professional training environment operated by the Utah Army National Guard. The Utah Training Center consists of 24,000 acres of combat areas resembling the same types of environments encountered by those currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those facilities include small arms weapons firing ranges, artillery firing points, demolition, grenade and crew served weapon ranges.

This parcel of land will allow for specialized winter, desert, mountain, and amphibious training. Urban environments include the Mac MOUT Shoot-house, dismounted/mounted maneuver areas and the recently opened FOB. Leadership and individual training is enhanced by utilizing the rappel tower, leadership reaction course and Afghan Village. This facility seems to be well equipped for training the Utah National Guard.

The Utah National Guard has possessed facilities and trained at Camp Williams since 1912. H.R. 686 would convey 420 acres of land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, without consideration. The acreage proposed for conveyance is already withdrawn for military use by the Guard. This land transfer will open access to property along a major transportation corridor with all the utilities and services necessary to support expanded military use. The Utah National Guard already owns and operates several buildings, an air traffic control tower and a tactical airfield on portions of this property. Placing the land in the State's name for use by the National Guard consolidates ownership patterns in the headquarters area and allows the State of Utah to bond for future Guard facilities. Transfer of title to these lands expedites the building and expansion of Camp Williams training facilities and would improve the readiness of the Utah National Guard. Additionally, the bill includes a provision directing that the land revert to federal ownership if it stops being used for National Guard or national defense purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 686, 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.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SKI AREA RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 765) to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 765

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b)—

(1) to enable snow-sports (other than nordic and alpine skiing) to be permitted on National Forest System land subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b); and

(2) to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to permit appropriate additional seasonal or year-round recreational activities and facilities on National Forest System land subject to ski area permits issued by the Secretary of Agriculture under section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b).

SEC. 3. SKI AREA PERMITS.

Section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''nordic and alpine ski areas and facilities'' and inserting ''ski areas and associated facilities'';

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''nordic and alpine skiing operations and purposes'' and inserting ''skiing and other snow sports and recreational uses authorized by this Act'';

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) OTHER RECREATIONAL USES.—

''(1) AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.—Subject to the terms of a ski area permit issued pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary may authorize a ski area permittee to provide such other seasonal or year-round natural resource-based recreational activities and associated facilities (in addition to skiing and other snow-sports) on National Forest System land subject to a ski area permit as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each activity and facility authorized by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) encourage outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature;

''(B) to the extent practicable—

''(i) harmonize with the natural environment of the National Forest System land on which the activity or facility is located; and

''(ii) be located within the developed portions of the ski area;

''(C) be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

''(D) be authorized in accordance with—

''(i) the applicable land and resource management plan; and

''(ii) applicable laws (including regulations).

''(3) INCLUSIONS.—Activities and facilities that may, in appropriate circumstances, be authorized under paragraph (1) include—

''(A) zip lines;

''(B) mountain bike terrain parks and trails;

''(C) frisbee golf courses; and

''(D) ropes courses.

''(4) EXCLUSIONS.—Activities and facilities that are prohibited under paragraph (1) include—

''(A) tennis courts;

''(B) water slides and water parks;

''(C) swimming pools;

''(D) golf courses; and

''(E) amusement parks.

''(5) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not authorize any activity or facility under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines that the authorization of the activity or facility would result in the primary recreational purpose of the ski area permit to be a purpose other than skiing and other snow-sports.

''(6) BOUNDARY DETERMINATION.—In determining the acreage encompassed by a ski area permit under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall not consider the acreage necessary for activities and facilities authorized under paragraph (1).

''(7) EFFECT ON EXISTING AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES.—Nothing in this subsection affects any activity or facility authorized by a ski area permit in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection during the term of the permit.'';

(5) by striking subsection (d) (as redesignated by paragraph (3)), and inserting the following:

''(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement this section.''; and

(6) in subsection (e) (as redesignated by paragraph (3)), by striking ''the National Environmental Policy Act, or the Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act as amended by the National Forest Management Act'' and inserting ''the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.)''.

SEC. 4. EFFECT.

Nothing in the amendments made by this Act establishes a legal preference for the holder of a ski area permit to provide activities and associated facilities authorized by section 3(c) of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b(c)) (as amended by section 3).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 765 amends the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to permit seasonal and year-round natural resource-based recreational activities that are associated with those facilities on the National Forest ski areas. Current law does not address any activities other than winter-related Nordic and alpine skiing, snow sports, and their ancillary facilities at ski areas on Forest Service land. Congress needs to pass this act to allow new activities such as climbing walls, mountain biking, alpine slides, and zip-lines to be able to be used.

The additional seasonal and year-round recreation authorized by this bill would allow the private sector to create year-round jobs, expand their wholesome outdoor recreational opportunities for American families and for visitors from overseas.

Facilities authorized by this bill will have to be in harmony with the natural environment. Furthermore, the legislation does not waive such laws as the Endangered Species Act or the National Environmental Policy Act to allow for these activities to take place. So the ski areas on the Forest Service lands are already themselves classified as developed sites. So these new activities will be in keeping with the intended use of these areas.

□ 1610

Finally, I would also like to thank Chairman LUCAS of the Committee on Agriculture for assisting us in bringing this bill to the floor today. His cooperation on this and other issues shared with the Committee on Natural Resources is very much appreciated.

To support this understanding, I am including in the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman LUCAS and Chairman DOC HASTINGS regarding this particular bill.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2011.

Hon. DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HASTINGS: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 765, the Ski Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011 which amends the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to allow Forest Service permits to include year-round recreational use of ski areas. The bill also amends the Act to allow for snowboarding and other snow sports on Forest Service lands, in addition to ski activities already permitted.

H.R. 765 has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture, in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources. On June 15, 2011, H.R. 765 was reported out of the House Natural Resources Committee by unanimous consent.

It is my understanding that the Committee on Natural Resources wishes to consider this important piece of legislation expeditiously. Therefore, I will agree to discharge H.R. 765 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that this action in no way waives the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdictional interests in the subject matter of the legislation nor serves as a precedent for future referrals. Furthermore, in the event a House-Senate conference is requested on this matter, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture as we deal with forestry issues in the future.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2011.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 765, the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011. As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources ordered reported the bill by unanimous consent on June 15, 2011. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Agriculture will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Natural Resources concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 765 at this time, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. Your committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Agriculture represented on the conference committee, as you are the primary committee of jurisdiction. Finally, I would be pleased to include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DOC HASTINGS,
Chairman.

I urge the adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, the law governing the use of Forest Service lands for ski resorts has not kept pace with the development of year-round activities at many of these sites. New legislation is needed to authorize activities such as rock climbing, mountain biking and other offseason recreational activities.

H.R. 765 will authorize the Forest Service to permit certain nonsnow sports identified in the bill while specifically prohibiting things like tennis courts, swimming pools, and golf courses. The legislation will provide this expanded authority while ensuring that only activities which encourage outdoor recreation and harmonize with the environment are permitted.

Our colleague, Representative DEGETTE of Colorado, sponsored this legislation in the previous Congress and successfully guided the bill to approval by the House. This is important legislation that will create jobs, and she is to be commended for her leadership on this bill.

We support H.R. 765.

I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as has been mentioned by the gentleman, this is a bipartisan bill. I urge its adoption. It's a very good bill.

I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring this bill to the floor today. In my home state of Colorado, outdoor activities such as skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, and hiking are part of our everyday lives. These activities often occur in our fantastic ski areas—many of which are located on public lands.

The Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011 clarifies the authority of the Forest Service to permit appropriate summer or year-round activities for ski areas. My bill will expand access to outdoor recreation, providing more opportunities for families to spend time outdoors. In the 2010/2011 ski season, there were over 60 million skier/snowboarder visits to American ski areas with nearly 21 million visits in the Rocky Mountain region. Providing summer recreation opportunities at already developed ski areas means winter guests will be more likely to return to their favorite spots at other times of the year. It will also provide substantial benefits to our local economies, and help create stable, year-round jobs in the thirteen states that are currently home to ski resorts on public land. The Outdoor Industry Association estimates active outdoor recreation, including activities at ski areas, contributes $730 billion to the U.S. economy annually.

Furthermore, the act makes a commonsense change to the Ski Area Permit Act by expanding permitted activities to include snow sports such as snowboarding. Snowboarding now accounts for roughly 1/3 of all ski area

visits, and the law should reflect the reality of current winter activities.

I am proud to bring this bill to the floor today with broad bi-partisan support. We have worked closely with the Forest Service to develop a piece of legislation that is amenable to all affected parties, and I urge my colleagues to support this sensible piece of legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 765, ''The Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011,'' which amends the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to require the term and acreage of permits for the operation of ski areas and associated facilities on National Forest System lands to be governed by provisions under the Act relating to such permits and other applicable law. Furthermore, this legislation provides for the issuance of permits for the use and occupancy of suitable lands within the National Forest System for skiing and other snow sports and recreational uses authorized pursuant to this Act.

The Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act provides the American public with added ways to use and enjoy federally governed land. It is in a spirit of encouraging increased camaraderie, outdoor recreation and enjoyment of nature that I support providing an expanded opportunity for Americans to benefit from the natural resources in their own back yard. It is the responsibility of all Members of Congress to fulfill our moral obligation to promote harmony between Americans and the vast opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the country. Additionally, this legislation serves to create revenue by allowing for additional permits, bolstering ski and winter recreation industries.

In the State of Texas, we have nearly 675,000 acres of public land that the U.S. Forest Service manages. This land is divided into four National Forests in east Texas and the National Grasslands in northeast Texas. Of the four National Forests, the 18th district is home to the Sam Houston National Forest. The Sam Houston National Forest consists of 161,508 acres with 47,609 acres in Montgomery County, 59,746 acres in San Jacinto County, and 54,153 acres in Walker County. The national forests in Texas were established by an act of the Texas legislature in 1933 that authorized the purchase of lands for the national forest system. These lands are operated under a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Fishing, trapping, and public hunting of white-tailed deer, feral hog, waterfowl, dove, other migratory game birds, squirrel, quail, rabbits, hares, predators, furbearers, and frogs is permitted. Other outdoor recreation opportunities include camping, hiking, bicycling, and wildlife viewing.

In 1960, the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act codified into law the practices that had governed the management of national forests in Texas for 30 years. This act emphasized that resources on public lands would be managed so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the people, that the benefits obtained will exist indefinitely and that each each natural resource would be managed in balance with other resources to meet present and future public needs.

Management plans outline direction for a forest under the multiple-use concept. However, even the most carefully planned system of management cannot foresee environmental or natural factors which can cause drastic changes in a forest. Fire, storms, insects and disease, for example, can alter the way a forest is managed.

H.R. 765, ''The Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011,'' provides for the issuance of permits for the use and occupancy of suitable lands within the National Forest System for skiing and other snow sports and recreational uses, highlighting the climate and recreational opportunities unique to specific regions of the nation. Since our nation's founding, we have marveled with immense pride at our vast natural resources, and this legislation serves to celebrate them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 765.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CLARIFYING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION REGARDING CRAGIN PROJECT

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 489) to clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 489

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

SECTION 1. LAND WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION FOR CRAGIN PROJECT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means the parcel of land consisting of approximately 512 acres, as generally depicted on the Map, that consists of—

(A) approximately 300 feet of the crest of the Cragin Dam and associated spillway;

(B) the reservoir pool of the Cragin Dam that consists of approximately 250 acres defined by the high water mark; and

(C) the linear corridor.

(2) CRAGIN PROJECT.—The term ''Cragin Project'' means—

(A) the Cragin Dam and associated spillway;

(B) the reservoir pool of the Cragin Dam; and

(C) any pipelines, linear improvements, buildings, hydroelectric generating facilities, priming tanks, transmission, telephone, and fiber optic lines, pumps, machinery, tools, appliances, and other District or Bureau of Reclamation structures and facilities used for the Cragin Project.

(3) DISTRICT.—The term ''District'' means the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District.

(4) LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY.—The term ''land management activity'' includes, with respect to the covered land, the management of—

(A) recreation;

(B) grazing;

(C) wildland fire;

(D) public conduct;

(E) commercial activities that are not part of the Cragin Project;

(F) cultural resources;

(G) invasive species;

(H) timber and hazardous fuels;

(I) travel;

(J) law enforcement; and

(K) roads and trails.

(5) LINEAR CORRIDOR.—The term ''linear corridor'' means a corridor of land comprising approximately 262 acres—

(A) the width of which is approximately 200 feet;

(B) the length of which is approximately 11.5 miles;

(C) of which approximately 0.7 miles consists of an underground tunnel; and

(D) that is generally depicted on the Map.

(6) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means sheets 1 and 2 of the maps entitled ''C.C. Cragin Project Withdrawal'' and dated June 17, 2008.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) WITHDRAWAL OF COVERED LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, the covered land is permanently withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

(c) MAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary, shall prepare a map and legal description of the covered land.

(2) FORCE AND EFFECT.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary of the Interior may correct clerical and typographical errors.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description prepared under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation.

(d) JURISDICTION AND DUTIES.—

(1) JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall have exclusive administrative jurisdiction to manage the Cragin Project in accordance with this Act and section 213(i) of the Arizona Water Settlements Act (Public Law 108–451; 118 Stat. 3533) on the covered land.

(B) INCLUSION.—Notwithstanding subsection (e), the jurisdiction under subparagraph (A) shall include access to the Cragin Project by the District.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND DISTRICT.—In accordance with paragraphs (4)(B) and (5) of section 213(i) of the Arizona Water Settlements Act (Public Law 108–451; 118 Stat. 3533), the Secretary of the Interior and the District shall—

(A) ensure the compliance of each activity carried out at the Cragin Project with each applicable Federal environmental law (including regulations); and

(B) coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies in ensuring the compliance under subparagraph (A).

(e) LAND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ON COVERED LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall have administrative jurisdiction over land management activities on the covered land and other appropriate management activities pursuant to an agreement under paragraph (2) that do not conflict with, or adversely affect, the operation, maintenance, or replacement (including repair) of the Cragin Project, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the District, may enter into an agreement under which the Secretary may—

(A) undertake any other appropriate management activity in accordance with applicable law that will improve the management and safety of the covered land and other land managed by the Secretary if the activity does not conflict with, or adversely affect, the operation, maintenance, or replacement (including repair) of the Cragin Project, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) carry out any emergency activities, such as fire suppression, on the covered land.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and also to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 489 is sponsored by our colleague, Representative GOSAR of Arizona, and it seeks to resolve bureaucratic dysfunction and streamline regulatory processes for the purposes of creating jobs in northern Arizona.

This is a no-cost bill, and it eliminates duplicative permitting requirements—which we often, in this body, commonly refer to as ''red tape''—by putting just one Federal agency in charge of the C.C. Cragin project's pipeline, part of a Federal water project.

Prior to this bill, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service could not reconcile their responsibilities over who would actually manage the pipeline. These dueling regulatory requirements ultimately increased the costs that were passed on to the water consumers. They also created enough confusion to keep one community from going forward with a locally financed project that would have been connected to the Federal pipeline.

This bill clarifies these Federal management responsibilities, and it mirrors other permitting and approval precedents on similar Federal projects. It also creates a regulatory environment for that local water project—and the jobs that will go with it—to proceed.

I thank Congressman GOSAR for sponsoring this jobs bill, and I urge the adoption of this particular measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 489 would specify that the Bureau of Reclamation is authorized to approve necessary operation and maintenance activity for the C.C. Cragin project on National Forest System land.

H.R. 489 was introduced this Congress with language that reflects negotiations between the Bureau of Reclamation, the Forest Service, and the Salt River Project and the Congress. This legislation is not meant to serve as precedent for the management of utility corridors on Forest Service land. Instead, the legislation allows for the management of C.C. Cragin consistent with all the other Salt River Project facilities on Forest Service land where the Bureau of Reclamation oversees the operation and management of the facilities.

I have no requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Phelps Dodge, just to give you some background of this particular legislation, is a large mining company that built what is now the Cragin project in the 1960s to supply water to its mine complex. Phelps Dodge transferred ownership of the project to the Salt River Project, that's known as the SRP, after the former realized it was not necessary for mining operations. At the request of the SRP and with the support of Phelps Dodge and the Bureau of Reclamation, the Arizona Water Rights Settlement Act authorized transfer of the title of the project and the associated lands from SRP to Reclamation in 2005. Even though the Federal Government owns the project, SRP stills operates and maintains it pursuant to the 1917 contract between SRP and the United States.

The project consists of a number of facilities, including a 147-foot-high dam, a 15,000-acre-foot reservoir, a diversion tunnel and pump shaft, pumping plant, priming reservoir, a 10-mile-long pipeline, electrical transmission line, and a small generating plant which supplies power to the project's pumping plant. The project helps SRP to supply water to the Phoenix metropolitan area and to the town of Payson and neighboring communities in northern Gila County.

Implementation of the title transfer under Public Law 108–45 has been controversial due to misunderstandings between the U.S. Forest Service, Reclamation, and SRP. The operation of the project is like that of all other Salt River Project-managed Reclamation facilities located on U.S. Forest Service lands. And for those projects, Reclamation approves SRP's work plan, their environmental compliance, and other regulatory permitting requirements associated with the project.

Mr. Speaker, that is some background to the issue and why this particular bill is there.

With that, it is my pleasure to now yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 489, a bill that will permanently end the bureaucratic wrangling that has occurred between the Departments of Interior and Agriculture—a jurisdictional dispute that compromises the routine maintenance of critical water infrastructure in the State of Arizona, the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir.

The Federal Government employs over 2.1 million civilian employees. There are hundreds of agencies, and within each agency there are divisions, departments, and subgroups. Sometimes, especially with respect to land management, more than one agency has jurisdiction; and when that occurs, bureaucratic disputes arise and government no longer serves the people.

□ 1620

This is the exact circumstance that has necessitated my legislation.

The C.C. Cragin project consists of a number of facilities, including a dam and reservoir, diversion tunnel and pump shaft, pumping plant, priming reservoir, pipeline, electrical transmission line, and a generating plant.

The majority of the project is located on Federal lands in the Coconino and Tonto National Forests. This critical water infrastructure project is an important aspect of the Salt River Project's Federal Reclamation Project. It is integral to providing a water supply for Phoenix and is instrumental in making 3,500 acre-feet of water a year available to Gila County. The town of Payson and the neighboring communities rely on the pipeline to supply municipal drinking water to my constituents.

In 2004, at the request of the Salt River Project—or SRP as it is commonly referred to—and with the support of the Bureau of Reclamation and the former owner of the project, the Arizona Water Settlements Act authorized the title transfer of the C.C. Cragin project from SRP to the Bureau of Reclamation. Under this language, the Federal Government would own the project, but SRP would still operate and maintain it.

Once a transfer was implemented, it became clear that there was a disagreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation over who had the responsibility for approving requested operation maintenance and repairs. Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation argued that it should approve SRP's work plans, environmental compliance, and other regulatory permitting requirements. The U.S. Forest

Service asserted that the reclamation was required to obtain a special use permit to operate, maintain, and repair the water project.

While the SRP project was able to overcome the issues with the Forest Service to complete repairs, it was with the Bureau of Reclamation's approval and occasionally over Forest Service objections. Concurrently, the added permit requirement delayed much needed repairs, wasting precious Arizona water resources, increased repair costs, and placed the economic development of the town of Payson at risk.

Looking forward, this is a long-lived asset that will be relied upon to provide reliable municipal water supply to Gila County and the valley. Just a few weeks ago, a $34 million, 15-mile pipeline expansion project, which will double Payson's long-term, sustainable water supply, was finally approved by the Forest Service after a year-long delay. If Congress allows the jurisdictional dispute to continue, future operations and maintenance activities related to the C.C. Cragin project could face costly delays and could possibly interrupt water delivery to these Arizona communities.

This simply is not a tenable situation. I am pleased the House is taking up legislation that will permanently resolve this ridiculous jurisdictional battle.

My legislation reflects a compromise reached by the relevant parties. It grants the Department of the Interior exclusive jurisdiction to manage the C.C. Cragin project and grants the Department of Agriculture administrative jurisdiction over land management activities that do not conflict or adversely affect the operation, maintenance, replacement, or repair of the project.

It is important to note that H.R. 489 will still require compliance with all requirements under Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. In addition, the implementation of this legislation has no cost to the taxpayer.

Having a single agency overseeing the project remains important—if not more important now that the project is operational. The United States Bureau of Reclamation has the expertise to conduct oversight on water supply projects and does so on many of the projects that are within national forests. This commonsense legislation meets the needs of SRP and Reclamation to ensure the infrastructure can be maintained while accommodating the Forest Service, ensuring they continue to manage the lands underlying the utility corridor with respect to recreation, wildfire, law enforcement, and other activities consistent with its authorities, responsibilities, and expertise.

It is important to note that when the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on my bill on May 12, all parties—including the Bureau of Reclamation and the Forest Service—agreed that H.R. 489 is vital to the long-term management of the C.C. Cragin dam and reservoir project and would bring about necessary economic certainty for the town of Payson and other impacted communities.

It is not often that Congress gets the opportunity to take up noncontroversial legislation like H.R. 489. I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 489.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HELP TO ACCESS LAND FOR THE EDUCATION OF SCOUTS

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 473) to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 473

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Help to Access Land for the Education of Scouts'' or ''HALE Scouts Act''.

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE, OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST, OKLAHOMA.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that it is in the public interest to provide for the sale of certain federally owned land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, for market value consideration.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey, by quitclaim deed, to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America (in this section referred to as the ''Council'') all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to certain National Forest System land in the Ouachita National Forest in the State of Oklahoma consisting of approximately 140 acres, depending on the final measurement of the road set back and the actual size of the affected sections, as more fully described in subsection (c). The conveyance may not include any land located within the Indian Nations National Scenic and Wildlife Area designated by section 10 of the Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation and Wilderness Area Act (16 U.S.C. 460vv–8).

(c) COVERED LANDS.—The National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) is depicted on the map entitled ''Boy Scout Land Request—Ouachita NF''. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Forest Service Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia.

(d) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the land conveyed under subsection (b), the Council shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal approved by the Secretary and done in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions and section 206 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1716).

(e) SURVEY AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The Council shall pay the reasonable costs of survey, appraisal, and any administrative analyses required by law.

(f) ACCESS.—Access to the land conveyed under subsection (b) shall be from the adjacent land of the Council or its successor. Notwithstanding section 1323(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3210(a)), the Secretary shall not be required to provide additional access to the conveyed land.

(g) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may prescribe such terms and conditions on the conveyance under subsection (b) as the Secretary considers in the public interest, including the reservation of access rights to the conveyed land for administrative purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If I spend less time speaking about this particular bill, it's not my commitment to this particular bill, only the gentleman from Oklahoma seems to be here already.

H.R. 473 was introduced by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN). It would authorize the Forest Service to sell 143 acres of the Ouachita National Forest to the Camp Hale Boy Scout camp, which is just under 500 acres adjacent to those Federal lands. The additional acreage will allow the Boy Scouts to accommodate more campers and allow for a larger array of activities at the camp. The legislation stipulates that the acres will be appraised and sold at market value. The Boy Scouts will pay for the appraisal as well as the survey and the administrative costs.

This legislation is a commonsense solution to allow for an expansion of the camp and better accommodations for the Boy Scouts of America.

I urge adoption of this brilliant piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will allow the Indian Nation's Council of the Boy Scouts to expand a very popular adventure camp in Oklahoma. The Scouts would pay fair market value for an additional 140 acres of Forest Service land to be added to the existing camp.

Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scouts are a beloved organization dedicated to education and public service. The sale of this parcel to the Scouts is a good use of public lands, and we support the legislation.

I would also like to acknowledge that my good friend, Mr. BOREN, has been a tireless champion for this bill and for the Boy Scouts and is to be commended for his work over several years on behalf of this proposal.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 473.

I yield the balance of my time to the good gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN).

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 473, the HALE Scouts Act. This bill grants the U.S. Forest Service the authority to sell roughly 140 acres of land to the Indian Nation's Council of Boy Scouts. The land for conveyance is adjacent to the Scouts' summer camp, Camp Tom Hale, located in Talihina, Oklahoma.

The Indian Nation's Council of Boy Scouts is a nonprofit organization, providing educational programs for boys and young adults to build character, to train in the responsibilities of citizenship, and to develop personal fitness.

Camp Tom Hale first opened in June 1930 to serve Boy Scouts in McAlester, Oklahoma. It was originally located in what is now Robbers Cave State Park near Wilburton, Oklahoma. In 1963, the Boy Scout Council in McAlester worked with the State of Oklahoma and the U.S. Forest Service to exchange the camp at Robbers Cave for 480 acres of wilderness area in the Ouachita National Forest. This ''new'' Camp Hale has continued as a summer adventure camp, serving thousands of Scouts during the intervening 41 years.

In 1997, the council board developed a strategic plan for a $3.5 million expansion and renovation of the camp. Since then, the council has spent in excess of $1 million continually updating and expanding facilities to meet the needs of scouts. As a result, a renewed emphasis on wilderness and outdoors has flourished, with over 6,000 scouts and leaders from a five-State area attending weekly sessions offered in June and July and enjoying the beautiful Ouachita Forest.

□ 1630

Attendance has now exceeded the maximum number of available campsites and program areas, which is causing Camp Hale to begin turning away hundreds of scouts each summer. It is now critical for camp growth that the boundaries be extended to include more area for camping and additional program and training services.

Successful completion of this objective will allow the Boy Scouts to continue the expansion of outdoor and leadership training for thousands of youths living in the central Southwest and bring additional usage and enjoyment of the Ouachita Forest for more families.

I want to emphasize that the Boy Scouts will pay fair market value, as was mentioned before, for this land, so that this bill will actually bring money to the U.S. Government.

It is for the benefit of these thousands of young men across a five-State area that I proudly sponsored this measure. I greatly appreciate the House's consideration of the bill and would like to urge my colleagues to support this bill, this legislation. I can think of no greater thing that we can do than to invest in our young people. And how can you be against the Boy Scouts?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, to be honest, I had some doubts about this piece of legislation. But after the eloquence of the gentleman from Oklahoma, he has removed any doubts as to the viability of this piece of legislation. It's obviously a brilliant bill and will be a capstone to his career.

I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself also with my good friend Mr. BISHOP. How can anyone be against the Boy Scouts?

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 473, "Help to Access Land for the Education of Scouts Act," which requires the conveyance of specified National Forest System land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America. This legislation is appropriate and necessary for the continuation of the very principles that Boy Scouts of America stands for.

Currently, the Indian Nations Council serves more than 28,000 youth and 5,500 adult volunteers throughout 18 counties in eastern Oklahoma. Over the past century, the Council has positively impacted hundreds of thousands of Scouts and their families. However, due to the increased growth of the scouting program in Eastern Oklahoma, attendance at Camp Tom Hale has surpassed the maximum number of available campsites and program capacity. In turn, the organization has been forced to turn away many scouts and their families. There is a critical need to serve more scouts. However, more land is needed to ensure the quality of camping and experience for the scouts. Boundaries need to be extended to help accommodate more scouts, and to maximize their camp experience.

Boy Scouts of America is a prominent values-based organization that has helped to mold young boys into model citizens, while simultaneously building character and promoting physical fitness. I do not feel that anyone, or the lack of sufficient land should deprive more of our youth from taking full advantage of all of the possibilities that Boy Scouts of America, specifically, the Indian Nations Council provides. I believe it is the responsibility of myself, as well as my colleagues, to ensure that we do everything in our ability to ensure that we pass H.R. 473 so that we can aid our young men in their development.

If passed, H.R. 473 will allow the Indian Nations Council to purchase an additional 140 acres of U.S. Forest Service land immediately adjacent to the existing Camp Tom Hale facility. To add to this, the Indian Nations Council can expect to have more scouts participate in their summer camps, without the burden of having to turn eager scouts away.

H.R. 473 can benefit the overall well being of the public by providing the Indian Nations Council of Boy Scouts of America with the adequate and necessary space needed to accommodate the growing number of scouts. It is essential that we pass H.R. 473 because organizations such as Boy Scouts of America are the driving force behind the leaders of tomorrow. By providing these young men, as well as their adult leaders with the proper space they need, we will simultaneously provide our youth with a place where they can live up to the morals and standards of the organization's mission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 473, 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

HOOVER POWER ALLOCATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 470) to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 470

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. ALLOCATION OF CONTRACTS FOR POWER.

(a) SCHEDULE A POWER.—Section 105(a)(1)(A) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''renewal'';

(2) by striking ''June 1, 1987'' and inserting ''October 1, 2017''; and

(3) by striking Schedule A and inserting the following:

''Schedule A Long-term Schedule A contingent capacity and associated firm energy for offers of contracts to Boulder Canyon project contractors

Contractor	Contingent capacity (kW)	Firm energy (thousands of kWh)		
		Summer	Winter	Total
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	249,948	859,163	368,212	1,227,375
City of Los Angeles	495,732	464,108	199,175	663,283
Southern California Edison Company	280,245	166,712	71,448	238,160
City of Glendale	18,178	45,028	19,297	64,325
City of Pasadena	11,108	38,622	16,553	55,175
City of Burbank	5,176	14,070	6,030	20,100
Arizona Power Authority	190,869	429,582	184,107	613,689
Colorado River Commission of Nevada	190,869	429,582	184,107	613,689
United States, for Boulder City	20,198	53,200	22,800	76,000
Totals	1,462,323	2,500,067	1,071,729	''3,571,796''.

(b) SCHEDULE B POWER.—Section 105(a)(1)(B) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) To each existing contractor for power generated at Hoover Dam, a contract, for delivery commencing October 1, 2017, of the amount of contingent capacity and firm energy specified for that contractor in the following table:

''Schedule B Long-term Schedule B contingent capacity and associated firm energy for offers of contracts to Boulder Canyon project contractors

Contractor	Contingent capacity (kW)	Firm energy (thousands of kWh)		
		Summer	Winter	Total
City of Glendale	2,020	2,749	1,194	3,943
City of Pasadena	9,089	2,399	1,041	3,440
City of Burbank	15,149	3,604	1,566	5,170
City of Anaheim	40,396	34,442	14,958	49,400
City of Azusa	4,039	3,312	1,438	4,750
City of Banning	2,020	1,324	576	1,900
City of Colton	3,030	2,650	1,150	3,800
City of Riverside	30,296	25,831	11,219	37,050
City of Vernon	22,218	18,546	8,054	26,600
Arizona	189,860	140,600	60,800	201,400
Nevada	189,860	273,600	117,800	391,400
Totals	507,977	509,057	219,796	728,853''.

(c) SCHEDULE C POWER.—Section 105(a)(1)(C) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''June 1, 1987'' and inserting ''October 1, 2017''; and

(2) by striking Schedule C and inserting the following:

''Schedule C Excess Energy

Priority of entitlement to excess energy	State
First: Meeting Arizona's first priority right to delivery of excess energy which is equal in each year of operation to 200 million kilowatthours: Provided, That in the event excess energy in the amount of 200 million kilowatthours is not generated during any year of operation, Arizona shall accumulate a first right to delivery of excess energy subsequently generated in an amount not to exceed 600 million kilowatthours, inclusive of the current year's 200 million kilowatthours. Said first right of delivery shall accrue at a rate of 200 million kilowatthours per year for each year excess energy in an amount of 200 million kilowatthours is not generated, less amounts of excess energy delivered.	Arizona
Second: Meeting Hoover Dam contractual obligations under Schedule A of subsection (a)(1)(A), under Schedule B of subsection (a)(1)(B), and under Schedule D of subsection (a)(2), not exceeding 26 million kilowatthours in each year of operation.	Arizona, Nevada, and California
Third: Meeting the energy requirements of the three States, such available excess energy to be divided equally among the States.	Arizona, Nevada, and California''.

(d) SCHEDULE D POWER.—Section 105(a) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2)(A) The Secretary of Energy is authorized to and shall create from the apportioned allocation of contingent capacity and firm energy adjusted from the amounts authorized in this Act in 1984 to the amounts shown in Schedule A and Schedule B, as modified by the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011, a resource pool equal to 5 percent of the full rated capacity of 2,074,000 kilowatts, and associated firm energy, as shown in Schedule D (referred to in this section as 'Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy'):

''Schedule D Long-term Schedule D resource pool of contingent capacity and associated firm energy for new allottees

State	Contingent capacity (kW)	Firm energy (thousands of kWh)		
		Summer	Winter	Total
New Entities Allocated by the Secretary of Energy	69,170	105,637	45,376	151,013
New Entities Allocated by State				
Arizona	11,510	17,580	7,533	25,113
California	11,510	17,580	7,533	25,113
Nevada	11,510	17,580	7,533	25,113
Totals	103,700	158,377	67,975	226,352

''(B) The Secretary of Energy shall offer Schedule D contingency capacity and firm energy to entities not receiving contingent capacity and firm energy under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) (referred to in this section as 'new allottees') for delivery commencing October 1, 2017 pursuant to this subsection. In this subsection, the term 'the marketing area for the Boulder City Area Projects' shall have the same meaning as in appendix A of the General Consolidated Power Marketing Criteria or Regulations for Boulder City Area Projects published in the Federal Register on December 28, 1984 (49 Federal Register 50582 et seq.) (referred to in this section as the 'Criteria').

''(C)(i) Within 36 months of the date of enactment of the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011, the Secretary of Energy shall allocate through the Western Area Power Administration (referred to in this section as 'Western'), for delivery commencing October 1, 2017, for use in the marketing area for the Boulder City Area Projects 66.7 percent of the Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy to new allottees that are located within the marketing area for the Boulder City Area Projects and that are—

''(I) eligible to enter into contracts under section 5 of the Boulder Canyon Project Act (43 U.S.C. 617d); or

''(II) federally recognized Indian tribes.

''(ii) In the case of Arizona and Nevada, Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy for new allottees other than federally recognized Indian tribes shall be offered through the Arizona Power Authority and the Colorado River Commission of Nevada, respectively. Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy allocated to federally recognized Indian tribes shall be contracted for directly with Western.

''(D) Within 1 year of the date of enactment of the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011, the Secretary of Energy also shall allocate, for delivery commencing October 1, 2017, for use in the marketing area for the Boulder City Area Projects 11.1 percent of the Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy to each of—

''(i) the Arizona Power Authority for allocation to new allottees in the State of Arizona;

''(ii) the Colorado River Commission of Nevada for allocation to new allottees in the State of Nevada; and

''(iii) Western for allocation to new allottees within the State of California, provided that Western shall have 36 months to complete such allocation.

''(E) Each contract offered pursuant to this subsection shall include a provision requiring the new allottee to pay a proportionate share of its State's respective contribution (determined in accordance with each State's applicable funding agreement) to the cost of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (as defined in section 9401 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 1327)), and to execute the Boulder Canyon Project Implementation Agreement Contract No. 95–PAO–10616 (referred to in this section as the 'Implementation Agreement').

''(F) Any of the 66.7 percent of Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy that is to be allocated by Western that is not allocated and placed under contract by October 1, 2017, shall be returned to those contractors shown in Schedule A and Schedule B in the same proportion as those contractors' allocations of Schedule A and Schedule B contingent capacity and firm energy. Any of the 33.3 percent of Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy that is to be distributed within the States of Arizona, Nevada, and California that is not allocated and placed under contract by October 1, 2017, shall be returned to the Schedule A and Schedule B contractors within the State in which the Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy were to be distributed, in the same proportion as those contractors' allocations of Schedule A and Schedule B contingent capacity and firm energy.''.

(e) TOTAL OBLIGATIONS.—Paragraph (3) of section 105(a) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)) (as redesignated as subsection (d)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''schedule A of section 105(a)(1)(A) and schedule B of section 105(a)(1)(B)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), and (2)''; and

(2) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking ''any'' each place it appears and inserting ''each'';

(B) by striking ''schedule C'' and inserting ''Schedule C''; and

(C) by striking ''schedules A and B'' and inserting ''Schedules A, B, and D''.

(f) POWER MARKETING CRITERIA.—Paragraph (4) of section 105(a) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)) (as redesignated as subsection (d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(4) Subdivision C of the Criteria shall be deemed to have been modified to conform to this section, as modified by the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011. The Secretary of Energy shall cause to be included in the Federal Register a notice conforming the text of the regulations to such modifications.''.

(g) CONTRACT TERMS.—Paragraph (5) of section 105(a) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(a)) (as redesignated as subsection (d)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) in accordance with section 5(a) of the Boulder Canyon Project Act (43 U.S.C. 617d(a)), expire September 30, 2067;'';

(2) in the proviso of subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''shall use'' and inserting ''shall allocate''; and

(B) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) authorize and require Western to collect from new allottees a pro rata share of Hoover Dam repayable advances paid for by contractors prior to October 1, 2017, and remit such amounts to the contractors that paid such advances in proportion to the amounts paid by such contractors as specified in section 6.4 of the Implementation Agreement;

''(E) permit transactions with an independent system operator; and

''(F) contain the same material terms included in section 5.6 of those long-term contracts for purchases from the Hoover Power Plant that were made in accordance with this Act and are in existence on the date of enactment of the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011.''.

(h) EXISTING RIGHTS.—Section 105(b) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(b)) is amended by striking ''2017'' and inserting ''2067''.

(i) OFFERS.—Section 105(c) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(c)) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) OFFER OF CONTRACT TO OTHER ENTITIES.—If any existing contractor fails to accept an offered contract, the Secretary of Energy shall offer the contingent capacity and firm energy thus available first to other entities in the same State listed in Schedule A and Schedule B, second to other entities listed in Schedule A and Schedule B, third to other entities in the same State which receive contingent capacity and firm energy under subsection (a)(2) of this section, and last to other entities which receive contingent capacity and firm energy under subsection (a)(2) of this section.''.

(j) AVAILABILITY OF WATER.—Section 105(d) of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) WATER AVAILABILITY.—Except with respect to energy purchased at the request of an allottee pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the obligation of the Secretary of Energy to deliver contingent capacity and firm energy pursuant to contracts entered into pursuant to this section shall be subject to availability of the water needed to produce such contingent capacity and firm energy. In the event that water is not available to produce the contingent capacity and firm energy set forth in Schedule A, Schedule B, and Schedule D, the Secretary of Energy shall adjust the contingent capacity and firm energy offered under those Schedules in the same proportion as those contractors' allocations of Schedule A, Schedule B, and Schedule D contingent capacity and firm energy bears to the full rated contingent capacity and firm energy obligations.''.

(k) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 105 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (e) and (f); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (g), (h), and (i) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively.

(l) CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Subsection (e) of section 105 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a)) (as redesignated by subsection (k)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''the renewal of''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''June 1, 1987, and ending September 30, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2017, and ending September 30, 2067''.

(m) COURT CHALLENGES.—Subsection (f)(1) of section 105 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a) (as redesignated by subsection (k)(2)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''this Act'' and inserting ''the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011''.

(n) REAFFIRMATION OF CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.—Subsection (g) of section 105 of the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 619a) (as redesignated by subsection (k)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''subsections (c), (g), and (h) of this section'' and inserting ''this Act''; and

(2) by striking ''June 1, 1987, and ending September 30, 2017'' and inserting ''October 1, 2017, and ending September 30, 2067''.

SEC. 3. PAYGO.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK), who is the sponsor of this bill, to introduce this particular piece of legislation, which does so much for the West and recognizes the importance of hydroelectric power for those of us who live in the West.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 470, the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011.

This issue is very important to my home State of Nevada and the more than 29 million residents across Nevada, Arizona, and California that benefit from Hoover power.

The Hoover Dam is located in my district, and Hoover power has been critical to southern Nevada's economy, businesses, and consumers since the dam first started operating in 1936.

Hoover power is clean and affordable, and today we are taking an important step toward making it stable. The Hoover power contracts are due to expire in 2017, and H.R. 470 would authorize the continued allocation of electricity from the Hoover Dam for the next 50 years, until 2067.

Extending Nevada's access to low-cost, clean hydropower through the enactment of H.R. 470 is key to Nevada's economic recovery because it will help create certainty over future electricity prices, and certainty is exactly what our economy needs right now in order to get people back to work.

H.R. 470 was developed as a consensus, bipartisan plan to ensure the continued availability and reliability of Hoover power to the citizens of Nevada, California, and Arizona. Hoover contractors who participated in developing this plan have invested more than $1.3 billion to construct, operate, and maintain Hoover Dam in the past. They agreed to contribute 5 percent of their post-2017 Hoover power allocations to form a 100-megawatt resource pool that will be made available to customers such as tribes, irrigation districts, and rural cooperatives that did not have access to this power in the past.

H.R. 470 provides that this resource pool will be allocated by a Federal-State partnership involving the Western Area Power Administration and the States of Nevada, California, and Arizona.

Now, I understand that some Arizona cooperatives have expressed concerns over this bill because they are unhappy with Arizona's power allocation priority list. But this bill actually sets aside additional power for other entities, including cooperatives, thereby increasing the likelihood of a power allocation, and this Federal legislation should not be used to usurp the authority of the State of Arizona.

Again, this legislation is essential to the millions of consumers who have invested in this renewable source of energy over the past 75 years because it will continue to provide them with Hoover power for the next 50 years, as well as allow new customers to benefit from this clean, low-cost energy source.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 470, the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. I thank Congressman BISHOP, Congressman SABLAN, but especially Congressman HASTINGS and our staff for working on this bill.

I rise in support of H.R. 470, the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011, as amended. And I agree with my colleague, I agree with his remarks. Hydropower is a very valuable resource for our country. The power produced at Hoover provides a renewable, very affordable and accessible resource to the American Southwest, more specifically the States of California, my State, Nevada, and Arizona, and has 30 million residents, businesses, farms, and tribes that benefit from its renewable power.

A new provision in the legislation, which my colleague talked about, would create an additional Schedule D, where power will be made available to eligible tribes and other users. And I'm hoping that those eligible users are mostly tribes because they've been kept out of the loop for many generations, and I think it's time that we put them up in the priority status, rather than at the end of the line as normally happens.

Western Area Power Administration has committed to implementing a full and transparent process in the allocation of this valuable resource. And we do expect that the State regulatory agencies of Arizona and Nevada both will follow the same procedures and commitment to an impartial and unbiased allocation determination.

The 50-year timeframe for allocation of this resource also matches the commitment by collaborators to fund the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, a nationally recognized example of how diverse stakeholders can find solutions, working together, that promote economic growth while protecting more than 100 species, including some endangered species that everybody wants to do away with, all within the Lower Colorado floodplain, and this is without litigation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has 34 bipartisan cosponsors. This exact same bill, H.R. 4349, which I was the lead sponsor of, as was Senator REID in the Senate, passed the House in the 111th Congress, and I ask my colleagues now to again not only support but vote for the passage of H.R. 470.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 470, the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011. Hoover power is a vital power resource for the consumers in the States of Arizona, California, and Nevada, as well as over 29 million people who rely on this clean renewable source of energy.

□ 1640

Hydroelectric power from the Hoover Dam was first allocated by Congress in 1928 and has been allocated by Congress ever since. The current power contracts expire in 2017. It is important this body pass a new allocation now to ensure the continued availability and reliability of Hoover power to the citizens of my State and those of California and Nevada.

The version of this legislation that this body is considering today reflects years of thorough negotiation. It includes provisions that address issues that were raised in the 111th Congress by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona and the Western Area Power Administration. Because of that, the bill has garnered strong bipartisan support within the Arizona House delegation and at the grassroots level.

I would like to address the concerns expressed by the Arizona Statewide Cooperatives Association. I personally

met with the representatives of the association in an attempt to address their concerns. In those meetings, it became clear the only way to address their concerns would be to overturn existing Arizona State law. I encouraged them to take their charge to the State level and committed to help facilitate the initial meeting if they so desired. However, I have consistently maintained that it would be inappropriate for Congress to incorporate language that would preempt Arizona State law in this legislation.

I would also like to point out that the Arizona co-ops have an opportunity under this legislation to receive Hoover power going forward. H.R. 470 creates a pool of 103 megawatts that will be allocated to eligible entities, including rural electric cooperatives and federally recognized Native American tribes. In addition, the Salt River Project has committed, in writing, to backstop up to three megawatts of power for the Arizona co-ops should they not receive an allocation through this specific provision.

Let me remind my colleagues that 22 percent of the population in my district is tribal. This would be a wonderful means of having a vested interest and would also diversify the portfolios of the tribes in the energy sector.

Again, I rise in support of my friend Dr. HECK's legislation, H.R. 470, and encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask for passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, this once again is a very good bill that is before us. The fact is that the Hoover Dam in Nevada produces more than 2,000 megawatts, which is enough to power 2 million households, of clean electricity and captures more than 28 million acre feet of water for the States of Arizona, Nevada, and California.

In the more than 75 years since this engineering marvel was completed, Hoover Dam still plays a key role in fulfilling its economic, job-creation mission. This bill simply extends part of that mission, and it's all paid for by the electricity ratepayers. Their rates will cover all capital, all operating, all maintenance and other costs associated with the power component of the Hoover Dam. There is no taxpayer cost to this bill.

I want to thank Congressman HECK for bringing this bill forward, I also want to thank Congresswoman NAPOLITANO for her good work on this bill, and I would encourage my colleagues to support this no-cost, job-supporting legislation.

I urge adoption of this measure, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 470, a bill for the allocation of power from the Hoover dam.

I thank my colleague from Nevada, Representative HECK, for sponsoring this important resolution.

I support this bill because it will ensure that many small communities in Southern California, including the community of Colton in my district, have access to cost effective power that is provided by a renewable resource.

Close to 4,000 homes in Colton are powered by the Hoover dam. The Hoover dam is one of our nation's greatest feats of engineering. It is a symbol of American ingenuity, and representative of the success that the Roosevelt administration had in putting our nation back to work during the Great Depression.

In a time when our country struggles with its dependence on foreign oil, the Hoover dam and the power that it provides shines as a beacon of what we are capable of in harnessing renewable energy. I commend the men who generations ago built this engineering marvel, and thank those today who maintain it for our benefit.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 470—and ask that they ensure the lights will stay on for millions of families in California, Arizona, and Nevada.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 470 "Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011," which Amends the Hoover Power Plant Act of 1984 to modify, commencing October 1, 2017, certain statutory schedules governing contracts for delivery to specified localities in Arizona, California, and Nevada of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam. The Hoover dam represents hope and prosperity that is possible if we, as legislators, do our job well. To many the Hoover Dam represents hope, and with this bill we can ensure good management of this facility into the future and hopefully create more jobs!

In the depths of the Great Depression, when like today a slow economy and high rate of unemployment caused great strife in the lives of American citizens, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt showed enormous leadership in launching the Hoover Dam project. Instead of abiding by the general wisdom of the era, that isolationism and fiscal austerity would insure the quickest economic recovery, FDR chose to use government resources to help those who were suffering the most. Through public works programs like this one, the President was able to put a massive amount of Americans back to work and construct some of this country's most impressive and meaningful structures. After construction began in 1931, it took only five years to complete, finishing two years ahead of schedule. The initiative and perseverance shown by the American workers, many of whom gave their lives to the dam, exemplifies the American spirit at its best. When people have a reason to believe in their government, they will respond accordingly in their own lives. Now it is our turn: we must ensure effective management of the dam's power production into the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 470, 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.

CONVEYING SUBMERGED LANDS TO NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 670) to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 670

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN SUBMERGED LANDS TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first section of Public Law 93–435 (48 U.S.C. 1705) is amended by inserting ''the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,'' after ''Guam,'' each place it appears.

(b) REFERENCES TO DATE OF ENACTMENT.—For the purposes of the amendment made by subsection (a), each reference in Public Law 93–435 (48 U.S.C. 1705) to the ''date of enactment'' shall be considered to be a reference to the date of the enactment of this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my pleasure to be here on this particular bill, H.R. 670. It conveys, as was mentioned in the title, 3 miles of submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This authority will give the Pacific territory similar authority and benefits as are currently enjoyed by many coastal States and other U.S. territories, specifically Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

The last Congress passed similar legislation out of the House by a rollcall vote of 416–0, and I hope we can beat that record today. I am pleased to have been able to work on this, and I thank the gentleman from the Northern Marianas (Mr. SABLAN) for actually presenting this particular bill to us. It is a good piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 670, a bill that conveys to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands the 3 miles of submerged lands surrounding each of our islands. I want to thank the leaders from both sides of the aisle, particularly Chairman HASTINGS and Ranking Member MARKEY of the Natural Resources Committee, and my very good friend, Dr. JOHN FLEMING, chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, for their support of H.R. 670.

I would like to note, also, that the language of H.R. 670 previously, as my good friend has noted, passed the House in the 111th Congress by a vote of 416–0. As we know sometimes happens, however, though favorably reported from its committee of jurisdiction, the other body took no final action. So I hope that Members of this House will join me today in making a second effort to get this bill enacted into law.

The Northern Mariana Islands is the only United States coastal jurisdiction that does not have ownership of the submerged lands off its coasts. H.R. 670 corrects that irregularity and provides the same ownership rights over the submerged lands surrounding the Northern Marianas as are provided by Federal law to Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

This bill provides equity to the people of the Northern Marianas. It returns management of these near-shore lands and waters to those who know them best and need them to be well-managed. It gives the people of the Marianas, who have such limited land resources, the power to protect and to benefit from the seas around our 14 islands.

To highlight the importance of this point, in 2006, Louisiana leased 392,118 acres of its submerged lands for oyster harvest, profiting the State and providing an economic opportunity for holders of 8,167 leases. Likewise, the State of California leases tracts off its submerged lands for oil and gas extraction, creating jobs and contributing to the State's economy. Other coastal jurisdictions have similar stories to tell about the important role that coastal lands and waters can play in economic growth.

For the area I represent, which has suffered declining GDP year after year since 2004 and a 20 percent drop in 2009, gaining control of surrounding submerged lands could help to turn things around. Whereas now the Federal Government is in charge and does nothing with the potential of these lands, H.R. 670 would put the local government in charge. We would be free to develop offshore wind farms or other energy alternatives and be responsible for protecting the rare marine environment, which is both our legacy and our trust, and also makes our islands alluring to tourists.

What H.R. 670 does for the Northern Marianas is what this Congress previously has done for other U.S. coastal jurisdictions. In the 1941 case of U.S. v. California, the Federal courts found that the Federal Government owned the submerged lands off the shores of California and other coastal States. These States then turned to Congress to regain control of their submerged lands, and Congress granted these States title to the waters and submerged lands out to 3 miles in the Submerged Lands Act of 1953.

□ 1650

History repeats itself here.

In 2005, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the submerged lands and waters off our coastline did not belong to the people of the Northern Marianas—despite that we had fished and sailed there for at least 3,500 years. The Ninth Circuit did recognize, however, that Congress had the power to convey the submerged lands to the Marianas. H.R. 670 does exactly that. H.R. 670 employs the constitutional authority of this Congress to dispose of Federal property, the same authority that Congress used to convey offshore lands to Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and American Samoa under the Territorial Submerged Lands Act of 1974.

Finally, let me say there is great support for this legislation among the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, so much so that when I was sworn in as the first Representative of the Northern Mariana Islands in the House of Representatives, this was my first bill. The Governor of the Northern Marianas has expressed his support. The Northern Marianas Legislature has passed a resolution in favor of a return to local management. In addition, the Obama administration has expressed its support for the conveyance of submerged lands to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This House, too, as I said at the beginning, has given overwhelming support to the language of this bill, which passed the House unanimously on July 15, 2009.

Once again, I ask for your support. H.R. 670 costs nothing. Congress has the constitutional authority to enact this bill. It will provide equity—the same ownership and responsibility for surrounding lands and waters that every other coastal area of our Nation enjoys.

I want to thank all of those Members who are cosponsors of this bill, and I ask that my colleagues support H.R. 670.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this particular resolution.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 670, "To convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands" conveys to the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands submerged lands surrounding such Islands and extending three geographical miles outward from their coastlines.

The Act provides the American public, more specifically the occupants of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, with added ways to use and enjoy land surrounding their coastlines. It is in a spirit of encouraging the most beneficial use of natural resources that I support the idea of providing an expanded use of otherwise unused land to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the responsibility of all Members of Congress to fulfill our moral obligation to promote harmony between Americans and their natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 670, to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 670.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 29

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on November 16, 2011 for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance

with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HARPER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution authorizes the use of the rotunda on November 16 to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

Mr. Speaker, on May 25, 1961, President Kennedy spoke to a joint session of Congress. He said that it was time for a ''great new American enterprise—time for this Nation to take a clearly leading role in space achievement.'' He committed this Nation to achieving the ambitious goal of landing a man on the Moon and returning him to Earth safely.

President Kennedy added, ''I believe we possess all the resources and talents necessary'' to accomplish the mission—and that we did as exhibited by the gentlemen to be honored in the rotunda this November.

Bravely pursuing the unknown, these four individuals helped this Nation achieve scientific and technological advancements which inspired the world.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Armstrong was the spacecraft commander for *Apollo 11*, the first manned lunar landing mission in history. He was the first person to land a craft on the Moon and the first to step foot on its surface. His immortal words are forever etched in our national memory.

''Buzz'' Aldrin piloted the Lunar Module ''Eagle'' and was the second person to walk on the Moon.

Michael Collins piloted the Command Module ''Columbia'' in lunar orbit and helped his fellow *Apollo 11* astronauts complete their mission on the Moon.

Seven-and-a-half years earlier, John Glenn paved the way for these achievements by becoming the first American to orbit the Earth in February of 1962.

Two years ago, on the 40th anniversary of *Apollo 11*'s historic lunar landing, the New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act was passed by Congress. Forty-two years ago, in July of 1969, millions of Americans were transfixed on a place over a quarter of a million miles away. Eyes watched as we stepped into the unknown, walked on the Moon and made history.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present this resolution today, and I urge my colleagues to support it in honoring the achievements of these national heroes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I write to notify you that the Committee on House Administration hereby waives further committee consideration of S. Con. Res. 29, a concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ″Buzz″ Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society, in order that the legislation may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

DANIEL E. LUNGREN,
Chairman.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda to award Congressional Gold Medals to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., for being pioneers of space exploration. The bill granting the medals was sponsored by former Representative Alan Grayson in the 110th Congress and was signed into law by President Obama on August 7, 2009.

It can be said that these four heroes are trailblazers, but their paths ensured they were not the last. They showed everyone that the impossible is possible and inspired generations to study, question, and explore the world beyond our own planet. For that, they have not only left a mark on history but on the will and determination of mankind.

As President John F. Kennedy noted in a speech to Congress on May 25, 1961, ''I believe that this Nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth.'' And so we did.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me today in supporting this concurrent resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. HALL. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29, authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda to present the Congressional Gold Medal to the crew of *Apollo 11*—Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Mike Collins—and to the first American to orbit the Earth, John H. Glenn.

These great Americans need no introduction. Yet no matter their heroic accomplishments, it is well worth remembering the huge risks each of these individuals confronted as they began to push the boundaries of human exploration in outer space.

While the technologies they relied on to conduct their flights were considered cutting edge during their day, many of these systems had never been fully tested except during the actual first flights performed by these men.

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn rode to orbit atop an Atlas rocket that had been adapted from a military design to carry the Mercury capsule *Friendship 7* to orbit. His flight lasted nearly 5 hours before returning safely to Earth. Seven years and 5 months later, *Apollo 11* astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and Mike Collins were launched. After a 4-day flight, Neil and Buzz landed on the Moon, becoming the first humans to walk on its surface.

I was honored to chair a hearing just 2 weeks ago that included Neil Armstrong and fellow *Apollo* astronaut Gene Cernan, the last American man to walk on the Moon, as witnesses. Mr. Armstrong prefaced the hearing with a very dramatic video that included footage of his descent inside the *Eagle* lunar module to its landing.

□ 1700

Many of you, I'm sure, have seen this footage, but to hear Neil Armstrong offer a live narration as the *Eagle* descends and settles on the Moon's surface is something I'll never forget.

I also want to recognize my good friend Buzz Aldrin, whom I've come to know over the years. Buzz has never failed to counsel me on all things related to space and NASA, and I appreciate his commitment to our country and to our space program.

Mr. Speaker, the last Congress passed legislation, signed by the President, authorizing the Congressional Gold Medal for these brave astronauts. The legislation before us today, S. Con. Res. 29, authorizes the use of the Capitol rotunda on November 16, some 43 days hence, to formally make the award.

I support the resolution and urge all Members to support it as well.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi, my friend.

I urge all Members to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman LUNGREN and Ranking Member BRADY for their support on this matter.

I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 29, which would authorize the use of the Capitol rotunda for an event on November 16, 2011 to present Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award that this nation can bestow

on an individual. I would like to call to your attention in particular the deeds of one of those outstanding individuals, ''Buzz'' Aldrin.

Buzz Aldrin was born at Mountainside Hospital in New Jersey in 1930. He graduated from Montclair High School in 1946, turning down a scholarship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in favor of the chance to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated third in his class in 1951. I am proud to represent Montclair, and I am sure that the citizens of my Eighth District would agree that Buzz Aldrin is one of our most distinguished natives.

After graduating from West Point, Aldrin received his commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. He flew 66 combat missions during the Korean War, and shot down two enemy fighters during his distinguished service there. Following the war, Aldrin served as an instructor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and later earned his Doctor of Science Degree from MIT. In 1963, he was selected to become a NASA astronaut.

On July 20th, 1969, Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon as a member of the crew of NASA's *Apollo 11* mission. He was the second human being ever on the moon, following his crewmate Neil Armstrong. He is the first astronaut to both spacewalk and set foot on the moon.

Since his retirement from active duty in 1972 after 21 years of service, Col. Aldrin continues to advocate for space travel, appearing repeatedly on television, in print, and in person around the country. He has helped NASA to develop new training techniques, and has proposed innovative new ideas for manned missions to the planet Mars and its moons. As an author, he has published two science-fiction novels, two autobiographies, and several children's books.

Col. Aldrin has been honored with countless awards and distinctions for his service with the U.S. Air Force, with NASA, and to the country. These awards include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the NASA Exceptional Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Buzz Aldrin also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2007. It is fitting that he now be bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of brave heroes such as Buzz Aldrin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the citizens of New Jersey's Eighth District, and me in recognizing Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr. and his colleagues for their outstanding service to this nation in the name of science, education, and discovery.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 29 authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society. Their hard work and perseverance exemplify the work ethic we stand for as a nation, and I can think of no place better than the rotunda to honor their leadership and sacrifice in service to this country.

The rotunda of the United States Capitol offers the perfect venue to show the necessary respect to three men who risked their lives to change the course of history in the name of the United States of America. In the tension of the Cold War, when it seemed the existence of the free world had been brought into question, these three men stepped directly into harm's way in service to their country. A ceremony in the rotunda will evoke the honor and respect that we owe to these three brave men, and I offer my full support for the use of this space.

The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by Congress for outstanding deeds or acts of service to the security, prosperity, and national interest of the United States. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award, and these men are deserving recipients.

The importance of this event is particularly relevant to the 18th district of Texas given the city of Houston's role in the Apollo legacy. Not long after President Kennedy set our nation on the course of putting a man on the moon, Houston became a key player in the realization of that goal. Before uttering his famous phrase, Neil Armstrong, communicated with Johnson Space Center's Mission Control Center from the surface of the moon, stating ''Houston, the *Eagle* has landed.'' The historic lunar landing remains a cornerstone of the American legacy, and at a time when the very existence of NASA sits in question, it is especially important that we deliver a ceremony that will propel the memory of NASA pioneers into future generations.

Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr. were called to service by their country, in a time when two great nations challenged each other and boldly raced into space. In the bleak years of the Cold War, we conquered a new frontier, and in turn understood things about the universe we never thought possible. These men played an important role in American history that will benefit generations to come, and are well deserving of this honor.

It is in a spirit of deep appreciation that I am pleased to join my colleagues in supporting S. Con. Res 29, authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 29.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS IMPLEMENTING UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–58)

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, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration's efforts to spur economic growth, increase exports, and create jobs in the United States, while promoting our core values. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers by opening the Colombian market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

The Agreement also represents a historic development in our relations with Colombia. Colombia is a steadfast strategic partner of the United States and a leader in the region. The Agreement reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting democracy and economic growth in Colombia. It will also help Colombia battle production of illegal crops by creating alternative economic opportunities.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on over 80 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports will be eliminated immediately. United States agricultural exports in particular will enjoy substantial new improvements in access to Colombia's market. Currently, no U.S. agricultural exports enjoy duty-free access to Colombia. Once the Agreement enters into force, almost 70 percent, by value, of current U.S. agricultural exports will be able to enter Colombia duty-free immediately. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers greater access to Colombia's $134 billion services market. This will help to level the playing field, since 91 percent of our imports from Colombia have enjoyed duty-free access to our market under U.S. trade preference programs.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance. Colombia has already made significant reforms related to the obligations it

will have under the labor chapter. A number of these steps have been taken in fulfillment of the commitments Colombia made in the agreed Action Plan Related to Labor Rights that President Santos and I announced on April 7. Colombia must successfully implement key elements of the Action Plan before I will bring the Agreement into force.

This Agreement forms an integral part of my Administration's larger strategy of doubling exports by the end of 2014 through opening markets around the world. In addition, the Agreement provides an opportunity to strengthen our economic and political ties with the Andean region, and underpins U.S. support for democracy while contributing to further hemispheric integration and economic growth in the United States. This Agreement is vital to ensuring Colombia continues on its trajectory of positive change.

As a part of an ambitious trade agenda, it is important that the Congress renew a strong and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program consistent with reforms enacted in 2009. Renewal of that program is necessary to support Americans who need training and other services when their jobs are adversely affected by trade. As we expand access to other markets abroad, we need to ensure that American workers are provided the tools needed to take advantage of these opportunities and are not left behind in the global economy.

Approval of the Agreement is therefore in our national interest. I urge the Congress to enact this legislation promptly.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS IMPLEMENTING UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–59)

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, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration's efforts to spur economic growth, increase exports, and create jobs here in the United States, while promoting our core values. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, investors, and businesses by opening Panama's market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

The Agreement also represents an important development in our relations with Panama, and accords with the goal, as expressed by the Congress in the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, to conclude comprehensive, mutually advantageous trade agreements with beneficiary countries of the Caribbean Basin Initiative trade preference program. The Agreement further reflects a commitment on the part of the United States to sustained engagement in support of democracy, economic growth, and opportunity in Panama and the region.

Panama is one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America. Upon entry into force of the Agreement, Panama will immediately eliminate its tariffs on over 87 percent of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial goods and on more than half of U.S. exports of agricultural goods. Panama will eliminate most other duties on U.S. exports within a 15–year transition period. Eighty-five percent of U.S. businesses exporting to Panama are small and medium-sized enterprises. The elimination of duties provided for in the Agreement will help to level the playing field for them and for all U.S. exporters, based on 2010 trade flows, as approximately 98 percent of our imports from Panama already enjoy duty-free access to the U.S. market. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers greater access to Panama's $20.6 billion services market.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance. Panama has already made significant reforms related to the obligations it will have under the labor chapter.

As a part of an ambitious trade agenda, it is important that the Congress renew a strong and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program consistent with reforms enacted in 2009. Renewal of that program is necessary to support Americans who need training and other services when their jobs are adversely affected by trade. As we expand access to other markets abroad, we need to ensure that American workers are provided the tools needed to take advantage of these opportunities and are not left behind in the global economy.

Approval of the Agreement is in our national interest. The Agreement will strengthen our economic and political ties with Panama, support democracy, and contribute to further economic integration in our hemisphere and economic growth in the United States. I urge the Congress to enact this legislation promptly.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

□ 1710

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS IMPLEMENTING UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–60)

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, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (Agreement), a landmark agreement that supports American jobs, advances U.S. interests, and reflects America's fundamental values.

The Agreement levels the playing field for U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, investors, and service providers by offering them unprecedented access to Korea's nearly $1 trillion economy. The Agreement eliminates tariffs on over 95 percent of U.S. exports of industrial and consumer goods to Korea within the first 5 years and, together with the agreement entered into through an exchange of letters in February 2011, addresses key outstanding concerns of American automakers and workers regarding the lack of a level playing field in Korea's auto market. The Agreement also ensures that almost two-thirds of current U.S. agricultural exports will enter Korea duty-free immediately. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers much greater access to Korea's $580 billion services market.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance.

Increased U.S. exports expected under the Agreement will support more than 70,000 American jobs. The Agreement will bolster our economic competitiveness in the Asia-Pacific region and our regional security interests. The United States once was the top supplier of goods exported to Korea. Over the past decade, our share of Korea's import market for goods has fallen from 21 percent to just 10 percent—behind China and Japan, and barely ahead of the European Union (EU). The EU and several other trading partners are negotiating or have recently concluded trade agreements with Korea. If the United States-Korea trade agreement is not approved, the United States could lose further market share,

export-supported jobs, and economic growth opportunities, with damage to our leadership position in the region.

As a part of an ambitious trade agenda, it is important that the Congress renew a strong and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program consistent with reforms enacted in 2009. Renewal of that program is necessary to support Americans who need training and other services when their jobs are adversely affected by trade. As we expand access to other markets abroad, we need to ensure that American workers are provided the tools needed to take advantage of these opportunities and are not left behind in the global economy.

Approving and implementing the Agreement is an opportunity to shape history. We must seize the moment together to support jobs for the American people today and to sustain U.S. leadership well into the 21st century. I urge the Congress to enact this legislation promptly.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–61)

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, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

By separate message, I have transmitted to the Congress a bill to approve and implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement. In that message, I highlighted new commitments that my Administration, in close coordination with the Congress, successfully negotiated to provide additional market access and a level playing field for American auto manufacturers and workers exporting to Korea.

Herewith I am transmitting the letters exchanged between the United States and Korea that contain those commitments, which further enhance the most commercially significant trade agreement the United States has concluded in more than 17 years. The documents I have transmitted in these two messages constitute the entire United States-Korea trade agreement package.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A FURTHER CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2608

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 83

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2608) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following further correction:

Amend section 124 to read as follows:

''SEC. 124. Section 8909a(d)(3)(A)(v) of title 5, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for the date specified in such section 8909a(d)(3)(A)(v).''.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2832, TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–230) on the resolution (H. Res. 418) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2681, CEMENT SECTOR REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2011; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2250, EPA REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2011

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–231) on the resolution (H. Res. 419) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2681) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for cement manufacturing facilities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 686, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 765, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 670, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

UTAH NATIONAL GUARD READINESS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 686) to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 742]

YEAS—400

Ackerman	Berman	Bucshon
Adams	Biggert	Buerkle
Aderholt	Bilbray	Burgess
Alexander	Bilirakis	Burton (IN)
Altmire	Bishop (GA)	Butterfield
Amash	Bishop (NY)	Calvert
Amodei	Bishop (UT)	Camp
Andrews	Black	Canseco
Austria	Blackburn	Cantor
Baca	Blumenauer	Capito
Bachus	Bonner	Capps
Baldwin	Bono Mack	Capuano
Barletta	Boren	Cardoza
Barrow	Boswell	Carnahan
Bartlett	Boustany	Carney
Barton (TX)	Brady (PA)	Carson (IN)
Bass (CA)	Brady (TX)	Cassidy
Bass (NH)	Braley (IA)	Castor (FL)
Becerra	Brooks	Chabot
Benishek	Broun (GA)	Chaffetz
Berg	Brown (FL)	Chandler
Berkley	Buchanan	Chu

Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—33

Akin
Bachmann
Campbell
Carter
Costello
Crenshaw
Engel
Filner
Giffords
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Johnson, E. B.
Kingston
Lummis
Moran
Olver
Paul
Polis
Rahall
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schmidt
Shuler
Speier
Towns
Welch
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

□ 1855

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 742, I was away from the Capitol due to a prior commitment to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SKI AREA RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 765) to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 743]

YEAS—394

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson

Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—39

Akin
Bachmann
Campbell
Carter
Costello
Crenshaw
Engel
Filner
Giffords
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kingston
Lummis
Markey
Miller (NC)
Moran
Olver
Paul
Peterson
Polis
Rahall
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schmidt
Shuler
Speier
Towns
Velázquez
Welch
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 743, I was away from the Capitol due to a prior commitment to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONVEYING SUBMERGED LANDS TO NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 670) to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 744]

YEAS—397

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—36

Akin
Bachmann
Campbell
Carter
Costello
Crenshaw
Davis (IL)
Engel
Filner
Giffords
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Johnson, E. B.
Kingston
Lummis
Moran
Olver
Paul
Polis
Price (GA)
Rahall
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schmidt
Shuler
Simpson
Speier
Towns
Welch
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1910

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 744, I was away from the Capitol due to a prior commitment to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 742, 743, and 744, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House Chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 742, 743 and 744.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed the votes on October 3, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 742, H.R. 686; rollcall No. 743, H.R. 765; and rollcall No. 744, H.R. 670.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A further message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

MOTHER OF ALL TERRORISTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Palestinian Authority has a new face for its movement for statehood. It's Latifa Hmeid. Palestinians praise her as the ''mother of seven prisoners'' and the mother of a person called ''Martyr.''

These sons of hers are in prison for crimes against humanity. Rather than mother of the year, it turns out she is really mother of all terrorists. One of her sons, the Martyr, was a member of the military wing of Hamas, who planned and conducted the ambush and murder of an Israeli intelligence officer. Her other sons are serving a total of—get this—18 life sentences in prison. They have committed crimes, including attempted murders, the murder of seven Israeli citizens, and the involvement in numerous terrorist attacks.

This is the person the Palestinians have leading the movement for statehood at the United Nations. Having Mother Terrorist as the representative for Palestinian statehood shows an obvious hatred and bigotry against Jews, the State of Israel, and the notion of peace. The Palestinians need to quit murdering in the name of religion and start honest bilateral negotiations with Israel in the name of peace. The U.N. should not unilaterally allow Palestinian statehood. Terrorists don't deserve a seat at the table.

And that's just the way it is.

LEMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lemont Fire Department as it celebrates 125 years of service.

In 1886, the town fathers of Lemont adopted an ordinance that created a volunteer fire department that consisted of 22 volunteers split into two companies: the hose company and the hook and ladder company. Since then, the Lemont Fire Department has grown from a handful of volunteers to a force of 85 fire, EMT, administrative, and support personnel. Every day, they protect the towns of Lemont, Darien, Bolingbrook, Homer Glen, and portions of Woodridge, Illinois—an area that is roughly 40 square miles.

In the early years of the Lemont Fire Department, the volunteers had to drag their firefighting equipment to the fires and brave nearly insurmountable odds to save their neighbors. The bravery that inspired those men to save their neighbors is a trait that has come to define the Lemont Fire Department and the men and women who serve in it.

Mr. Speaker, the Lemont Fire Department has worked very hard to become a pillar of service in my congressional district. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating them for 125 years of distinguished service.

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about the importance of juvenile diabetes research.

Approximately 3 million Americans suffer from type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes. More than 30,000 new people are diagnosed annually, including 15,000 children. These individuals must take insulin daily to stay alive and must undergo multiple injections or have insulin delivered through a pump.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation is a leader in type 1 diabetes research worldwide. The goals of juvenile diabetes research are straightforward: to cure type 1 diabetes, to develop better ways to treat type 1 diabetes, and to prevent type 1 diabetes from occurring in those most susceptible. This research means taking scientific developments and translating them into cures, treatments, drugs, and therapies.

Mr. Speaker, by keeping our taxpayer investment in juvenile diabetes research, one day soon we will find a cure.

RECOGNIZING BOB SCHOENFELDT FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED CAREER

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great friend and colleague, Bob Schoenfeldt, for his long and distinguished career in the field of agriculture.

After more than 34 years of service, Bob will be retiring this year from USDA, where he served as the area director for rural development in northwestern Pennsylvania, which is home to a diverse array of the Commonwealth's agriculture industry.

Bob has been at the forefront of ensuring agriculture continues to play a key role throughout Pennsylvania, especially through rural economic development. He has been a committed advocate for Pennsylvania's agriculture and family farmers across our State.

Like new shoes or hunting boots, I'm sure Bob's retirement will at first be stiff and uncomfortable for a little while; but after such a long, distinguished and committed career, it's about time he put those feet up and relaxed for once.

Thank you, Bob, for your commitment to our State, the Nation, and the agriculture community. Congratulations on such an esteemed career. We wish you happiness and the best of luck in future endeavors.

NEW UNION AND NONUNION JOBS TO BE CREATED

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for many reasons.

First and foremost, the American worker is going to have an opportunity, I believe, to gain access to new markets in Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Union and nonunion jobs are going to be created.

Another reason it's a great day is that, in just a few minutes, led by the distinguished chair of the Trade Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, my friend from Houston (Mr. BRADY), who has been such a great champion of trade, is going to talk about the tremendous benefits that we're going to see. I see that he's going to be joined at least by Mr. CANSECO, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SMITH, Mr. DAVIS, Dr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. GRIFFIN, Mr. DOLD, maybe Ms. JENKINS, and maybe even Angela Ellard for all I know, but lots of other people. Oh, my gosh. Who else have we got? TOM REED, of course, is in the back of the Chamber, and he's going to be a part of this.

Mr. Speaker, we are coming together in a bipartisan way. The President has just hours ago set up these agreements so that, again, union and nonunion workers are going to have a chance to have more jobs created as we open up these markets.

I wish all of my colleagues were going to participate in this. Godspeed, and thank you, thank you, thank you for coming together for the American people.

□ 1920

INSULTING AND DEMEANING COMMENT BY MR. HERMAN CAIN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, all of us value constructive conversation and dialogue. In fact, I believe the Republican debates that have been occurring are valuable and insightful for the American people. I have no quarrel with the First Amendment and one's right to speak as one desires.

But I take issue with Mr. Herman Cain's very insulting and demeaning

comment on a whole body politic of people, African Americans, when asked the questions why they have made choices, political choices as they have made, and he chose to suggest that African Americans are brainwashed.

I take issue, Mr. Cain, with your very unfortunate choice of words, because if you look chronologically and historically at African Americans, they voted Republican; they voted Democrat. They were in love with the idea of President Lincoln, who, of course, is known to have freed the slaves, and voted for Republicans for a number of years.

Democrats and African Americans both vote their interests, their interest in saving Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, their interest and investment in this Nation and relief from the burdensome taxes by the Bush administration.

So, Mr. Cain, get your facts right. We're not brainwashed, and I am absolutely insulted by your ludicrous insinuation of African American intellect in choosing their political party.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as you know, our economy is in a tough situation here. Two-and-a-half years after recovery has supposedly started, we have almost 20 million Americans unable find a full-time job; yet we have companies, ranchers, businesses, technologies, small business anxious to sell their products around the world. But this administration, unfortunately, has not moved the free trade agreements that would allow us not simply to buy American, but to sell American in every corner of this globe.

I am pleased to announce that today, nearly 5 years after America signed a sales agreement, a trade agreement with Colombia, that the White House has submitted agreements, these agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, to the United States Congress and the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. We are going to move quickly and deliberately and strongly to pass these trade agreements so we can level the playing field and allow our farmers and companies and manufacturers and workers to compete and win around the world on that level playing field.

Tonight, we have a number of distinguished lawmakers who have focused on finding new customers for our companies and our farmers here at home.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Trade Subcommittee.

Ms. JENKINS. I would like to thank the honorable chairman from Texas for his leadership on the issue of trade and for yielding.

In today's global economy, it's essential that we make every reasonable effort to open foreign markets to American products. Yet today, as our country is struggling with a lackluster GDP and stagnant job creation, grocery stores in South Korea are signing long-term agreements with beef producers from Europe, not America.

Why European, not American? Well, the reason is simple. While this administration has dragged its feet in the approval process of our own agreement, the European Union was able to enact their agreement with South Korea before the United States could take up our own. Therefore, the South Koreans are able to purchase European goods—most notably, agriculture products—at a much lower rate and prices because, unlike American goods and commodities, they do not have costly tariffs attached to them. The same is true with American goods and agriculture products in Colombia and Panama.

In the first 2 weeks after the EU-South Korea agreement was passed, European exports to South Korea rose by 16 percent. We are losing market share and American businesses are losing their competitive edge all as a result of Washington's inability to pass these essential agreements that supposedly have bipartisan support.

In fact, since Canada signed their free trade agreement with Colombia, the U.S. has lost nearly 30 percent of our market share in wheat exports to Colombia. Losing 30 percent of our market share in a key commodity like wheat has a tremendous impact on a small State like Kansas.

When it comes down to it, this isn't about ideologies. This is about American jobs. President Obama has said it himself, these agreements can create 250,000 American jobs, and yet he has sat on them for nearly 3 years. These agreements have the ability to immediately create thousands of jobs, open new markets for farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, and play a pivotal role in growing our economy out of this stagnancy.

I would like to thank the President for ending his stall tactics and finally sending these agreements to us today, and I implore my colleagues in Congress to work with us to swiftly pass these vital trade agreements. Let's have beef producers from Kansas or even Texas, Mr. Chairman, signing long-term deals with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, not Europe or Canada.

Let's finally back up this rhetoric with action. Let's get Americans back to work.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the gentlelady from Kansas for making the point that agriculture has paid a steep price as a result of the delays of these agreements, yet with the potential of signing these agreements has the ability to sell, win, and compete in these three important, growing, dynamic markets.

At this point, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS), one of the key members of the Trade Subcommittee, with a manufacturing background, who understands the need for America to lead in the global marketplace.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Thank you, Chairman BRADY. I appreciate you organizing a Special Order tonight dealing with these critical free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

I am encouraged that the President sent the agreement to the Hill earlier here today, and we are here to lend support to the President for these agreements and to encourage him to implement them as soon as they pass the House and Senate.

Passage of these trade agreements is long overdue and critical not just for our national economy, but also for our national security.

Through the Colombian agreement, we signal our dedication with a strategic and faithful ally. During my service in the U.S. Army, I ran U.S. Army aviation operations for the multinational force and observers in the Sinai, providing direct support and serving jointly with the Colombian military in the Middle East. In fact, they continue to serve in that same role. They are also serving in Haiti, Sierra Leone, and training militaries and police in counternarcotics and counterinsurgency measures across the globe.

U.S. leadership in our hemisphere is under threat from competitors, and the administration's inattention to Latin America is a real challenge that we are facing now. But the Colombia agreement signals our reengagement, which is critical to both our economic and our security future. U.S. exporters' share of Colombian imports fell 17 percent between 2001 and 2009, while Chinese exporter shares nearly tripled.

The trade agreement with Colombia will advance our national security interests by providing Colombians with alternatives to the drug trade. Colombia is a robust democracy with strong ties to the United States in a region that includes several increasingly anti-American governments, especially Venezuela. We must strengthen these ties and pacify any concerns about America's reliability as a partner by ratifying this trade agreement.

Similarly, implementing the Panama trade agreement will further mark our reengagement with the region, while countering anti-Americanism and China's increasing economic prominence.

The U.S. is the largest user of the Panama Canal and works closely with the Panamanian Government to ensure the safety of the canal itself. Panama is currently expanding the canal to double its capacity by allowing more and larger ships to transit. This expansion will increase the imports and exports to and from the United States

while creating the need for further cooperation between our two countries to enhance regional maritime and port security.

South Korea also serves as a critical U.S. ally, both diplomatically and militarily. Our alliance with the Republic of Korea has grown even closer since the March 2010 sinking of a South Korean naval vessel by a North Korean submarine. Currently, the U.S. maintains about 28,000 troops in the Republic of Korea, and our militaries regularly conduct joint exercises.

Our geostrategic relationship with South Korea is important not only to counteract the threat from North Korea, but also in dealing with China's military ambitions and security in the Pacific Rim.

With elections for South Korea's National Assembly and Presidency scheduled for 2012, it's critical to strengthen this vital relationship. Ratifying the South Korea trade agreement will demonstrate our commitment to this important partner and help to act as a counterweight to Chinese influence.

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Furthermore, entering into an FTA with South Korea will help reorient the alliance between our great nations to adapt to the changes on the Korean Peninsula and in East Asia. Continuing to delay ratification of the trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea could seriously harm American credibility, economic advantages for our country's exporters, and our position of global leadership.

I urge the President to implement the agreements immediately after they clear Congress for the betterment of our national economic health and our military and diplomatic partnerships.

Thank you again, Chairman BRADY, for holding this important discussion tonight on the House floor.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. DAVIS, thank you for your leadership and for making the point tonight that these agreements, as important as they are for jobs and new customers, they are also important to enhance our security relationships in the growing Asia Pacific region, and in Latin America as well. Thank you for your leadership.

Now I would like to introduce the chairman of the Korean Trade Agreement Working Group. He is a key member of the Ways and Means Committee, and comes from a region that understands exports and imports create jobs in America. I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank you for all of your hard work and your leadership in this area. I'm a newcomer to the world of trade, and a fairly newcomer to Congress, having been here for 6 years.

I want to talk a little bit about the frustration that I think a lot of us here in the House have been experiencing, and I think a lot of people, Mr. Speaker, across this country are feeling, and that is a lot of frustration, a lot of anger at this Congress, the fact that we can't work together. But the good news is that today, we're going to have that opportunity. The President has finally decided to send those trade agreements that we've all been waiting for for the past 4 years to Congress so that we can have a vote on the South Korean agreement, the Colombia agreement, and the Panama agreement. And these are all important. Why? Because they create jobs. We know they create jobs.

In Washington State alone, one out of every three jobs is connected to trade—one out of every three jobs. South Korea is Washington's fourth-largest trading partner. It's important for the people of Washington State to have this partnership with Korea, with Colombia, and with Panama. Right now, we are falling behind. The European Union, as I think was mentioned earlier, signed their agreement and it became final on July 1 of this year. Since July 1, the European Union has increased their exports to Korea by 17 percent. We are losing market share. We are losing jobs. We must act now.

The estimated jobs that we are losing is almost 350,000 jobs as we sit here and wait. Ninety-five percent of our market is outside of the United States. Ninety-five percent of our market is outside the United States. We want to sell American. Sell American; that's our goal. Yeah, we want to buy American here in the United States. We all want to do that, but we want to sell American.

We can create 280,000 jobs by passing these agreements, and I think this is a time when Members of this Congress, both sides of the aisle, and including those divisions within the parties, need to come together. If you want to create jobs and you want to be a leader in this global economy, if you want to encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, the time is now. It's time to come together and pass these agreements by a wide bipartisan majority, show the American people that we are here to lead, show the rest of the world that we are here to lead. And we are here to compete because America has the best products, the best workers, and the best imagination in the world.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Washington making the point that Korea is such an important growing market in the Asia Pacific region. If America hopes to continue economic growth and to have the strongest economy in the world, we must engage in that region of the world, and the free trade agreement working group that Mr. REICHERT heads here in the House is critical to that.

I would now like to introduce the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. CHARLES BOUSTANY, a valuable member of the Ways and Means Committee, who is so strong on trade, and comes from a State that understands trade means jobs, and I yield to Dr. BOUSTANY.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the chairman for leading this effort tonight, and all of your leadership on trade issues as we go forward.

Expanding export markets for American farmers, manufacturers, and service providers is essential if we're going to have a strong American economy with private sector job creation. The United States has not acted aggressively enough to open markets over the past 3 years under the Obama administration. And now we're falling behind as other nations gain market share.

America has had a strong comparative advantage in agriculture production historically. In fact, in my home State of Louisiana, the number one export is agricultural commodities. Louisiana ranks fourth among the 50 States in exports. Over 500,000 jobs in my small State, a small State with a little over 4 million people, 500,000 jobs in Louisiana are supported directly by trade. Our rural communities in my State are supported by the strength of agricultural production and access to open markets. The local dentist's office, the local school, the small gas stations, all these things depend on the strength of agricultural production, not only in Louisiana but across our country. We need open markets for agricultural products if we're going to sustain these rural communities and economic development.

The trade promotion agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea amount to over $13 billion annually in new market access. The failure to implement these agreements has caused significant loss of market share. Louisiana, for instance, is the third-largest rice producer in the Nation. Louisiana and U.S. rice exporters face prohibitive tariffs currently in Colombia and Panama. These agreements would phase out these tariffs, creating huge opportunities for Louisiana farmers and millers. Over one-third of Louisiana exports to South Korea would see immediate duty relief and elimination, a significant advantage for Louisiana businesses.

The administration's failure to send these agreements over the past 3 years has had significant adverse consequences. In fact, on January 1, 2009, Colombia's trade agreement with Argentina went into effect, giving Argentina's farmers a competitive advantage over U.S. farmers. In fact, America's market share in the Colombian market for corn, wheat, and soybeans plunged from 71 percent in 2008 down to 27 percent through the first 10 months of 2010, a 44 percent drop in market share, precipitously, that was nearly matched by Argentina's gain. And that's just one example of the consequences of the failure to act on this—lost market share and job loss. We must immediately implement these agreements to promptly avoid further loss.

Mr. Speaker, American competitiveness, American credibility, and American leverage with our economic competitors is at stake. Passing these

agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea is only a start. America needs to move beyond that. We need a well thought out trade strategy that will allow American farmers, businesses, and workers to compete and prosper. An American trade strategy is a critical instrument of American foreign policy because our economic strength is the foundation of both our soft power and our hard power. An American trade strategy is essential for American leadership in the 21st century.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana making the key point of how America is falling behind and how it's hurting our local economies, our local ranchers, our local service technologies, and our local ports as well.

I would like to yield to a gentleman from California, the former chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, who comes from a State and a district that is rich in the institutions of ranching and technology companies that export successfully around the world. I would like to yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. I thank the gentleman from Texas very much, and I want to thank the gentleman for the tremendous leadership that you've given us in the area of trade, trade which is so crucially important to our Nation, to our ability to create jobs, to our economic well-being here in our Nation.

As Chairman BRADY mentioned, I am very blessed to represent one of the richest agricultural areas in the world, an area in the northern Sacramento valley of California just north of Sacramento. In our area, we are the second-largest rice producing district in the Nation. We're also one of the top producers of specialty crops: peaches, walnuts, almonds, dried plums, and prunes are some of our major commodities.

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And the fact is that we cannot, both in California and in our Nation, nearly consume the amount of products that we grow. We are dependent on being able to export. But our challenge—and the example I'm giving with my district is really true in every area across our Nation; it's true in manufacturing and it's true in everything we do—is that as one of the top trading nations in the world historically, the United States, we are dependent on being able to trade. Ninety-five percent of the world's markets lie outside of the United States.

Now, what are the challenges that we have, and why are these trade agreements, these three trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and South Korea, so very important to not only my area of California but to the entire Nation? The reason is that we have challenges in getting into other countries' markets. We have very little, very low barriers coming into our markets.

Other countries can trade with us almost barrier-free, but that is not the case with our products going to other countries. Other countries—virtually all of them—are very protective. They have very high tariffs. So therefore what is taking place when we sit down with these nations and bargain and come up with these trade agreements is an opportunity of lowering their barriers so that the district in my area where we can be able to export to them rice, peaches, walnuts, almonds, dairy products, and, again, our manufacturing goods, without these high barriers and be able to get access to those markets. So it's very important that we do this.

What happens when we don't move forward? Well, we can see it. I was in Panama just this last year. Panama now is doubling the size of the Panama Canal. They're going to need construction equipment. Now, where are they going to purchase this construction equipment? Well, they could be purchasing it from the United States. But guess what? Canada was successful in negotiating a trade agreement with Panama before we've had ours signed. Therefore, they have lower rates, lower barriers on getting their equipment into Panama. So Panama there has had a big advantage of buying from Canada, sales that would have come from the United States.

We can use these same examples with Colombia, the same example with South Korea who has negotiated with the EU, a major trading competitor with us. Therefore, we lose out in jobs, and we lose out in this market share. It is really a lose/lose for the United States.

I want to commend the President. We wish he would have sent these three agreements to us sooner. I'm grateful that he's sending them to us now. It's very important that we pass it. What we have seen is that the nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission has estimated that by signing these three trade agreements we can increase 250,000 new jobs to the United States—250,000 new jobs. That's without any stimulus, without any taxpayer money going into it. It is jobs for people who are unemployed today that can be employed, and it will increase at least $13 billion in trade.

So I want to urge our Congress, I want to urge the House and I want to urge the Senate to vote for these, pass it, let's get going on these trades. Again, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your leadership.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, Chairman HERGER, thank you for your leadership in trade throughout the years. I know especially in California, but for all the country, trade means jobs. These new customers mean jobs. The longer we delay, the more other countries step in front of us and take our customers and, unfortunately, take our jobs. So thank you for your leadership.

One of the bright new members of the Ways and Means Committee is a gentleman from Nebraska. He comes from a State that understands agriculture. He understands you can't survive just by selling to America. There are so many customers around the world that need to buy American products in agriculture that it's key to survival and it's key to job creation.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to be here, and certainly I appreciate my colleague from California talking about agriculture. And it certainly speaks to the diversity of American agriculture when he listed so many products, and I don't think a single one of those that you listed is actually grown in Nebraska, and obviously we produce a lot of agriculture products in Nebraska, and we know what it's like to even produce more than we consume in our State alone. California might be slightly different, but we know that we've got efficient production all across America.

So I want to take just a moment to discuss the impact and benefits of trade agreements to Nebraska and certainly the national economy. As our economy continues to struggle, we should obviously be exploring every avenue to create businesses and create new jobs. Markets around the world present tremendous opportunity because of their size, scope, and rate of growth. And we've heard a lot of numbers tossed around this evening, but we know that beyond the U.S. lies 73 percent of the world's purchasing power, 87 percent of its economic growth, and 95 percent of the world's consumers.

While the national economic impact of trade is very important, the increased marketing opportunity for Nebraska is obviously tremendous as well. For Nebraska, this means the three trade agreements will increase exports by more than $123 million per year. That's every year. Specifically for agriculture, the agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea would lead to gains for Nebraska's major agriculture commodities, including beef, pork, soybeans and corn.

New markets create opportunities for farmers and ranchers along with the food processors, agri-businesses, transportation workers, and all the sales and related professionals who support the agriculture sector.

I want to make sure Nebraska products and producers make the most of opportunities provided by international sales and to increase exports. There's been enough delay. We certainly know that. And our market share in Colombia has already declined because of inaction. The debate is no longer simply about generating potential export gains, but also how to prevent the loss of existing export markets.

Thank you again. I appreciate this opportunity.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Nebraska talking

about the lost opportunities of delayed trade and the job opportunities of passing these three agreements with South Korea, Colombia and Panama, all of whom are dynamic economies we ought to be competing in.

I'm glad at this moment to yield to a gentleman from Illinois, a State that understands the importance of competing and winning around the world and that does so successfully.

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. I want to thank the chairman for his leadership in trade, and certainly this is an important topic. Just last month, we were actually here in this Chamber when the President came down to talk about jobs and the economy. And there's no doubt it is the number one issue that faces our country today regardless of what side of the aisle you sit on.

The President got up and talked about his jobs package; and as opposed to saying, no, we don't want the jobs package, what I said and what a number of colleagues that I know have talked about is what are the areas that we agree upon. And let's focus on those and try to pass those because the American public is demanding that of us.

Certainly at the top of that list are the free-trade agreements. And when we talk about the free-trade agreements, it's trade promotion where we're actually setting the ground rules with foreign countries, where the United States can actually compete on a level playing field. And if we can complete on a level playing field, the American worker can win.

In the 10th Congressional District of Illinois, we've got 650 manufacturers that represent over 80,000 jobs. Of those 80,000 jobs, over 50,000 of those jobs rely upon exports. You've heard the statistics from some of my colleagues here today talking about 73 percent of the world's purchasing power is outside of the United States, and 95 percent of all consumers are outside of the United States.

Just this last week, I had a manufacturers' roundtable where part of the topic of discussion was demand. Well, if we want to increase demand, I would certainly argue that we need to be able to have access to markets outside of the United States. Just South Korea alone would add $10 billion on to our GDP. For each additional billion dollars of exports, we create 6,250 jobs in America. That is a jobs plan. We can create additional jobs.

In Illinois, we've lost 750,000 manufacturing jobs over the last decade; and, frankly, we need to turn that tide around. We know in order to be competitive in the United States, the world is not going to sit back and wait for us. The EU has signed its free-trade agreement with South Korea, with Colombia and with Canada, and you've heard from others that the world is not going to wait. We're losing market share as we speak each and every day that we don't act. We must move forward. It represents a significant amount to our GDP. And we all know that if we don't act now, we're going to lose jobs. It must be putting jobs first and foremost that's going to allow us to move forward for our country.

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So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up and embrace what the President has given to us. And I certainly appreciate the President sending us the free trade agreements. We told him we would act quickly. He sent them to us today, and today we're talking about them on the floor. We're going to act, and act swiftly, for the American people and for jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you so much for your leadership on this very important issue. It's about jobs and the economy and putting American workers back to work.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Illinois, who comes from a State that understands trade means jobs. And I appreciate his leadership and effort in this area.

Minnesota is also a State that is growing and recovering from this economy because it knows how to sell American throughout the world, especially in medical technology and a number of other key sectors.

I'm glad to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I also thank you for your leadership on the Trade Subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt with our economy struggling Washington should be doing everything it can to give our job creators the economic certainty that they need and they lack right now, including meaningful tax reform and alleviating government regulations. But the future of growth right now doesn't only lie in a more efficient bureaucracy or lower taxes, it also lies in giving greater export opportunities to emerging markets that are hungry—hungry for American products and our ideas.

The simple truth is that increased trade, new sales and new customers are a proven way to create jobs. These three pending free trade agreements with Panama, South Korea, and Colombia will level the playing field for American businesses, aid in our economic recovery, and allow the United States to compete and win. And with so much concern about skyrocketing deficits, increased free trade is a no-cost way to help the private sector create jobs.

In my home State of Minnesota, 60,000 jobs are dependent on global trade. Now surprisingly, it's not just our fertile soil in the ag community or the iron ore deposits up north that are creating most of these jobs. Ironically, over 90 percent of Minnesota's trade-supported jobs come from the manufacturing sector. That's a true testament to the quality of Minnesota-made products and the workers who produce them.

Now, by passing these three free trade agreements, we will reduce the barriers in three countries, allowing 60,000 Minnesotans—and now others—the opportunity to find new sales and new customers for their products, giving the companies who employ them the opportunity to expand and start hiring again.

Now, this is about doubling exports, as the President has stated is his goal. Our Governor just led a trade delegation, actually, to South Korea with 24 different businesses. And in Minnesota, it's not just about agriculture. As the chairman just mentioned a second ago, I come from a State that has 400 medical device companies. It's these high-valued manufacturing opportunities that are huge opportunities for free trade and increased sales and customers.

So Mr. Speaker, today is a good day. The White House has formally submitted these trade agreements now. The Ways and Means Committee is going to act swiftly. The House will act swiftly. Over the past couple of months, there's no doubt that Europe has gained an upper hand by passing their own agreements with Panama, South Korea, Colombia and other countries, and in doing so, we've been leapfrogged. And now this is our opportunity to get back on a solid footing. Every day of inaction that has gone by has been a day where we're falling behind and we're losing our competitive edge and putting American jobs at risk.

So Mr. Speaker, I am excited to work in a bipartisan fashion to see this come together in the coming weeks ahead and give our manufacturers a boost, give our exporters a boost, and get our economy back on track.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Minnesota quickly leaping into this issue, recognizing the jobs potential, and his hard work in moving these trade agreements forward.

We have another speaker from Illinois, a key trade State. JUDY BIGGERT, a Congresswoman from Illinois, has long been a leader in trade, helping shepherd through Congress some of the key trade pacts in the past that have turned trade deficits into trade surpluses for America. She continues to be a leader who understands if we tear down these barriers for American companies, American jobs are produced.

I am proud to yield to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank you so much for hosting this Special Order and all the work that you have done.

Given the extraordinary economic challenges that we face, I can't think of a better or more appropriate topic for Congress to be addressing here

today than trade. Let's face it, the pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea should have been enacted long ago. And only today, after years of delay, has the White House finally transmitted the agreement to Congress for ratification. As a result, we have been forced to wait while sales and jobs are lost to other countries that do not face the same trade barriers that U.S. exporters face. On many products, tariffs would have come down immediately upon enactment of these FTAs, giving a massive boost to our economy at a time when we need it more than ever.

In my home State of Illinois, I have visited with businesses like Hendrickson, Caterpillar, and Navistar, all major players holding their breath, ready to export millions of dollars of U.S.-made goods to new markets opened by these agreements. Right now in Illinois, a company like Caterpillar has to pay a $200,000 tariff for just one heavy-duty earth mover going into Colombia, while Colombian exports come into the U.S. nearly duty free. That is $200,000 that could instead stay in America with the free trade agreement and supply jobs in my district and nationwide. All told, these FTAs would support an estimated quarter-million American jobs and increase exports by $13 million.

Perhaps most importantly, these aren't temporary or low-wage jobs that will disappear when taxpayer-funded stimuluses run dry. In fact, these exported-related jobs pay an average of 15 to 17 percent more than other comparable jobs and don't cost taxpayers a dime. And the benefits aren't limited to manufacturing. U.S. exports in services and agricultural goods stand to increase by billions of dollars.

Passing these agreements is one of the most common-sense, low-cost and economically sound things that Congress, in the President's own words, ''could do right now'' to boost job growth. And yet only today, after years on the President's desk, has the administration finally sent them to Congress for approval.

Fortunately, the end is in sight. With the agreements now in motion, the House and Senate will at long last have an opportunity in the coming days to pass all three pending agreements. I urge my colleagues to support them.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentlelady from Illinois, both for her long leadership role in trade and her remarks tonight.

San Antonio and southTexas, these communities understand a strong economy depends on strong trade. They are fortunate to have a freshman lawmaker who, in arriving in Congress, quickly realized—in fact, before he came to Congress—the need to get out and have a level playing field to compete and win for American companies and ranchers and agricultural interests throughout this country.

I'm glad and proud to yield to my Texas colleague from San Antonio (Mr. CANSECO).

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, first of all, thank Chairman KEVIN BRADY for his leadership on trade, and for organizing this very important Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, right now the number one concern of the American people is job creation. Over the past 2½ years, the Obama administration's solution for job creation has been nothing more than more spending, more borrowing, more taxing, and it simply has not worked. Instead of job creation, all that the American people have gotten is more debt.

Since the day he was sworn into office, President Obama has been sitting on a no-cost jobs solution in the form of our pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Together, these three agreements have the potential to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by opening up the markets of our trading partners to U.S. exports, which would drive job creation and economic growth here at home.

Several of my colleagues have already spoken of the importance of these agreements, so I will discuss the importance of these agreements to my home State of Texas.

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While the Texas economy is very diverse, an important pillar is agriculture. In the 23rd District of Texas that I have the privilege of representing, the beef industry is a very important part of the economy, as is cotton.

All of these three pending trade agreements represent huge opportunities for Texas agricultural producers. For example, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, the Colombia agreement will eliminate the current 80 percent duty imposed on prime and choice cuts of beef, with all beef tariffs eliminated after 10 years. Cotton, another important agricultural export from Texas, will see Colombian tariffs on cotton imports completely eliminated once the agreement is passed.

In the case of Panama, U.S. beef exports that currently face tariffs of 10 to 30 percent will be immediately lifted for prime and choice cuts of beef, with the rest eliminated within 15 years.

The Korean agreement has the opportunity to be a huge windfall for agricultural exports. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that the Korean agreement will increase annual exports to Korea by a minimum of $1.9 billion upon full implementation. For U.S. beef exports, Korean tariffs will be completely phased out in 15 years. Cotton will see its current duty-free status become permanent, guaranteeing U.S. cotton producers will compete in Korea on a level playing field with other cotton-producing nations.

There is no doubt that all three pending free trade agreements are good for agricultural producers in Texas and in the United States. These agreements are also good for the United States' service industries.

I am proud to say that I serve on the House Financial Services Committee. Currently, U.S. financial services providers face challenges to doing business in all three nations with which we have pending free trade agreements. The services industry in each nation is growing, and with passage of this agreement, American financial services firms will have better access and better ability to compete in a vibrant and growing market.

These agreements are also important to the United States' standing in the world. In particular, the Colombia agreement should be passed so that Colombia can serve as a counterweight to Hugo Chavez's Venezuela.

Despite all the benefits, at the end of the day, these agreements are about creating jobs here in the United States. Every day that we fail to pass these agreements, we fail to create jobs and economic activity that would exist had we already passed them.

At a time when we're seeing unemployment at its worst since the Great Depression, I am happy that President Obama finally decided to submit them for consideration, and I look forward to all three agreements receiving swift consideration in Congress and quickly becoming law shortly thereafter.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Congressman CANSECO, thank you for your leadership on this important jobs and trade issue.

Our next speaker is laser focused on jobs in Arkansas. He's made a big impact coming in as a freshman lawmaker, understands the need to find new customers.

I am proud to yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. GRIFFIN).

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

''If America sits on the sidelines while other nations sign trade deals, we will lose the opportunity to create jobs on our shores.'' That was President Obama, President Obama in January of 2010, recognizing the importance of trade agreements to creating jobs in the United States.

Today, the President finally submitted to Congress, over a year and a half later, he finally submitted to Congress three critical trade agreements for our approval. Because of what these trade agreements mean for job creators, this is welcome news. But the fact that these three trade agreements, one of which was signed nearly a half decade ago, have been stalled for so long cannot go unnoticed.

Korea, the Korean trade agreement was signed on June 30, 2007. But that South Korean agreement is not the only one. The one with Panama was signed in June of 2007, and the one with Colombia, November of 2006.

President Obama even stated on July 8 of 2011 and during his August tour through the Midwest that all three of the trade agreements would be law by now if it weren't just for that obstructionist Congress. He said that the deals

are something ''Congress could do right now.'' Well, that's not true. It wasn't true then. We couldn't pass the agreements because they were still on his desk waiting to be sent to Congress. Well, we're glad they're here now, and we will join the President in moving quickly on these agreements.

While we have waited on President Obama to act on these long-pending, job-creating export agreements, our foreign competitors—Europe and Canada, in particular—are rapidly increasing their market share and cultivating relationships with trading partners in those countries while American businesses sit on the sidelines.

Make no mistake: More American exports mean more American jobs.

In my home State of Arkansas and in the Second Congressional District, these trade agreements will be very helpful for job creation. Arkansas unemployment is above 8 percent, and we need pro-job creation policies in Washington to stop that from going even higher. We need pro-American export policies to sell more of our products overseas so that Arkansans get the jobs and our manufacturers and farmers get the business.

The three pending export agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea will increase U.S. exports and will create over 250,000 new jobs. Right now, more than 320,000 Arkansas jobs depend on exports, and these agreements will only increase that number. Full implementation of the South Korea trade agreement alone could generate more than 2,500 new jobs in Arkansas.

Manufacturing exports are the strongest part of Arkansas' economy. Exports directly support 14 percent of Arkansas' manufacturing jobs, and 66,000 total jobs in all sectors of the economy are supported by manufactured goods exports.

Since 2003, Arkansas manufacturing exports rose twice as fast as the State's overall economy. Seventy-seven percent of Arkansas exporters are small businesses. And, in fact, Arkansas exported over $2 billion of manufactured goods to free trade partners in 2010. That's 45 percent of Arkansas' total. That number will only continue to grow with the approval of these agreements.

These agreements are critical not only to the country at large, but to Arkansas in particular. With 95 percent of the world's consumers outside the United States, we now need to give American businesses the opportunity to build stronger trade ties with countries seeking our goods and services, the best goods and services in the world.

Now that the President has finally sent the three pending export agreements to Congress, we can pass them and help American companies compete and create jobs.

I am confident that Congress will act quickly to approve these important bills.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I appreciate the gentleman from Arkansas laying out just the economic impact that these agreements have on the Arkansas communities, on ranchers, on businesses, small businesses, and on the economy as a whole.

Our next speaker is from Pennsylvania. He understands the importance of trade to his State. I'm pleased to welcome the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank my good friend from Texas for hosting this and for yielding.

I'm very proud to be here tonight, a subcommittee chairman of the Agriculture Committee, to speak to the tremendous benefits that these three free trade agreements yield for all of agriculture across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, today America's farmers and ranchers are competing in a global market in face of stiff protectionism while their foreign competitors are gaining preferential treatment and access at the American people's expense.

It's been a long time coming. While the delay was unacceptably long and likely has cost jobs, I'm pleased the Obama administration has finally done its part and sent Congress these important trade agreements, free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

□ 2010

Many agricultural products have encountered dramatic price fluctuations in recent years, particularly dairy, as a result of depressed exports. These trade agreements will expand U.S. exports, create jobs, and bring much-needed income to communities across rural America.

These exports are increasingly important to Pennsylvania's agricultural and statewide economy. Expanding these markets for our farmers, ranchers, and small businesses across the country is a critical component of future economic growth. Overall, every sector of Pennsylvania's agriculture stands to benefit from each trade agreement.

Pennsylvania will benefit under the U.S.-Korea free trade agreement. The U.S.-Korea free trade agreement will benefit the Pennsylvania economy and create new jobs by immediately opening new access for Pennsylvania goods and services in Korea's $1 trillion economy and by establishing a level playing field in Korea for Pennsylvania workers and businesses to compete.

One-half of chemical products and many other manufactured goods produced in Pennsylvania will enter Korea duty-free immediately. Tariffs on the remaining chemical products will be eliminated over the next few years. Korean duties on major Pennsylvania agricultural products, such as grape juice, wine, and many dairy products, will be eliminated immediately. Mushrooms will become duty-free within 5 years. Simplified and expedited customs procedures will enable Pennsylvania businesses to reach Korean customers more quickly and with less red-tape.

Full implementation of the Korea trade agreement could generate nearly 280,000 new jobs, including 9,963 in Pennsylvania alone.

Pennsylvania will benefit under the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement. Under the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, more than half of U.S. agricultural exports to Colombia will become duty-free immediately, and the remaining eliminated within 15 years. Colombia will eliminate its price band system which affects key U.S. exports, including corn, wheat, dairy, pork, and poultry. Tariffs of $202 million in U.S. processed food product exports, which are currently as high as 20 percent, will be immediately eliminated. Colombia is actively pursuing and implementing free trade agreements with a number of other trading partners. With every day that we don't act on this agreement, foreign competitors take market share from American farmers and ranchers.

Pennsylvania will benefit under the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement. Panama is one of the fastest expanding economies in Latin America, with 7.5 percent growth in 2010. Panama is already an important market for America's farmers and ranchers. In 2010, the United States exported more than $450 million of agricultural products to Panama. More than half of U.S. agricultural exports to Panama will become duty-free immediately. Remaining tariffs will be removed over 15 years. Panama's tariffs on poultry range from 5 percent to 260 percent. Some of these will immediately drop to zero, and others will be phased out within 15 years.

I am so pleased that we're moving ahead with what will be great for agriculture and great for jobs in this country with these three free trade agreements. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for hosting this tonight.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania again for his leadership on this bipartisan jobs issue. Again, the focus on creating jobs in communities in Pennsylvania by finding new customers is key to the growth of our economy and America's wealth.

TOM REED is a new member of the Ways and Means Committee who has quickly established himself as one of our brightest stars on trade. He understands it means jobs to New York, and he knows that it means jobs to America as well. Earlier this year, he helped lead a letter from our freshman Republicans to the White House insisting the President submit these three agreements so we have a chance to compete and win around the world in these growing new markets.

I am proud to yield to a friend and a fellow member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. REED of New York.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I rise today, even though feeling a little bit under the weather with an obvious cold, to show my support for these free trade agreements, because we have worked hard from day one in this Congress to be a voice for what I believe to be true free and fair trade agreements that put us and America on an even playing field with other countries around the world.

South Korea, Colombia, and Panama represent 250,000 jobs. It can't be any simpler than that. I listened to the President come up and present his jobs speech to us as we sat in this Chamber, and I heard my colleagues talk about the length of delay it took to get these agreements up to this House. But I'm not going to look to the past. I'm going to look to the future. And I'm going to look at the areas where we can find common ground to advance the cause of the great American economic recovery that could start and will start with the passage of these free trade agreements.

I applaud the President for sending these agreements up here today. I'm very confident that after a thorough and loud debate on these issues, they will be passed, and we will move forward to a brighter day of an additional 250,000 jobs in America and $13 billion worth of enhanced economic activity for the American market. Back in the 29th Congressional District that I am proud to represent, that is real money, those are real jobs, and what we're going to talk about are improvements in our agricultural industry, be it our grape growers, be it our wine producers, be it our apple growers, be it our dairy industry.

But we're also proud in the 29th Congressional District to represent some of the highest tech and manufacturing operations in the entire world. A little company in the city that I come from, Corning, Incorporated, in Corning, New York, has had a longstanding business relationship in South Korea, producing LCD glass and other high-tech materials and manufacturing components.

To me, these free trade agreements are fair agreements and they lead to job creation. That's what we were sent here to Congress to do, is to put America in a better economic condition so that generations of tomorrow will have the prosperity to call this great Nation home for many generations to come.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Again, I appreciate the gentleman from New York for his leadership on this key jobs issue.

With so many Americans out of work, the President was standing in this Chamber not too many days ago urging Republicans and Democrats to come together to create new jobs. Can you imagine if there was an issue that the White House and Congress both agreed on, that Republicans and Democrats across the spectrum supported, a bill that created jobs not by government spending but by allowing the free market to do its work, to granting economic freedom to Americans to buy and sell and compete in key markets throughout the world?

Well, today we have that issue. It is the three pending sales agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama. As we have said tonight, they represent almost $13 billion of new sales for American companies, because we know we have to seek and compete and win around the world for these new customers. We know, too, that these agreements have been delayed far too long. Colombia is an old and trusted friend who's made remarkable progress in the economy, in labor rights, in human rights, in environmental issues. Today we're on the cusp finally of passing a free trade agreement that recognizes our security relationship and our economic relationship. Today we have that opportunity.

I thank the President for sending these agreements to us. As late as they were, the fact of the matter is he has made each of them better, has helped increase and improve bipartisan support for all three, but each day we delay, we lose jobs in America. Each day we delay, Canada and Europe and China and others move ahead of us, take our customers and our jobs. It's time for the delays to end. It's time for Republicans and Democrats to come together and pass these three trade agreements for America.

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S 2012 BUDGET REQUEST ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 112–62)

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, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and as contemplated by section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's 2012 Budget Request Act. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the D.C. government's requests.

The proposed 2012 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For 2012, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of $10.9 billion.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

□ 2020

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Congressional Black Caucus is pleased, and we thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us, once again, to come to the floor for the Democratic hour.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. First of all, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on the subject under discussion this evening.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. At this time, I am joined by two of my colleagues. I would like to yield to the gentlelady from Ohio, who, for 2 years religiously, had the responsibility in the last Congress to lead us in these Special Orders—with a lot of conviction and great information to share with the American people.

Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of Ohio.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Representative CHRISTENSEN for anchoring today's timely CBC Special Order on unemployment in the African American community and on job creation.

It is no secret that the unemployment rate for African Americans is almost twice that of the national unemployment rate. Studies show that 16.7 percent of all African Americans are unemployed. It's probably closer to 20 percent when you take into consideration those who have given up looking for jobs or who are severely underemployed. In some cities, it is nearly three times the national unemployment rate.

Mr. Speaker, the people I represent are not talking about budget cuts, and they're not talking about continuing resolutions. The people in my community are talking about being laid off, and they're talking about losing their homes while they're still trying to provide food for their families. We are in a crisis that will undoubtedly affect our children and our grandchildren as 11 percent of all American children have at least one parent who is unemployed.

What does that mean for them?

It means fewer opportunities, and it means fewer meals.

As a Nation, we have always prided ourselves on defining ''success'' as providing a better future for our children. That's why my colleagues and I are speaking out today. That's why it is absolutely essential that we begin to make changes that will help our people get back on their feet. We must do something to create jobs, and we must do it now. I hosted a telephone town hall on the economy a few weeks ago.

Seven thousand people from around my district joined the call to ask questions about resources for small businesses or how to find job training programs. These people, like so many others, are looking for a way out of this situation, and it must come now.

It's clear to me that we have settled for short-term solutions to a problem that demands a long-term strategic resolution. We need to retrain workers for the jobs of today. Surprisingly, there are millions of positions that go unfilled in an economy where Americans are unemployed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that there were 3 million job openings on the last business day of May 2011, yet the unemployment rate at that same time was 9.2 percent. There were enough jobs available to employ just over 20 percent of all of these unemployed Americans. So there is an obvious disconnect.

Many people searching for work lack the job-specific skills they need to be competitive for many of the job vacancies. Technology is outpacing the Nation's current approach to job-related education and training. The difference between white collar and blue collar jobs is fading because, traditionally, blue collar jobs are more specialized than ever before.

As a solution, I've introduced H.R. 2742, the Hire, Train, Retain Act of 2011. This bill will give employers tax incentives for hiring unemployed Americans and providing job training to fill job vacancies specific to that employer. Employers will also receive a ''hire retention tax credit'' of up to $1,000 for each qualified employee retained for 52 weeks.

Another proven way to get Americans working is through infrastructure projects. That is why I recently introduced the School Athletic Facilities Restoration Act of 2011. This bill authorizes the allocation of grants to local educational agencies for the construction, renovation, or repair of school facilities used for physical education. The funds will facilitate construction hiring while improving safe places for children to exercise and play.

In closing, I want to mention that every single member of the Congressional Black Caucus has sponsored job creation legislation. The best way to reduce our deficit is to create jobs. That's why, in August, the CBC took our message on the road and connected job seekers with employers at job fairs across the country, and we listened to the voices of our constituents during town hall meetings.

Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to be a voice for struggling Americans. My number one priority is job creation and economic development. I am working hard to create jobs, and time is of the essence. This is not a time for political posturing and partisan bickering. The American people need help. They need our help and they need it now.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, for that legislation and for your leadership on so many issues that are important to the people of this country.

I would next like to yield such time as she might consume to the former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus—again a leader on many, many issues, whether it be health care, global health, AIDS, as well as developing our agenda that we've continued even into this Congress of creating pathways out of poverty—Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of Oakland, California.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank my colleague, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, for those kind remarks and also for leading this Special Order, once again, in order to sound the alarm about the jobs crisis in our country.

Also, Congresswoman CHRISTENSEN, I want to thank you for your leadership on so many issues, especially on health care. You remind us of the importance of health care reform, not only because people deserve affordable, accessible health care, but because of the many jobs that will be created in the health care sector as a result of these reforms. So thank you for continuing to remind us of that, because many, many jobs are going to be created as a result of the work that you did.

Under the leadership of our very brilliant and bold chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER, and of our jobs task force chair, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, the Congressional Black Caucus has been hitting the street about jobs for some time now. We held five ''for the people'' jobs initiatives around the country—in Cleveland, Miami, Atlanta, Detroit, and Los Angeles—bringing together employers who have jobs with people who need jobs. The response was overwhelming. Thousands of people showed up at each event, all wanting to share their stories, to learn how to interview or network or to just strictly apply for a job.

As we know, communities of color are feeling this Great Recession more than others. In fact, for communities of color, especially in the African American community, the Great Recession has been more like the Great Depression. While the national average unemployment rate is 9.1 percent, the unemployment rate for African Americans is 16.7 percent reported. For Latinos, it's 11.3 percent—and that is for those who are reporting they're out there looking for work. If we consider those who have essentially stopped looking or who have given up on getting a job, we can probably double these numbers. It's very, very tragic.

For the people's jobs initiative, this initiative highlighted what is taking place throughout the Nation. People are desperately looking for jobs. People want to work. We must pass the American Jobs Act as a first step in addressing the jobs crisis that is sweeping the Nation. Sadly, the jobs crisis moves hand in hand with poverty. The Census released some staggering numbers last month in its report, ''Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010.'' For example, 2.6 million Americans fell into poverty in 2010.

□ 2030

That's about 7,118 people a day falling into poverty. Let me put it another way: It's like a small town falling into poverty each and every day.

The poverty rates in 2010 that the census revealed are as shocking and as staggering as the unemployment numbers. The poverty rate for whites, non-Hispanics, was 9.9 percent; for African Americans, the poverty rate was 27.4 percent; the poverty rate for Latinos was 26.6 percent; and for Asian-Pacific Islanders, 12.1 percent.

In 2010, 15.1 percent of Americans were living in poverty. Now, that's 46.2 million people, in the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, 46 million people living in poverty, and 9.1 percent are unemployed. Creating jobs will improve our Nation's economy and provide people pathways out of poverty.

We need to target Federal programs to communities most in need, and we can do this by using particularly the data sets like those from the census to target programs with the highest unemployment rates and the highest poverty rates. We can extend and should extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and the Extended Benefits Unemployment program, both of which expire early in 2012. If we don't, millions of unemployed Americans will no longer have a safety net until jobs are created. Remember, for every four unemployed workers seeking a job, only one job exists. That is a fact.

We also need to pass H.R. 589, which I introduced with a fellow CBC member, a good friend, a great leader, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, which gives an additional 14 weeks of unemployment benefits to those eligible people who have exhausted their benefits and no longer receive this support.

We have no idea today how these people are surviving in these devastating times, and we can and must continue to support them while we work to create jobs. Speaker BOEHNER still will not move this bill to the floor for a vote and, once again, I am going to encourage the Republican leadership to bring H.R. 589 to the floor.

We also must restore the TANF emergency contingency fund and increase the amount of money going to this program, which directly supports needy families with the basics and creates jobs. We also should develop and implement various corps, similar to those implemented through the Work Projects Administration, the Public Land Corps, and the Civilian Conservation Corps aimed at programs and services needed in communities across this country, including health care corps, public safety corps, community corps, and teacher corps.

We should expand the Workforce Investment Act aimed at young people, particularly the 25 percent of teenagers and young people who are unemployed today—in the African American community over 40 percent, all losing hope for their futures.

We should extend and support the expansion of on-the-job training for unemployed workers, including those who are long-term unemployed and those who have exhausted their unemployment benefits, to help them refresh their job skills and ease their reentry into the workforce. We know that these initiatives will put people back to work, and that is what the Congressional Black Caucus continues to fight for.

We have to fight against the Republican opportunistic attacks on the environment and the regulations that protect the environment and public health which, of course, they are claiming as a jobs program.

It's no jobs program. In fact, turning back the clock on the Clean Air and Clean Water Act will simply destroy jobs across the country, along with destroying our precious, natural resources, while placing human health in danger.

It's completely misguided. It's a terrible move by the Republicans. They are turning a blind eye to the needs of Americans and the needs of our economy.

Now, the most effective anti-poverty program is an effective jobs program, and the CBC has been working to create jobs and connect people to jobs. We are not going to back down. And as the CBC has done for 40 years, we are going to continue to fight for jobs, justice, and equality. Our voice as the conscience of the Congress is needed now more than ever.

So I want to thank, again, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, Chairman EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and all of our CBC members for bringing us together to conduct this jobs tour, to speak out tonight, each and every day on this floor, in our communities on the critical issue of jobs, and to remind the Congress that people do want to work and we should hurry up and pass the American Jobs Act as a first start.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman LEE. You were the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus as we created and passed the Affordable Care Act. And without your determination, many of the important provisions that we felt were important to our communities and to communities across our country would not have been there. We thank you for that.

And thank you for reminding us that the Affordable Care Act is a jobs bill. It is reported that it may produce as many as 4 million jobs. And so it's not only a bill, an act, a law that would allow over 30 million people to finally become insured and provide access to quality health care for many people who have never had it, but it will also create jobs.

It's interesting how health care is connected to so many of the other things that we are dealing with. Two of the most important things that have to be fixed, if we are to get out of this recession: We have to create jobs, and we have to fix the foreclosure crisis.

There was an article in The New York Times today by Craig E. Pollack and Julia F. Lynch that was entitled ''Foreclosures Are Killing Us,'' and it caught my eye. I just want to read a little piece of it into the RECORD:

''A growing body of research shows that foreclosure itself harms the health of families and communities. In our 2008 survey of 250 people undergoing foreclosure in the Philadelphia area, 32 percent reported missing doctors' appointments and 48 percent said they let prescriptions go unfilled, significantly higher rates than others in their community. A paper released last month by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that people living in high-foreclosure areas in New Jersey, Arizona, California, and Florida were significantly more likely than those in less hard-hit neighborhoods to be hospitalized for conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart failure.

''More than one-third of homeowners in our study had symptoms of major depression.'' The N.B.E.R. study found significantly more suicides also.

So these issues and these problems that affect, in large part, minority, racial, and ethnic minority populations are responsible for some of the health disparities that we talk about.

Ms. LEE of California. Will the gentlelady yield?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE of California. I am very pleased that you raised this article because the human toll, the physical and mental health impact of these horrific public policies that either have taken place over the last 8 years or that are not taking place that we should enact are really seen each and every day in our communities every day, and people are desperate, they are suffering. And for the life of me I don't understand why especially Tea Party Republicans don't get it, because their people are suffering also.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Absolutely, absolutely.

We have been joined by another former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the leader of our Health Care Task Force, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and I would like to yield such time as she might consume to her.

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN. I am very pleased that you took this time out this evening to give us an opportunity to continue to focus on our top priority in the Congressional Black Caucus. We are absolutely focused like a laser beam on the fact that jobs are needed so desperately in all of these communities that we represent.

We recognize that unemployment is unprecedented, at its highest levels perhaps since the 1980s across this country, with 9.1 percent being that of the country. But we also recognize that in minority communities it is so much higher; in the Latino community, 11.3 percent; in the African American community, 16.7 percent.

Why are we focused like a laser beam on this issue? Because we understand the pain that is going on. We understand the increasing desperation. We understand the growing hopelessness and, as public policymakers, we must do everything that we possibly can not only to do actual job creation, but to help people out there understand that we know what's going on. We feel their pain, and we are prepared to do everything possible to come to their aid.

□ 2040

So there are those who may get tired of us talking about it. There are those who wonder why we took our vacation time and traveled across this country in five cities with these job fairs and town halls that we did, but it is all because we understand, perhaps better than others, this pain and this desperation and this feeling of hopelessness; and that's not good for this country.

So you're absolutely correct. The Congressional Black Caucus went to Detroit. We went to Cleveland. We went to Miami. We went to Atlanta. And we went to California, Los Angeles. And what did we see? As it has been said over and over again, thousands upon thousands of people in line desperate to be able to talk with employers.

I must extend a big thank you to employers. They heard our call and they showed up. And they were at each of these meetings, these job fairs that we had; and people were able to fill out applications, to learn what the process is for that particular employer, to be able to talk with someone. And I had job seekers in Los Angeles who said to me: Ms. WATERS, you know, I may not get a job, but I appreciate the opportunity that the Congressional Black Caucus is affording me and others to be able to take a shot at it, to be able to talk with someone.

So in Los Angeles, in my own community, 10,000 people showed up. We organized it in ways that they wouldn't have to stand in line for long periods of time; and thanks to the Crenshaw Christian Center that has the Faith Dome that holds 10,000 people, we were able to get people off that sidewalk through that dome and to those employers where we set up tents for 170 employers who came behind the dome, and it worked very well.

Congresswoman, I want you to know this past weekend, as I traveled throughout the area, people came up to me and said: Ms. WATERS, I got a job. I can't tell you how great that made me feel. And, of course, it was only a small number of people that I encountered. But just to have them say, thank you,

I received a job, was extremely impressive and inspiring and made me feel so very, very good. We are going to follow up with the employers and have them feed us back the information about how many people they were able to hire so that we can give a report on that.

But in all of this, I am so worried that the unemployment in the African American community may reach as high as 20 percent. Our communities have been hit hard. I heard you allude to the foreclosures that we're experiencing in our communities. Our communities were targeted. They were targeted by financial institutions because they saw that people were eager to have homes. They understood that if you gave people an opportunity, that they would take advantage of it. But what they didn't say was that they were coming up with all of these exotic products, products that literally got people into homes, but it could not be sustained because of the way these products were organized.

You had people who were told: you don't have to pay anything down; you just have to pay a little down. Don't worry about the resets; don't worry about what will happen 2 years from now. And these exotic products were products that had the devil in the details. And so people entered into mortgages they certainly could not afford down the road; and so our communities are overwhelmed with foreclosures, the loss of wealth, the loss of the only wealth that many of our families certainly had and could ever have for years to come.

I just want to share with you, in addition to the joblessness and the foreclosures and the loss of homes, the median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly available government data from 2009.

These lopsided wealth ratios are the largest since the government began publishing such data in 1984, and roughly twice the size of the ratios that had prevailed between these three groups for the two decades prior to the Great Recession that ended in 2009. The median wealth of United States households in 2009 was $113,149 compared to $5,677 for blacks and $6,325 for Hispanics. The percentage of African Americans with no wealth has increased. About 35 percent of black households and 31 percent of Hispanic households have zero or negative net worth in 2009 compared with 15 percent of white households.

Basically, just looking at the joblessness and the lack of wealth, the decreasing wealth tells the story. No communities can survive under these conditions. Everybody must be concerned about unemployment in general, but specifically these communities that are so bad off under the situation and the environment that we're living in at this time. So we support the jobs bill. We want to create jobs in our infrastructure. This country needs to repair its roads and its bridges and its water systems, and we believe that creating those jobs will help all of our communities, not only get jobs but put money back into the economy.

The economy needs stimulating. You stimulate the economy not by cut, cut, cuts, but by investing in the economy, both the private sector and the public sector. So we've got to fight for it. We've got to stand up. We've got to resist any Tea Party efforts that say that they came to Congress to dismantle government and they want to cut, cut, cut. They will not support anything that will raise revenues, or even maintain revenues in some instances. We've got to push back on that. We've got to be strong. We've got to say to our colleagues: the facts are clear; they are in front of you. Nobody can deny these facts, and we're asking you to join with us in making sure that not only we deal with the most vulnerable in our society, but we pay attention to all of those who are suffering and the families that are suffering.

I want to tell you, I have witnessed that some of our friends on the opposite side of the aisle who represent very poor communities don't seem to be able to rise to the occasion to offer them support. It seems to me that they can basically talk about and inflame issues that have nothing to do with the economic well-being of their constituents. And so we have to keep reminding them that this is for everybody. This is for your constituents that you're not really representing, those poor people in rural communities who don't have health care clinics, those poor people who don't have jobs, those poor people who don't have the kind of education that they should have.

So thank you for bringing us to the floor this evening to once again put the focus on jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman WATERS, and thank you for the work that you've done to ensure that our financial regulatory agencies have women and minorities on their boards, for the work that you've done to help homeowners stay in their homes and address the mortgage crisis, and for all that you do.

You know, even though many of the people who came to those fairs didn't get a job, they got hope, and many of them had given up. I'm sure that re-energized them to go out and keep looking. If they didn't get a job then, they will get one. Thank you so much for your leadership on that.

I'd like to yield now to the gentleman from Michigan, Congressman HANSEN CLARKE. Thank you for joining the ladies this evening.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. You're very welcome, Representative CHRISTENSEN. What I wanted to do was, on behalf of all metro Detroiters, I wanted to thank the Congressional Black Caucus and, in particular, our chairperson, Representative MAXINE WATERS, the head of our Jobs Task Force, for coming to Detroit and giving folks in Detroit some chance of getting a job and definitely some hope that they have a future for themselves.

This was so important for me because years ago back in the 1980s when we had our last big recession, I was one of those guys who was unemployed. What happened was I did give up hope for a moment there, and it was devastating for me after I lost my income and then my food stamps were cut off. When you give someone the dignity that they realize they have something to offer themselves, their family and their city, it doesn't matter if they don't get a job at that interview. They will have then the drive to fight for themselves and not to give up. That's why our people are still here thriving because we didn't give up. But that jobs session did show that there are a lot of folks in Detroit who still need a job.

□ 2050

And I have introduced legislation to help provide those jobs opportunities to Detroiters. And if I could, I wanted to share with you and then share with our public how that would work. When you visited Detroit, Representative WATERS, you may have noticed we had all these big parcels of vacant land with just nothing on it or maybe some burnt-down houses or buildings. We could actually build plants on those properties as we built plants back decades ago in World War II that housed the arsenal of democracy that saved this world from fascism and helped us win World War II, those same plants that build those great American-made automobiles that put Detroiters to work but also put millions of Americans back to work.

So in the same way, we have the land to attract these new plants. We also have roads that have all these potholes in them that need to be filled. We have bridges, we have water systems that need to be repaired, we have a plan for a transit system that could connect Detroit with the suburbs, help people get to jobs in the suburbs, help folks in the suburbs come to Detroit and enjoy themselves; but we need matching money to be able to do that.

What businesses have told me and what families have told me is that they moved out of Detroit for a couple of simple reasons. Number one, they didn't feel safe in the city. So it didn't matter how many economic development incentives we provided businesses; few businesses would take those incentives if they felt that their office would be broken into or their employees would be robbed.

Similarly, businesses that had to hire a large number of people, folks that they didn't know, they were concerned that the Detroit public schools really didn't graduate folks that had the ability to work on the job, that had the ability to read and write adequately to be able to do a good job if they were hired.

And then, finally, because Detroit had overspent a lot of its money and they had to finance that deficit with bonds and then pay off those bonds by raising the property tax, a lot of businesses said, look, for the services I'm getting, the taxes are too high. On top of it, many of their employees, even if they lived in the suburbs, had to pay a city income tax, definitely the residents had to do that.

So I said, look, the taxes are too high. If the perception is that the city is dangerous, I'm not sure if we are going to hire qualified people. They decided to leave the city. Safe streets, good schools, low taxes. If we could have those pieces in place, we could attract all the business. And I'll tell you why we could, because in spite of all of our challenges in Detroit, we still have the best manufacturing know-how in this country and in this world. We have the trained workforce to put our State back to work and our country back to work. But we just need the money to hire the police officers, to hire the school teachers, to pay off our debt and cut our taxes.

Now, this Congress says we don't have the money. But I say we do. It's in the very Federal taxes that Detroit individuals and Detroit businesses pay every year; $2 billion a year Detroiters pay to the Federal Government, to the IRS in Washington. My bill, House bill 2920, would ask this Congress to say this: instead of sending Detroit tax dollars to Washington, D.C., let's redirect that money to Detroit, place it in a trust fund where it can't be touched, only to go to projects that will create jobs, to retire our debt, to hire police officers, to hire school teachers to keep our school buildings open longer, high-quality schools, and, yes, to cut taxes to eliminate our city income tax and reduce our property taxes. That would attract jobs back.

And then we would have the money to fix up those roads, repair the deteriorating water system, and train people for jobs and then possibly even create a job program like the CETA job program that I got hired into that saved me, that saved me from a life that my friends ended up in—prison, incarcerated, on drugs, or dead. Those programs that this Congress stood for 30 years ago helped save my life, and it can help save this country.

So I want to thank you for giving me this time to speak before the body. Detroit, we've got the money to put our people back to work. We pay it to the IRS every year. I'm asking this Congress to allow us to keep our money for 5 years, to put our people back to work as a pilot basis, and to show this country what Detroit can do for itself and for America. Thank you so much, and God bless you.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congressman CLARKE. Your passion is clear, and Detroit doesn't have a stronger advocate than you, and we are pleased to be a co-sponsor of your bill. Thank you for joining us.

As you've heard, the Congressional Black Caucus is here this evening. We're still waiting for the first jobs bill to pass this Congress. And as you've heard from my colleagues, we need to begin with the American JOBS Act which was proposed by our President Barack Obama. And just to be clear, while we're advocates for the African American community, we are advocates for everyone; and this bill is good for everyone, everyone who lives in this country, and it is a good bill for our country.

We happen to feel that putting people back to work in this country now is more important than fighting over an election that is more than a year away. The American JOBS Act provides tax cuts that will help businesses grow and create jobs, it will help provide incentives to hire the long-term unemployed, and it will keep teachers and other essential workers like police and firefighters in their jobs where we need them to be; and it will strengthen, repair, and build needed and faulty infrastructure and in doing so will create even more jobs; and it will give people a decent job which will allow them to take care of their families, to buy what we make here in America, and it will stimulate economic growth.

It would give every American worker and their family a tax cut through extending the tax payroll tax holiday and do more to fix the mortgage crisis that got us here in the first place by allowing more refinancing of mortgages. It would help our fellow Americans take better care of their families, putting their children in better schools, supporting small businesses, building consumer confidence and spurring the spending that our economy needs to get back on track. This is what this Congress ought to be doing, not focusing on the solitary goal of making President Obama a one-term President. That is a losing proposition anyway.

No one should be willing to let our fellow Americans suffer, fall into and become mired in poverty, remain unemployed, lose homes and to cause our economy to crumble further just because they have political and whatever other differences with our President.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership, led by the Tea Party extremists, are taking this country in the absolute wrong direction by insisting on cutting and cutting and cutting important programs and services like the Women, Infants and Children program, Maternal and Child Health and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance programs at a time when there are more people and more children in poverty, by working to deny the opportunity for health care to the over 30 million people who we worked so hard to get insured, including sick children, and people who would otherwise go bankrupt because of catastrophic illnesses over which they had no control, people who are already getting care because of the Affordable Care Act that is being so wrongly maligned.

I agree with some of the posters I saw in the newspaper this weekend calling for jobs, not cuts; jobs, not cuts. That is what we have been saying all year, including here on the floor of the House every Monday that we've been in session. If our leadership listened instead of talk, talk, talk, I believe that is what they will hear the American people at large are saying: jobs, not cuts.

And we have a golden opportunity to listen to them. For over the last 2 weeks, there has been an ''occupation of Wall Street'' because while homeowners and pensioners and many people have suffered because of their meltdown, we have not seen the kind of remedies for the folks on Main Street, the side streets or the rural roads that would make them whole. They are speaking loudly and effectively on their and on our behalf.

And then right here in Washington, D.C. today and for the next 3 days the Take Back the American Dream conference is here. They will be on the Hill on Wednesday calling on us to end the nightmare that the dream is turning into for far too many people and to restore the American Dream access which has been the hallmark and the pride of this country.

What is happening at this conference and the one in New York is that Americans are saying enough is enough. And they are fighting back against the cuts that are making it hard for far too many people in this country to survive.

□ 2100

They're fighting back against attempts to repeal health care reform, fighting back against proposals that would weaken Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and fighting back against voter suppression laws. They're fighting for jobs, for a future for our children, and they're fighting for our democracy.

It is so very interesting this talk about President Obama and Democrats waging class warfare all because we want everyone in this country to do their part to help this country recover from a deep recession, all because we want to let tax cuts that were only supposed to be around for 10 years that have now been extended to 12 years finally expire like they were supposed to. Come on, colleagues, let's be honest. They were never meant to be permanent.

And how many jobs have these tax cuts created as was loudly touted they would do? In 2001, at the end of the Clinton administration, he handed over this government with an over $2 trillion surplus. Now, after those tax cuts enacted in 2001, after almost 12 years of them, we are in record deficits and the worst recession since the Great Depression. And President Obama did not create that; he inherited it.

The poverty rate is at the second highest in 45 years, and it is hitting, as you've heard, African Americans and Latino Americans hardest. The share

of Americans in deep poverty, with incomes below half of the poverty line, is at the highest level ever recorded. And African Americans are more likely to be in extreme poverty.

While we hear a lot about how much of a share of taxes the richest 1 percent or the richest 10 percent pay, let me remind everyone that white Americans' wealth is 20 times—and you heard it earlier, but it bears repeating—20 times that of African Americans and 18 times that of Latinos. And that between 2000 and 2007, not 10 percent, not 20 percent, not 40 percent, but 100 percent, all of the increase in wealth went to the top 10 percent in this country—all, the top 10 percent. The gap between rich and poor got wider. The rich got richer; the poor got poorer. That's a very dangerous trend for the future of this country.

And then unemployment has reached record highs as well. You don't hear about it much. You hear it from us. But in far too many places, our rural and our urban areas, communities of color, unemployment remains in double digits. African American unemployment nationally is over 16 percent, but as you've heard, we know that it is higher than that in many parts of our country.

So if we want to talk honestly about class warfare, class warfare is what too many people in this country have been experiencing since 2001. And now that we have a President who wants to end it, he is being accused of class warfare. If we really want to end class warfare, my colleagues, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle should be supporting rather than opposing him. Let's get real.

In all of our 40 years, the Congressional Black Caucus has always been a caucus of action. Our agenda has been consistent, and we've pushed every Congress and every President. And so we resent anyone trying to put a wedge between us and our President to further their own agenda, one which is clearly not ours.

But we continue to be the conscience of the Congress, as MAXINE WATERS coined when she was chair, the ''fairness cops of our Nation.'' That is why, when we could see none of our 40 job-creating bills come to the floor under the leadership of our chairman, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and the Jobs Task Force chair and former CBC chair, MAXINE WATERS, we called on the private sector as well as government agencies to come with us across the country to get people working again. And that is why we worked so hard with our Hispanic and Asian colleagues to get the Affordable Care Act passed. And we will work just as hard to see that it gets implemented. We are not going to sit quietly and let a vital door that is just opening for many to be slammed shut in our communities and communities like ours who need it most.

Many scholarly reports have shown that just eliminating health disparities could save $1.24 trillion in just over 4 years in indirect and direct costs, in addition to saving lives. So if we really wanted a deficit reduction, eliminating health disparities and achieving health equity is deficit reduction at its best.

And that's why we will continue to work relentlessly as a caucus to save homes, to build and equip better schools, to support regulations that protect our families and all families from the health and other effects of pollution. We have also worked together on budgets. And because we know that our country can invest where needed in health care, education, green energy, and job creation and reduce the deficit at the same time, we are preparing to send our recommendation to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction. It will likely be based on our proposed 2012 budget. And it will end class warfare by allowing the high-end Bush tax cuts to expire while strengthening the middle class, continuing to create pathways out of poverty for our fellow Americans, and protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

This country, Mr. Speaker, is fortunate to have a Congressional Black Caucus fighting on its behalf. And it is not only our duty, but it's our honor and privilege to do so.

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, the American people made it abundantly clear what they expected from the 112th Congress. They expect us to stop fighting each other and to do the right thing for the country.

However, instead of doing that, the Republican majority has done the exact opposite by engaging in partisan political games that cost the U.S. our triple-A credit rating, resulted in several near government shutdowns and nearly led to the first national default in our history.

These actions don't reflect the American people's will, but rather the priorities of the Republican leadership of the House. The American people have done everything they can to make it clear, but Mr. Speaker, allow me to repeat their refrain: Jobs!

Last month, President Obama unveiled his vision for job creation in the United States. While I would like to see a bit more with regards to direct job creation, it is a good start to addressing our nation's high unemployment, a rate that hovers around 16 percent for African American communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus has been at the forefront of the call for jobs legislation in the 112th Congress. The CBC put together a nationwide jobs fair to not only bring attention to the appalling unemployment numbers in the black community and help bring those seeking jobs together with employers, but to turn up the volume on a national crisis that has taken a back seat to the majority's favored approach of simply cutting our way to prosperity.

Would you believe Mr. Speaker, that just today, the Majority Leader said that the House would not be holding a vote on the American Jobs Act; saying that voting on the complete package was ''unreasonable''.

Mr. Speaker, what Americans find ''unreasonable'' is that the Republican majority is, once again, going to allow the American people to continue to suffer through our national jobs nightmare and continue in their insistence to not bring a single jobs bill to the floor.

What, Mr. Speaker, is the majority afraid of? Are they afraid that the American people, recognizing that this could be the start toward resolving our national unemployment tragedy? Is the Republican leadership so afraid of the tea party that they are willing to allow continued national misery to satisfy a minority of their caucus?

Regardless, as Members of Congress we represent the concerns of our constituents and I know what my constituents are telling me. They are telling me that Congress needs to get its act together and start focusing on the priorities of the American people and not those of a tiny, radical fringe of the majority.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the past 40 years the Congressional Black Caucus, has earned the reputation as the conscience of the Congress by providing a voice for the voiceless and fighting for the forgotten. This summer, we worked diligently to live up to and maintain our reputation.

To address unemployment and the need for job creation solutions in underserved communities, the Congressional Black Caucus called upon private and public sector partners to immediately remedy the crisis by going into communities with legitimate, immediate employment opportunities for the underserved with the ''For the People'' Jobs Initiative—which included nationwide town halls and job fairs.

During the month of August, nearly half of the Congressional Black Caucus traveled the country and saw firsthand how unemployment continues to devastate our communities during the ''For the People'' Jobs Initiative.

Nearly 30,000 people from all walks of life attended CBC Jobs Initiative events in Cleveland, Detroit, Atlanta, Miami, and Los Angeles.

Given the substantial coverage of the events, our nation's citizens will have great difficulty saying they were unaware of the suffering of millions of unemployed Americans.

Like us, they too saw the lines wrapped around city blocks with hopeful citizens searching for a job opportunity to provide economic security for themselves and their families.

We all know that job fairs and town halls are not sufficient to address the jobs crisis; however, it is a small step in the right direction.

The unemployment numbers released in August demonstrate that there is a significant hemorrhage in the African American community that is not being addressed, which has resulted in extremely high job loss.

Overall unemployment remains stagnant at 9.1 percent while unemployment in the African American community has risen dramatically from 15.9 percent to 16.7 percent.

Well into the 112th Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to urge the Republican Leadership to address unemployment in any meaningful way.

We cannot afford to watch a segment of our community suffer from depression level unemployment, hoping that overall solutions will trickle down and fix the problem. It is clear that method will not work.

Therefore, the Members of the CBC unanimously co-sponsored and introduced the Congressional Black Caucus ''For the People'' Jobs Initiative Resolution (H. Res. 348) to urge the House of Representatives to immediately consider and pass critical jobs legislation.

Additionally, CBC members have introduced over fifty job creation bills since the beginning of the 112th Congress, launched a national jobs initiative, and provided nine job creation proposals targeting our nation's most vulnerable communities in this document.

We believe that through Creating, Protecting, and Rebuilding those who have suffered relentlessly from our country's great recession would be granted another chance at perusing the American dream.

We stand at a critical point in our nation's history. The time for bold action on jobs is now.

Every American has the right to be gainfully employed and CBC Members will not rest until there is equality in access to jobs and economic opportunity.

CURRENT EVENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I know my friend from the Virgin Islands and I have differences on political issues, but she was very gracious to me personally and I will always be grateful, very grateful. Thank you.

We do differ on some of the issues. And hearing my friend across the aisle from Michigan (Mr. CLARKE), he wants what's best for his constituents. He wants them to have jobs. He wants them to have less taxes. He wants them to be able to revitalize their city. And that is what people want on both sides of the aisle. We just have a difference of opinion on the best way to go about it.

My friend from California said that the Tea Party really didn't want anything that will raise revenues. And I know she believes that, but the contrary is actually true. And what we have seen historically is, when you create jobs, even if the tax rate is lowered, if you do something that creates jobs, then the tax rate increases.

Some people have tried to vilify me because I'm advocating getting rid of a rather insidious—I sometimes think it is the most insidious tax we have because it has convinced rank-and-file folks across America that they don't have to pay this tax, some greedy, nasty corporation will pay the corporate tax, when the truth is the corporations are nothing but collection agents. If they don't collect the tax by adding on price to the cost of their product, to the price of their services, they don't stay in business. They're a collection agent. So the fact is, if you were to drop that tariff that we lay on our own products—it's a 35 percent tax. It's really a tariff. You eliminate that and jobs come rushing back into America.

The number one reason you get when you travel around the world—whether it's Africa, China. Others tell me from South America, Hey, we had to move because America has the highest corporate tax of any country in the world, 35 percent. China is 17 percent. So you lower that tariff that corporations have to collect on their goods, jobs would come flooding back, and we could see Detroit become the car capital that it once was and that it should be. We would see those jobs come back.

In first questioning CEOs overseas, the number one answer I would get on why they moved was too much regulation. Well, that was a problem. Difficulty in dealing with unions or too high wages compared to what people get around the world, that was a problem.

□ 2110

It wasn't the number one problem. The number one problem was the 35 percent corporate tax, a tariff we put on all American-made goods.

I've had people who, apparently, with degrees, are educated beyond their abilities, say, but if you lowered or got rid of the corporate tax, where would all that tax money come from? Because they don't understand how jobs are created. They think that money, it's a zero sum balance. It just would go away, and there would be no more tax. We'd lose that much tax.

And, in fact, the liberal Congress that existed in 1974 when they set up CBO and set up their rules for scoring bills does not allow the Congressional Budget Office to score based on reality. They are forced to score under archaic, unrealistic rules that are not allowed to take into consideration past history in calculating future performance. Huge mistake. But the Democrats in charge in 1974 knew what they were doing.

So you drop that tax. And, like I've said, the American Jobs Act is my bill. After the President beat up on us for 6 days, and it became very obvious he was more concerned about making speeches about American Jobs Act than he was actually getting one filed and getting one pushed through, then I felt like, if he's going to criticize me and our friends here for not passing the American Jobs Act, by golly, there ought to be one. So I did file one, and that's what it does.

I'm negotiable. If the President would like to come up zero in corporate tax, I'm flexible. But the fact is, jobs would come rushing back into this country if the manufacturers, if the companies knew no corporate tariff is put on those products. They could compete around the world; we would retake the world.

I know there are people in this country, good folks, smart folks, that think we are better off as a service-oriented society in America, rather than a manufacturing society. The trouble with that is, and as I heard from people in West Africa last year, we're their hope for freedom. If we don't remain strong, as one elderly gentleman told me, they have no chance of enjoying freedom in this life.

Well, you can't be an international power and protect freedom, not here, not anywhere, unless you can produce the things that are needed in the event of war. That's why I'm an advocate for natural gas being used to power cars. We need to make sure it's safe, but it's cleaner burning.

Some people say, no, we've got to get cars that run on electricity. They don't apparently realize that electricity has to be generated somewhere, and it's obvious that Solyndra's not going to be producing it for us. Maybe if we give them several trillion dollars instead of just 600 billion, maybe eventually they could come up with a product that would compete, but that hasn't happened.

So mistakes have been made. Mistakes get made on both sides of the aisle. Republicans made a mistake in '05 and '06, my freshman term here, and I have to say that our friends across the aisle rightfully beat up on us back in 2006 for spending $160 billion more than we took in. We shouldn't have done that. And they promised they would get spending down under control and would not run a deficit like that if they were simply given the majority. They were for 4 years, and the spending went through the roof.

Republicans made a mistake by spending more than was coming in by $160 billion. And then our friends across the aisle made a mistake over the last 4 years as they got that spending up over $1 trillion, $1.5 trillion more than we were bringing in. Major mistake.

But I want to spend the remainder of my time tonight in talking about another problem that we've had here in the United States and with the Federal Government. There's been a lot of talk the last few days about the death of Anwar al-Awlaki. And it is important to note the things that we were told in past years about Mr. Awlaki.

Pajamas Medium, that's a funny name, but Patrick Poole has done a good job doing some research on some of the old articles. For example, back in November of 2001 The Washington Post—let's see, I think they're going after our Governor from Texas right now.

Well, that same Washington Post had a wonderful blog back in November of 2001 and featured none other than Imam Anwar al-Awlaki. And he was allowed to use The Washington Post to try to convince people of what a man of peace he was. And you get the impression, certainly, The Washington Post said he was a good guy.

You can look back, again, November 19, 2001. And I printed this off of the Internet from The Washington Post. Understanding Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting. And they featured Imam Anwar al-Awlaki.

Now, obviously, The Washington Post doesn't care much for the Governor of Texas, but they certainly had a great appreciation for the man that was killed recently, featuring him in their publication to explain things for us. And they featured him explaining

that, about Ramadan. Isn't that wonderful that The Washington Post would reach out to someone who it turns out wanted to destroy America, our way of life, thought it was a good idea to kill Americans, believed that actually it would be a good thing to bring down America. It was good The Washington Post would give him that much time because they're so open-minded, honorable people. So are they all, all honorable people, as Shakespeare had Mark Anthony saying.

All those folks at The Washington Post, they're honorable people. I mean, why else would they give their paper, their moniker, to a man that they judged to be a man of peace?

New York Times had a good article, October 19 of 2001, and they mentioned Imam Anwar al-Awlaki, spiritual leader at the Dar al-Hijrah mosque in Virginia, one of the Nation's largest, which draws about 3,000 worshippers for communal prayers each Friday.

''In the past we were oblivious. We didn't really care much because we never expected things to happen. Now I think things are different. What we might have tolerated in the past we won't tolerate anymore. There were some statements that were inflammatory and were considered just talk, but now we realize that talk can be taken seriously and acted upon in a violent, radical way,'' said Mr. Awlaki, who, at 30, is held up as a new generation of Muslim leader capable of merging East and West, born in New Mexico to parents from Yemen, who studied Islam in Yemen and civil engineering at Colorado State University.

So they featured what they believed to be a man of peace. And, certainly, The New York Times is full of honorable people. So are they all at The New York Times, all honorable people that had such nice things to say about the man who would destroy America.

Of course, Fox News published an article on May 20, 2011, that said:

With the recent death and, again, this was May of this year, of Osama bin Laden, the life of another al-Qaeda-linked radical Muslim cleric—well, that seems pretty hurtful of them, Fox News, to say about someone that The New York Times and The Washington Post thought so highly of. I'm sorry that Fox News was so mean to somebody that The Times and The Washington Post liked so much.

The article goes on:

Documents obtained exclusively by Fox News and its special unit shed new light on his stint as a guest speaker at the Pentagon just months after the September 11 terror attacks. American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, the first American on the CIA's kill or capture list, which seems a little mean of the CIA. I mean, The Washington Post and The New York Times thought he was okay back in 2001.

□ 2120

Again, the article says:

American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, the first American on the CIA's kill or capture list, is still considered a grave threat to U.S. national security. He now is hiding out in Yemen, where earlier this month a U.S. missile attack tried to kill him and his followers.

The scene was much different on February 5, 2002, when the radical imam was invited to and attended the Pentagon event.

Fox News obtained new documents through a Free of Information Act request as part of a year-long investigation called ''Fox News Reporting: Secrets of 9/11.'' An internal Department of Defense email that announced the event with Awlaki also laid out other details, like a proposed menu including pork, which is prohibited for Muslims. The email states ''the chef will create something special for vegetarians.''

The documents show that more than 70 people were copied on the invitation, which originated in the Defense Department's Office of the General Counsel. It is home to the Pentagon's top lawyer.

''I have reserved one of the executive dining rooms for February 5, which is the date he, Awlaki, preferred,'' a Defense Department lawyer wrote in the email announcing the event.

''He will be leaving for an extensive period of time on February 11.''

The email states that New Mexico born al-Awlaki was the featured guest speaker on ''Islam and Middle Eastern Politics and Culture.''

The Defense Department lawyer who vetted the imam wrote that she ''had the privilege of hearing one of Mr. Awlaki's presentations in November and was impressed by both the extent of his knowledge and by how he communicated that information and handled a hostile element in the audience.''

The article goes on and points out that al-Awlaki, a dual U.S. and Yemeni national, was interviewed at least four times by the FBI in the first 8 days after September 11 because he had ties to the three hijackers involved. They were three of the five hijackers of American Airlines Flight 77, which was flown into the Pentagon. Apparently none of the FBI's information about Awlaki, his ties to the hijackers or his history of soliciting prostitutes, was shared with the Pentagon.

Another article published in Andrew Breitbart Presents Big Peace, November 9, 2010, points out that al-Awlaki was involved in the training of the Defense Department's Muslim chaplains and lay leaders as an instructor at the Institute for Islamic and Arabic Sciences in America, IIASA, in the Washington, D.C., area.

It goes on to say:

Controlled by the Saudi Embassy and operating under the kingdom's Ministry of Higher Education, the IIASA served as the branch campus of the al Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh. The institute was certified to train the Pentagon's Muslim chaplains until 2003. Many of the faculty members, who held diplomatic passports, had their visas revoked in January 2004, and the institute itself was raided by the FBI, Customs, and the IRS the following July.

It goes on to say:

Awlaki's role in the program was reported by Glenn Simpson at The Wall Street Journal back in December 2003 but hasn't been mentioned since. Writing about the IIASA's controversial role in the military chaplain program, Simpson noted:

''Anwar al-Awlaki, the former imam at a mosque in San Diego, also has lectured at the institute. A congressional report on September 11 released this July said Mr. Awlaki counseled two of the hijackers while they stayed in San Diego and then transferred to a mosque that both hijackers attended in northern Virginia shortly before the attacks. Mr. Awlaki, who is now believed to be in Yemen, has denied knowing of the hijackers' plans.''

The article goes on:

More is now known about Awlaki's relationship with the 9/11 terror plot. Time magazine reported that the cleric held closed-door meetings with two of the hijackers in San Diego, and the pair followed Awlaki to the D.C. area when he moved there in early 2001. Hani Hanjour, who flew American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, joined them there. The three hijackers attended the Dar al-Hijrah mosque in Falls Church, Virginia, where Awlaki served as imam.

Well, isn't that interesting?

Also, a report, this is a Rewind: Anwar al-Awlaki leads prayers inside U.S. Capitol for congressional Muslim staffers.

This is from Pajamas Media:

Anwar al-Awlaki's appearance leading Friday afternoon prayers inside the U.S. Capitol following the 9/11 attacks. As Fox News later reported, Anwar al-Awlaki was not the only terror-tied al Qaeda cleric leading prayers for the Congressional Muslim Staff Association.

Then it goes on and points out that there is footage of Awlaki leading prayers for congressional Muslim staffers (which also included then-CAIR official and now convicted terror operative Randall ''Ismail'' Royer) shot for a PBS documentary called ''Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet.''

Interesting stuff.

Of course, National Public Radio, that receives so much of our taxpayer money, reported November 1, 2001, that Awlaki was contrasted to Osama bin Laden as one of the, quote, moderates who want to solve the problems without violence, unquote, and someone who could, quote, build bridges between Islam and the West, unquote.

Interesting stuff. It just doesn't seem that we seem to learn our lessons very well.

We also know that this Attorney General not only had a Justice Department-involved, which obviously included ATF involvement in selling guns to criminals, Mexican drug cartels who we know killed at least one,

and there may be others, but this Justice Department dropped the charges against the individuals and the groups that were named coconspirators in the Holy Hand Foundation trial that was tried in Dallas, Texas, first to a hung jury. As I understand, there was an 11–1 verdict. One person held up the verdict, so they tried it again, and the Bush administration's Justice Department intended if they got a conviction of the five people charged with aiding terrorism that they would then move forward. In fact, the Assistant U.S. Attorney involved filed pleadings with the court, the District Court in Dallas, Texas, the Federal Court, and also with the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans in response to some of those groups that were named coconspirators to supporting terrorist activity with money and basically said there's a prima facie case here. There's enough evidence to keep them in as named coconspirators.

The conviction occurred, I believe it was November of 2008, five defendants, 105 counts, as I recall. Then, rather than going forward as they should have based on the evidence, the stacks and stacks, the boxes and boxes of evidence, this Justice Department decided to drop the matter.

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It's understandable given some of the relationships that are involved.

Of course, CAIR, mentioned in one of the articles, was one of the named coconspirators to financing terrorism in the Holy Land Foundation trial. We know that ISNA was one of the named coconspirators, the Islamic Society of North America, and the head of ISNA, Imam Magid. Actually, Imam Magid was the leader of a named codefendant in sponsoring terrorism in the Holy Land Foundation trial, which this administration refused to pursue further. Then we find out that Imam Magid, a year ago, was at the White House, leading the White House in the Iftar celebration at the conclusion of Ramadan.

Then, of course, we know that the second-highest person in the National Security Agency, Deputy National Security Advisor Denis McDonough, was invited and spoke, and thanked Imam Magid there for the wonderful prayers at the White House and also for the wonderful introduction. They have a wonderful relationship.

Well, isn't that special.

In the wake of Mr. Anwar al-Awlaki being killed in Yemen for his role in having declared war on the United States, I can't help but reflect back on something that sets our country apart. In a new democracy visited earlier this year, I had a leader there say, We're constantly worried about the military trying to take over because we never had a George Washington who did what no one has ever done before or since: led the Revolution—a military revolution—won the Revolution, resigned, and gone home. Nobody has done it before or since. What a man.

In his resignation that was sent to the 13 Governors, Washington, at the end—and there's a painting of him tendering his resignation—included a prayer. He says in the prayer—and we have his own words, but I won't read the whole thing—''I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you and the State over which you preside in His holy protection.''

He goes on and says, ''And finally, that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

''I have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, Your excellency's most obedient and very humble servant, George Washington.''

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I can't help but wonder if Mr. Al-Awlaki ever knew the divine author of our blessed religion, who George Washington says, ''without an humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation.''

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for Monday and Tuesday on account of official business in the district.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore Mr. HARRIS on Thursday, September 29, 2011:

H.R. 2005. An act to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

H.R. 2017. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on September 27, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2883. To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2646. To authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 2943. To extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through December 31, 2011.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House also reports that on September 29, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2017. Making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 2005. To reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3297. A letter from the Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP) (RIN: 0572-AC16) received September 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3298. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No. FEMA-8191] received August 18, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3299. A letter from the Director, Division of Regulations, Legislation, and Interpretation, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers Under Service Contracts (RIN: 1215-AB69; 1235-AA02) received August 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3300. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rate Increase Disclosure and Review: Definitions of ''Individual Market'' and ''Small Group Market'' [CMS-9999-F] (RIN: 0938-AR26) received September 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3301. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Effective Date of Requirement for Premarket Approval for Three Class III Preamendments Devices [Docket No.: FDA-2010-N-0412] received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3302. A letter from the Regulatory and Policy Specialist, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Indian Trust Management Reform-Implementation of Statutory Changes [Docket ID: BIA-2009-0001] (RIN: 1076-AF07) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3303. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final

rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 16, Framework Adjustment 44, and Framework Adjustment 45 [Docket No.: 100526226-1322-02] (RIN: 0648-AY95) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3304. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Commercial Period 1 Quota Harvested [Docket No.: 110303179-1290-02] (RIN: 0648-XA632) received September 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3305. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of the 2011 Trimester 2 Directed Loligo Squid Fishery [Docket No.: 100804323-0569-02] (RIN: 0648-XA617) received September 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3306. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Scup Fishery; Adjustment to the 2011 Winter II Quota [Docket No.: 101029427-0609-02] (RIN: 0648-XA555) received September 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3307. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery; 2011 Commercial Quota and 2011 Commercial Fishing Season for Greater Amberjack [Docket No.: 040205043-4043-01] (RIN: 0648-XA592) received September 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3308. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery; Emergency Rule Extension, Revision of 2011 Butterfish Specifications [Docket No.: 110218149-1182-01] (RIN: 0648-BA86) received September 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3309. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Modification of the Retention of Incidentally-Caught Highly Migratory Species in Atlantic Trawl Fisheries [Docket No.: 110112022-1262-02] (RIN: 0648-BA45) received September 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3310. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA610) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3311. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish for Catcher/Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Acess Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA588) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3312. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch In the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 101126521-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA589) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3313. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Inseason Action To Close the Commercial Non-Sanbar Large Coastal Shark Research Fishery [Docket No.: 100622276-0569-02] (RIN: 0648-XA580) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3314. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Northern Area Trophy Fishery [Docket No.: 110210132-1275-02] (RIN: 0648-XA550) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3315. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish for Catcher/Processors Participating in the Rockfish Limited Access Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA594) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3316. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Amendment 15 to Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (Scallop FMP) [Docket No.: 110329229-1370-03] (RIN: 0648-BA71) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3317. A letter from the Attorney — Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Fireworks within the Sector Boston Captain of the Port Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0507] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3318. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Houma Navigation Canal, from Waterway Mile Markers 19.0 to 20.0, Southwest of Bayou Plat, bank to bank, Terrebonne Parish, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0523] (RIN: 1625-AAOO) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3319. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety zone; San Diego POPS Fireworks, San Diego, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0567] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3320. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; July Fireworks Displays and Swim Events in the Captain of the Port New York Zone [Docket No.: USCG-2011-0565] (RIN: 1625-AA00; 1625-AA08) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3321. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Raritan River, Arthur Kill and their tributaries, Staten Island, NY and Elizabeth, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2010-1117] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3322. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Model F.28 Mark 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0473; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-019-AD; Amendment 39-16774; AD 2011-17-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3323. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Minor Editorial Corrections and Clarifications [Docket No.: PHMSA-2011-0134 (HM-244D)] (RIN: 2137-AE77) received September 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3324. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services — 2011 Update [Docket No.: EP 542 (Sub-No. 19)] received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3325. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration during Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Supplemental Interim Final Rule [Docket No.: 0612243022-1484-02] (RIN: 0625-AA66) received September 1, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3326. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Department of Homeland Security, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Origin for Imported Merchandise [USCBP-2007-0100] (RIN: 1515-AD53) (Formerly RIN: 1505-AB49) received August 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3327. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Election to Expense Certain Refineries [TD 9547] (RIN: 1545-BF05) received August

31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3328. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Protecting the Public and Our Personnel to Ensure Operational Effectiveness [Docket No.: SSA-2011-0052] (RIN: 0960-AH35) received September 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MICA: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2838. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–229). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DREIER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 418. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (Rept. 112–230). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 419. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2681) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for cement manufacturing facilities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes. (Rept. 112–231). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KLINE (for himself and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 3074. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to delegate to States the authorities of the Secretary of the Interior under that Act with respect to cormorants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 3075. A bill to restrict the diplomatic travel of officials and representatives of state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 3076. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to qualify formerly homeless youth who are students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina:

H.R. 3077. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that customers have the right to immediately close any account at any insured depository institutions on demand, without cost to the consumer, that consumers receive any balance in their account immediately, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself and Mr. FARR) (both by request):

H.R. 3078. A bill to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT) (both by request):

H.R. 3079. A bill to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CANTOR (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) (both by request):

H.R. 3080. A bill to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 3081. A bill to authorize the use of certain rail relocation funding for high-speed rail projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H.R. 3082. A bill to provide a biennial budget for the United States Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 3083. A bill to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to extend the eligibility period for supplemental security income benefits for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself and Mr. DOLD):

H.R. 3084. A bill to authorize the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency to temporarily increase the conforming loan limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that are applicable to high-cost sub-areas within counties; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H. Con. Res. 83. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a further correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2608; considered and agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KLINE:

H.R. 3074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (''Commerce Clause''); Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (''Necessary and Proper Clause''); and Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 (''Treaties'') of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 3075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution clause 18 (relating to the power of Congress to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress); and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 3076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina:

H.R. 3077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8.

By Mr. CANTOR:

H.R. 3078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the power to lay and collect duties and imposts) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations).

By Mr. CANTOR:

H.R. 3079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the power to lay and collect duties and imposts) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations).

By Mr. CANTOR:

H.R. 3080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (the power to lay and collect duties and imposts) and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations).

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 3081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 6

No preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 3082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. MCDERMOTT:

H.R. 3083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 7 (All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives)

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 3084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 100: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.

H.R. 104: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 198: Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 374: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H.R. 412: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 420: Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 422: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 466: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 530: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 639: Mr. AKIN, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. KELLY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. REYES, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 674: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 675: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 679: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 708: Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 711: Ms. NORTON and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 721: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 724: Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 733: Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 735: Mr. WOODALL and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 816: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 854: Ms. KAPTUR and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 886: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 920: Ms. FOXX and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 926: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 959: Mr. OWENS and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1005: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1041: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. OLVER, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1042: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 1116: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1206: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 1259: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 1262: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1267: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1340: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 1351: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA and Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 1385: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 1386: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. LONG.
H.R. 1397: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 1418: Mr. CLAY and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 1467: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.
H.R. 1509: Mr. ROSKAM.
H.R. 1528: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1537: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1558: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FINCHER, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1571: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1639: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1653: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BACA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. COLE, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 1733: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1738: Mr. RUNYAN and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1739: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1744: Mr. BONNER and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 1747: Ms. JENKINS and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1756: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 1842: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1845: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1848: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 1965: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1968: Mr. OWENS and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 1970: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1995: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2016: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2026: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2033: Mr. TOWNS and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2059: Mr. CRAVAACK, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2088: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2090: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 2094: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 2131: Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 2137: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 2139: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GUINTA, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. RICHMOND, and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 2182: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 2198: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2237: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 2245: Mr. NADLER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2247: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2268: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2315: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2342: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 2357: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 2364: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2381: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2446: Ms. MOORE and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2447: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 2466: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 2471: Mr. QUAYLE and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2479: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2485: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2492: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2497: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 2502: Mr. GIBBS and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2505: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2514: Mr. NUNNELEE and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2518: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 2541: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LABRADOR, and Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 2567: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2580: Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 2617: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.
H.R. 2679: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2728: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2814: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2815: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 2840: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2842: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2874: Mr. LANDRY.
H.R. 2888: Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2900: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2911: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2918: Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 2926: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 2951: Mr. LANDRY.
H.R. 2954: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2956: Mr. BACA and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2966: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 2982: Mr. INSLEE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 2985: Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3000: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 3014: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 3039: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. FARR, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 3059: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3060: Ms. FUDGE and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 3065: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.J. Res. 45: Mr. HURT.
H.J. Res. 69: Mr. HOYER.
H.J. Res. 73: Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.J. Res. 78: Mr. FILNER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, and Mr. MORAN.
H. Con. Res. 72: Ms. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 137: Mr. CONYERS.
H. Res. 177: Mr. BERMAN.
H. Res. 380: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H. Res. 385: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H. Res. 397: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. SIRES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. STARK.
H. Res. 416: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011 No. 146

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy Father, we come into Your presence today to look at ourselves as we are and to seek Your power to become what You would have us be. Search our hearts and empower us to do Your will.

Encourage our lawmakers to fulfill Your purposes for the glory of Your Name. Move mightily in their hearts and align them with Your kingdom perspective. As blessings flow when Your will is done, let them not take credit for what Your sovereign hand accomplishes on our behalf.

Today, and through the days of this week, call us to You that we may be transformed from mere followers to true servants of Your kingdom. We pray in Your everlasting Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m. today. At 3:30, the Senate will begin consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1619, which is the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act.

At 4:30, the Senate will be in executive session to consider several judicial nominations.

At 5:30, there will be two rollcall votes. The first vote is on the confirmation of Henry Floyd, of South Carolina, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit. The other vote will be on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the currency exchange matter.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate begins another very busy work period. I am confident this work period will be productive.

Tonight, the Senate will vote to begin debate on legislation to curb China's unfair currency manipulation. I expect strong bipartisan support to move this legislation forward. There have been conversations between the bipartisan supporters of this legislation in the House of Representatives and the administration. My colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—agree that China's deliberate actions to devalue its currency give its goods an unfair competitive advantage in the marketplace. Their goods do not deserve that. That is not fair. It hurts our economy and it costs American jobs. In the last decade alone, we have lost more than 1 million American jobs to China because of this trade deficit fueled by currency manipulation. A massive trade deficit is one of the reasons for our unsustainable unemployment rate. This legislation we are going to move to will even the playing field and help American goods compete in a global market and help keep American jobs here at home.

Democrats believe there is no problem facing this Nation that deserves our attention more than the jobs crisis. This bill is part of the effort to get our economy back on track and put Americans back to work. If China stops the practices that artificially tip the scales in its favor, it would create 1.6 million American jobs fairly quickly. I hope this legislation will motivate China to stop devaluing the yuan on its own. I also know it will send a strong message to the Chinese that Americans will no longer ignore their blatant, unfair trade practices.

A BUSY WORK SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we expect to quickly wrap up work on the China currency legislation this week. We have a lot to get done this month, so the Senate must move fast.

One out of every nine Federal judgeships remains vacant, which puts at risk the right of every American to a fair and speedy hearing. While I have been frustrated at the slow pace in confirming judicial nominees this Congress, I am pleased we have been able to reach an agreement to confirm 10 judges this week and next. These nominations are noncontroversial, and they

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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have the unanimous support of the Judiciary Committee. Five of the six judges we will confirm today come from States with Republican Senators, and all five have the support of that Republican Senator.

This month, the Senate will also take up three appropriations bills. Last month, we passed a continuing resolution to fund the government through November 18. Now we must finish our work on the annual appropriations bills.

We will also take up three trade bills this work period. Last month, the Senate passed trade adjustment assistance legislation which helps U.S. workers who lose their jobs because of international trade learn new skills and reenter a changing workforce. A global economy means global competition, and a flexible, well-trained workforce is what will allow us to keep pace with our rivals. That is why Democrats insisted on passing trade adjustment assistance before we would take up those three trade bills we will soon consider—Panama, Korea, and Colombia.

Republicans have said these trade agreements are important to them. Yet for months they have prevented them from moving forward by stalling trade adjustment assistance. I hope the House will not delay any longer on their taking up trade adjustment assistance. I am told they will not.

The Senate will also take up President Obama's American Jobs Act this month. Members of both parties should rally behind the commonsense, bipartisan approach of this legislation. It will cut taxes for working families and small businesses to spur job creation and put Americans to work restoring this Nation's decaying roads, bridges, dams, and schools. I am happy to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve this bill, but I hope the obstructionism Republicans have employed for the last 9 months will not continue.

This year, Democrats have introduced jobs bill after jobs bill. Meanwhile, our Republican colleagues have put their own political agenda ahead of the Nation's jobs agenda. They claim they are willing to work in a bipartisan fashion to get our economy back on track, and this month they will get another chance to prove this. So I urge my Republican friends to remember that actions speak much louder than words. I hope they will take time out from rooting for our very difficult economy to fail for the sake of politics and help Democrats put this Nation back to work.

Would the Chair announce morning business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I paid attention to the remarks made by the majority leader concerning the upcoming schedule for the next week or 2 or 3 and the fact that we are now considering the motion to proceed to a bill pertaining to Chinese currency.

I understand very well that it is the prerogative of the majority leader to set the legislative agenda of the Senate, and I respect that prerogative. But I have to express some amazement that the issue of the Chinese currency is taking precedence over the myriad of other important issues we should be acting on.

One of the articles in today's CQ Today says:

> Last year, it looked like the time was right for Congress to confront China.
>
> ''[A] similar bill'' was passed by the House.
>
> This year, the expected bulwark against the measure is the GOP-controlled House, where top Republicans are echoing concerns from the business community that enacting the measure could spark a trade war.
>
> Republican leaders uniformly voted against the China measure last year, bucking the majority of their party, while Democrats voted . . . for the bill.
>
> Schumer—

Speaking of the Senator from New York—

> argues that a strong Senate vote this time around would make it ''hard for the House to block it.''
>
> But an aide to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia says there are no plans to vote on China currency legislation.

So with over 9 percent unemployment, with the debt and deficit continuing to run out of control, with the 12 or 13 appropriations bills not acted on, with the Defense authorization bill, perhaps for the first time in 41 years, not being taken up by the Senate, now, in its wisdom, under the leadership of the majority leader, we will be taking up the China currency bill.

China currency is an important issue. I think it is worthy of debate and discussion in happier times. But if one has any curiosity about the low esteem with which Congress is being held, then no better example of that is the way we have addressed the issues, including not passing a budget, which is against our own law, for the second consecutive year; including going through a continuing resolution rather than authorizing and appropriating the functions of government, as is the responsibility of the Congress of the United States.

Here we are, as I said, unemployment is 9.1 percent, with an estimated 14 million Americans out of work; 228,098 homes are in foreclosure nationwide, a jump of 7 percent from July to August of this year. In my home State of Arizona, 1 in every 248 homes is in foreclosure, the third worst in the Nation. In the majority leader's home State—No. 1 in the Nation—1 in every 118 homes is in foreclosure.

Mr. President, 22.5 percent of the homes in America are ''underwater,'' meaning their mortgage is more than their home is worth. In Arizona, that number is 49 percent. In Nevada, 60 percent of the homes are underwater.

We have a $1.3 trillion deficit. We have a debt of nearly $14.8 trillion. It represents $43,357 for every man, woman, and child in America.

So we will take up before the Senate the China currency bill—the China currency bill. Then someone in this body may wonder why the approval rating of Congress is—one I saw was 12 percent, one 13 percent. I think proceeding in this fashion we may be able, with some success, to drive that down into single digits.

I hold townhall meetings, as most of my colleagues in Congress do as well, and people are very angry at Congress. We, understandably, look at the President's approval ratings. I would urge my colleagues to look at those approval ratings of Congress. As I have often said, and have probably worn out the line, we now have such high rates of disapproval that we are down to blood relatives and paid staffers.

So here we are, with the fiscal year having begun on the first of October, for the first time in 41 years, apparently, we are not going to schedule or pass a Defense authorization bill. The Defense authorization bill, in my view—and it is a biased view because of my membership on that committee for so many years; but not totally biased—authorizes pay and personnel. It budgets training and equipping the Afghan security forces. It fully supports the budget request of $1.75 billion in coalition support. It fully supports the budget request to support the activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq. It increases the funding for cybersecurity initiatives. It provides a provision that would require DOD to acquire and incorporate capabilities for discovering previously unknown cyber attacks on its networks. It covers missile defense, strategic capabilities, nuclear safety, and nuclear proliferation. It supports crucial defense modernization programs.

My friends, there is no more compelling requirement than that of the defense of this Nation. The Armed Services Committee, of which I am a proud member, and work in a bipartisan fashion with the distinguished chairman, Senator LEVIN from Michigan—puts in long hours, and we scrutinize and we study and we have hearings and we try to do the people's work in the vital and important mission of defending this Nation.

So now the fiscal year has expired. We are operating on a ''continuing resolution,'' and what is the issue before the body, the august body, the world's greatest deliberating body, according to some? The China currency bill—the China currency bill—which we expect to take up for the entire week, which according to any reliable report will never see the light of day in the other body.

Now, there have been controversies surrounding the Defense authorization bill not only this year but in previous years. I strenuously objected last year to the repeal of the don't ask, don't tell being included in the Defense authorization bill until we had a chance to assess the effect on morale, readiness, recruitment, and battle effectiveness, which was the view of the majority of the chiefs of the services.

The year before, we took up a hate crimes bill and put it on the Defense authorization bill. My objection was that it had nothing to do with our Nation's defense. But there are many issues that need to be addressed, many issues concerning detainee treatment, concerning other issues, which are controversial.

But the job of the Senate is to debate and to amend and to pass legislation. What is more important—what is more important—than the security of this Nation and the care for the men and women who are serving in the military?

I note the presence of the majority leader on the Senate floor. I have urged him privately on several occasions to bring up the Defense authorization bill. He responded to me—and I am sure he may respond—that there are issues concerning detainees, about trials in the United States, about Guantanamo Bay. My response to the majority leader has been, those are issues the Senate should debate; those are issues the Senate should make its judgment on; and I assured him—and I assure him again—that I will consider the objections and reservations that the President and the executive branch have to some provisions in the bill, particularly concerning detainee treatment. I give great deference to the view of the executive branch and the President of the United States. But that does not mean we should not take up the bill. It does not mean we should not take up the Defense authorization bill and the appropriations bills following.

First, we authorize. Then we are supposed to appropriate. The Senator from Nevada, the distinguished majority leader, and I came to the Senate together more years ago than we would like to remind some of our colleagues. But 20-some years ago, when we came to this body, we regularly took up authorization and appropriations bills. We took them up one by one, we had debate, and we had amendments.

By the way, the practice of filling up the tree, which both sides of the aisle in this body are guilty of, was not heard of in those days.

I know the majority leader's time is valuable. I would just remind my friends that the legislative calendar, which is here, is waiting consideration.

Here are just a few of the authorizing bills waiting consideration. The Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2012. The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has approved the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act. The Senate Finance Committee has approved the Airport and Airway Trust Fund Reauthorization Act. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has approved the Surface Transportation Extension Act.

Today is October 3—the third day of fiscal year 2012—and guess how many of the 12 annual appropriations bills have passed this body? The answer is one. It is not as if the bills are not ready for floor consideration. They have been cleared and placed on the legislative calendar. So why not bring them to the floor for debate and amendments—the Agriculture appropriations bill, the Commerce, State, and Justice appropriations bill. All of these, by the way, should have been preceded by authorizing legislation.

What has happened around here, unfortunately, for the majority of the Members of the Senate is that by virtue of the fact that we do not take up authorization bills for the functions of various branches of government, it renders the appropriations process transcendent in the deliberations and conclusions this body has made, thereby making members of the Appropriations Committee have an unwarranted, in my view, but certainly far more impactful role in the Senate than the members of the authorizing committees.

I intend to continue to work in this body and with some of the newer Members to change that process, to require appropriations bills to reflect the authorizing committees' legislation, that the Appropriations Committee not be permitted to authorize, which is not their role, which over the years has become more and more prevalent and routine.

My office resides in the Russell Senate Office Building, which is named after a distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee—a committee of which I am the ranking member. He was a distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee, a distinguished Member of this body. I am sure if he were on this floor today, that former distinguished chairman of the Armed Services Committee would be making the same remarks I am today.

The responsibilities—not the privileges but the responsibilities—of those of us on the authorizing committees, including the Armed Services Committee this year, have been abrogated and overcome by a process which is clearly gridlocked.

I recognize the presence of the majority leader on the floor. I yield to the majority leader and then will return to my remarks following his.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the speech given by my friend, the senior Senator from Arizona, is a speech I could give, because he is absolutely right. We have so much we have to do. But we have had a problem because of the Republicans in the Senate. We have spent basically 100 percent of our time these last 9 months on 2 issues that should have taken a matter of a few hours but have taken months and months, the continuing resolutions.

We voted on the continuing resolution—for 1 week, 2 weeks, on and on for months, trying to fund government—2 or 3 days ago, the 1st of October. It took months to get that done. Then as soon as we finished that, that little exercise is only preparation for the longstanding time that we had to spend on raising the debt ceiling, something we had done with ease scores of other times. During the 8 years of President Reagan, for example, we raised the debt ceiling for him 18 times. But we spent months—months—on this continuing resolution and on this debt ceiling, and it prevented us from doing our work. So the words my friend from Arizona has given about all of the work that needs to be done do not include all of the work we have to do.

I do not think there could be a more important piece of legislation right now, with the jobs being the way they are, than China currency. Everyone knows how they have manipulated their currency, which has been very difficult for our country. We have lost in the last 10 years, because of that, 2 million jobs; jobs that should be our jobs if the currency were fair. But it is not. It is manipulated.

This is a jobs bill we are on today. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation that has been supported by large numbers of Democrats and Republicans. We have put this off for a long time. Now is the time to do this. We must send a message to the Chinese that we are serious.

We have for 50 years every year passed a Defense authorization bill. We need to do it this year. It is extremely important for a number of reasons. One is these programs are important. We need to take care of our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen. It sets funding levels for weapons and ammunition programs and authorizes activities of the Armed Forces around the world. It

contains authorizations—new authorizations—for programs that are extremely important to this country, including counternarcotics efforts that are critical to our efforts around the world.

This Defense authorization bill is also a bill that has some of the best oversight of any of the work that we do. The Armed Services Committee does good work in looking at the oversight of the military. This is a civilian oversight responsibility we have and we need to complete that.

I agree with my friend from Arizona, it is vital that we get to this bill and pass it. But I also say that in its present form, I am going to have some difficulty bringing this bill to the floor. It contains provisions relating to the detention of terrorism suspects, which in the words of National Security Advisor John Brennan:

> would be disastrous. It would tie the hands of counterterrorism professionals by eliminating tools and authorities that have been absolutely essential to their success.

To show you how extremely important it is that we do something about these provisions in this bill that are just wrong, both the Judiciary Committee in the Senate and the Intelligence Committee in the Senate have asked for hearings on this provision in this bill.

Going back to my original subject on China trade, the House of Representatives is going to pass China trade. Everybody knows that now. A couple of months ago that may not have been the case, but they will pass that as soon as we do.

I would hope my friend from Arizona, who we all have such admiration and respect for—we know how much he cares about our country and particularly about the Armed Forces of our country. I wish he would consider doing what we did last year. We had another problem with the Defense authorization bill, not from our perspective, as it is today, but it was from his perspective, because he felt very strongly that don't ask, don't tell should not be in the Defense authorization bill. I disagreed with him vehemently. But we agreed to take that out of the bill and have a separate vote on don't ask, don't tell. It worked out fine. I moved that during the lameduck session. People criticized me for bringing it up. But it is something I felt I had to do because that was an agreement I had with people who cared a great deal about that. I received lots of criticism because I took it out of the Defense bill or had it taken out of the Defense authorization bill.

I would say to my friend, the Senator from Arizona—and he is my friend—that we take this provision out of this bill and bring it up, have an up-or-down vote on however you want to handle that. Let the Judiciary Committee and Intelligence Committee do their work on this provision. It is not a good provision.

Since it was put in that bill, we have had some significant changes around the world, and it would be such a detriment to what we need to do to get these bad guys, to keep this provision in the bill. So I would hope my friend would treat this provision as I treated don't ask, don't tell. He complained about that. I did not think he was right, but I thought it was so important that we move to this Defense authorization bill that it was taken out.

We need to do that with this. It would be better for our country, it would be better for the Senate, and it would be better for the bipartisanship work we have to do around here. I do not in any way criticize my friend for bringing this up. I have talked to him privately. I have talked to Senator LEVIN, the chairman of that committee, on a number of occasions. I have expressed in the recent weeks that we have a problem with this provision. And, in fact, I did not know the Senator from Arizona was going to be here today. I have a letter in my office I have been looking over. I was going to have it hand-delivered to Senator MCCAIN and Senator LEVIN today, and I will continue doing that. The whole subject of my letter was to explain to them the problem with this.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the majority leader for his comments. First of all, on the issue of China currency, I believe it is correct that the administration itself objects to this legislation, much less the other body taking it up. I say with great respect to the majority leader and his knowledge of the economy and the jobs that have been lost to China, China currency may be part of the problem, but it is certainly not the reason for the 2 million jobs lost. Certainly the majority of the reason for that is for other reasons which have been well ventilated.

I say to the majority leader, I would be glad and will continue to sit down with the administration and with the majority leader and with Senator LEVIN on this issue of detainee treatment. The fact is that the President of the United States began his tenure as President of the United States with the commitment to close Guantanamo Bay. I want to close Guantanamo Bay. I have made that very clear. But Guantanamo Bay cannot, for all practical purposes, be closed at this time. That brings in other issues such as treatment of people who are apprehended and attempting to inflict damage and mayhem on the people of the United States.

I think it is something we can work out. I would hope we would be able to debate and amend, which is the usual way we address issues in this body, rather than refusing to bring legislation to the floor because there is a particular objection to it.

Last year, as the majority leader pointed out, I was opposed to the repeal of don't ask, don't tell on the grounds that the same view I had was that of the service chiefs, that we needed to assess the impact of repeal on retention readiness and battle effectiveness. But that should not, in my view, be the reason for us not to take up the legislation this year.

I am sure the majority leader is aware, this would be the first time in 41 years we are in two wars. We have to address the issues that only the authorizing committee is capable and chartered to do. So I hope the majority leader would observe that we could take up this legislation, debate it, amend it. The President always has veto authority if he wishes to veto it. We also have the other body on the other side of the Capitol that would play a role in this. We would go through the normal process of passing the Defense authorization bill, which has been a tradition for some 41 years here in the Senate.

I do appreciate the majority leader taking the time from his busy schedule to come to the floor and express his reasoning behind the schedule that he has set for the Senate, which is well within his authority.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as I was saying, we have only 1 of the 12 authorization bills that has been considered by the Senate to date, which was the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. The Senate passed that bill on July 20. Congress did not enact a single one of the annual appropriations bills through regular order last year or a budget last year or this year. What kind of message do we send the American people when they are suffering under unprecedented and unacceptable economically difficult times? We are sending the message that either we are unable or unwilling to address the issues that are affecting their very lives.

When I go home and find people without jobs and with half of the homes underwater, when I find people out of work, when I pass by the shuttered and closed strip malls throughout my State of Arizona, and then hold a townhall meeting, obviously my constituents are angry and frustrated. I do not know of a single townhall meeting that I have had, not a single one, where someone stood up and said: Pass the China currency bill and then our lives will be improved.

I am sure that with some the China currency bill is one of some importance and priority.

Certainly, I don't think it is in the top 10 priorities of the people I represent in the State of Arizona, but our Nation's security is important to my constituents. We have a sizable military presence in Arizona. The national

defense authorization bill that has passed through the Armed Services Committee is very important to the people of this country and our security in these very uncertain times.

I hope the majority leader will agree to change his priorities and bring the bill to the floor. I will continue to work to resolve concerns he or the administration has expressed concerning the legislation itself. But because the executive branch has concerns about legislation and objections to legislation, that should not prevent it from coming to the floor of the Senate. That should not be a reason why the Senate should not exercise its responsibilities to debate, to amend, and to authorize all these much needed priorities for the men and women who are serving our country with courage and efficiency. It is our job to provide them with whatever they need to do their job in the most efficient fashion.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, S. 1619, on which I believe we will be voting. I support it, as I expect my colleague from Arizona does with his principal commitment to trade and vibrant competitive commerce in the world.

I acknowledge that our commitment to commerce and trade is fundamental to our Nation. America has always been a country with open ports and open markets. When trade is conducted properly, I am convinced it creates a rising tide of prosperity in America and around the world. I am not against trade. More than that, I think the voluntary exchange of goods does promote the free exchange of ideas. Trade helped us to export our values of a free democratic society, but, like democracy itself, trade must operate under a set of rules and values.

Jobs have been lost as a result of unfair trade practices. Perhaps the most dramatic unfair trade practice existing in the world today is China's very substantial manipulation of its currency—a 30-percent, 40-percent, 25-percent alteration in the value of its currency—and it has created an extraordinary deficit that has cost jobs in this country. Whether it is 2 million or fewer, it has cost jobs of decent, hard-working Americans. It has occurred because of manipulation of the currency. It is a very real matter.

We need to fight for and aggressively defend every single job this country has, and we need to say no to unfair trade practices. We are going to insist that the trade rules apply both ways, that we don't unilaterally accept virtually anything while some of our trading partners—particularly China—can systematically violate them. I think fairness is the right thing, and we must refuse to acquiesce and accept this existing trade practice.

Look, nations whose economies have historically struggled are those that have failed to uphold the rule of law. In my view, that is a fundamental part of America's greatness—our commitment to law—and it has made us economically powerful, as well as free.

Many nations that have been unable to ensure contracts are honored and protect the integrity of financial agreements can't be successful in a commercially competitive world. When companies form a business partnership, they sign a contract to ensure that each party meets its obligations. The principle is the same with free trade. A trading partnership with China or other countries must be founded on principles upon which both parties can agree, principles and agreements which are to the mutual benefit of both parties. It is the job of our leaders to negotiate these agreements on behalf of the American workers, not to stand against them.

This is even more crucial with a nation such as China, which relentlessly, through its political apparatus, seeks to advance its own national interests. China's currency manipulation clearly puts American workers and U.S.-based businesses at a huge disadvantage, particularly in this time of economic hardship. This unfairness has to be confronted. We have talked about it but have not confronted it.

Almost all economists agree that China intentionally undervalues its currency—RMB—by as much as 30 percent.

The Employment Policy Institute argues this:

> This intervention makes the RMB artificially cheap relative to the dollar, effectively subsidizing Chinese exports.

Where? Mostly to the United States. So I believe the devaluation of the currency clearly subsidizes exports of Chinese goods to the United States.

They go on to say this:

> Currency intervention also artificially raises the cost of U.S. exports to China. . . .

So our goods that go there are higher in China than they would be, making the Chinese less able to buy them than otherwise would be the case. The goods they ship to the United States come in cheaper than they otherwise would be, making them more attractive to American consumers. This is a big factor in the surging and huge trade deficit between our countries. I think it is indisputable that is so. In other words, the Chinese give their products a 30-percent discount in the United States and make our exports cost 30 percent more in China. I think few economists would argue with that.

China's currency manipulation has been a major factor in the erosion of our Nation's manufacturing base and left millions of U.S. workers without jobs. It is a factor in job loss in America. In Alabama, the EPI estimates—and I don't know whether this is an accurate number. I am sure we have lost jobs as a result of this currency manipulation, but this is the estimate the EPI had: It has put more than 44,000 people out of work in Alabama since 2001—44,000. We just celebrated a number of economic developments in my State. We have been having some success over the years. We have 3 automobile plants, with investment from abroad, and each one has added about 4,000 jobs. According to this study, we have lost 44,000 jobs to China as a result of this currency. Again, there are disputes about how much and how large the impact is. I don't think there is any doubt it is substantial. We have been feeling it for years.

Another recent study reached a similar conclusion. It was written up in the Wall Street Journal. It found that regions exposed to trade within the United States from China lose more manufacturing jobs and see an overall decline in unemployment than other areas. They also found that exposure to Chinese imports led to larger increases—and this is common sense—in unemployment; it cost jobs in certain areas in the United States; it led to larger increases in unemployment insurance, government payments, food stamps, disability payments, and other government benefits.

Based on data in the study, the $300 billion increase in Chinese imports since 1992 has cost the Federal Government more than $20 billion in such expenditures. They calculated $20 billion simply based on the increases in food stamps, unemployment insurance, and the like. The irony behind this is that we borrow much of the money we use to pay these Federal benefits from the Chinese, which they then use to continue manipulating their currency. So we are being outmaneuvered and outnegotiated in the process.

Last year, Dan DiMicco, chairman, president, and CEO of Nucor Corporation, which has five steel mills in Alabama, my State—smaller steel mills—testified about modern steel mills. Mr. DiMicco is a national leader in American competitiveness and ideas. He testified before the House Ways and Means Committee, and this is what he said:

> Passing this legislation will help because this is a jobs bill, pure and simple. It will do more to stimulate the economy and create jobs than just about anything else Congress can do. And it will not add to our national debt—just the opposite. Ending China's currency manipulation will reinvigorate our manufacturing sector and our economy, reducing our budget deficit. By failing to take the lead and combat China's mercantilist trade practices, we are serving up our jobs, future economic well-being, and national security on a platter.

That is a serious charge. This is a man who is dealing in the real world of

steel production around the United States, with plants all over the United States. I think he knows a lot about what goes on in the world and how this system works.

I believe the bill on which I have joined my colleagues is a thoughtful, commonsense approach. It doesn't place an immediate tariff on all Chinese goods that enter the United States. It does, however, explicitly direct the Commerce Department and International Trade Commission to take currency manipulation into account when estimating countervailing and dumping duties. Under current law, the Commerce Department can take currency manipulation into account when calculating countervailing duties, but it does not take currency manipulation into account. It could, but it does not. The Obama administration has not instructed them to do so, and neither did his predecessor. Moreover, neither agency currently has the authority to include currency manipulation in its calculation of antidumping duties.

The practical effect of this legislation would be to charge a duty on some imported products only after the International Trade Commission and Commerce Department conduct an investigation that determines dumping is taking place or a subsidy is being provided and that a U.S. company has been injured. So a duty would only be applied if it can be proved that the exporting country violated WTO rules. In other words, this measure upholds the rule of law.

This has nothing to do with protectionism; rather, it is about protecting the principles that make free trade work. You can't have a free-trade relationship if your trading partners aren't complying with the fundamental expectations of fair trading partners.

We don't live in a perfect world. Other nations, such as China, are more than willing to exploit our good will to gain political, strategic, and economic advantage. The time has come to defend our core economic interests. American workers are the best in the world. They are not asking us for a handout or a subsidy. What they are asking for are leaders who will defend their legitimate interests on the world stage. So far, this has not been done.

I salute Senators SCHUMER, BROWN, GRAHAM, BURR, SNOWE, STABENOW, and others who have supported the legislation. I think it is time for us to act, and I ask my colleagues to support the legislation as we move forward.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

DEBIT CARD FEES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to take those who are following this debate on a little trip through the world of plastic. I am talking about the world of credit cards—in this case, specifically about debit cards—because something happened over the weekend which has changed that world dramatically, and it is important for consumers, retailers, and voters across America to understand what happened.

On October 1—on Saturday—the rules on how much a credit card company and a bank that issues a debit card can collect every time we use the debit card changed. They call it the swipe fee. It makes sense: We hand them the credit card or we do it ourselves, swipe it through the machine, and we pay for a transaction. Back in the old days, which I can recall, some people would write out a check. This is the new form of a check. It is a debit card. When we swipe it through the machine and the machine accepts it, the money comes right out of our checking account to the retailer where we did the business. It is very convenient. People are using it more and more. In fact, over half the transactions at most retailers now are done with either credit or debit cards. What the consumer doesn't know is there is a charge each time that card is swiped. It is called the swipe fee or the interchange fee. What is it? It is established by the two, basically, duopoly credit card companies—Visa and MasterCard. They run the whole show. They have been under antitrust investigation in the past, and I am sure they will be in the future. They set the rules, and here are what the rules are.

If someone runs a restaurant or, let's say, a grocery store in Near North Side Chicago, such as Art Potash's, who is a close friend of mine—a family-owned grocery store—they say: I have to take plastic to do business, then Visa and MasterCard say they have to pay each time a customer swipes that card. How much do they pay? It is a secret. Basically, consumers don't know, but individual retailers do, and the individual retailers have little or no bargaining power with Visa, MasterCard, and the big banks, as one can imagine.

So we passed a law over 1 year ago—an amendment that I offered to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act—which said to the Federal Reserve Board: Investigate this. Find out how much it actually costs the bank and credit card companies to process a transaction with a debit card. They came back, after a long study, and they said: If it uses a PIN number, which some do, it is about 4 cents. If we sign it, it is about 7 to 12 cents. Then they said: Incidentally, the average charge by the credit card company and bank for each swipe fee is 44 cents—dramatically larger than the cost of the transaction to the bank or the credit card company.

Remember, in the old days, when we processed checks? It cost pennies to process a check no matter what the face amount was. But now, retailers face the 44-cent average swipe fee every time somebody uses a debit card. So we can understand some retailers don't like this much. There is no competition. These banks and credit card companies tell them this is it, take it or leave it; if they don't like it, don't use plastic. It is secret. Nobody knows it except the retailer, the bank, and the credit card company. It is a hidden fee, and it is a killer for a lot of small businesses.

I was in Rock Island, IL, and Carl, who is the manager of the Rock Island Country Market, said: We have a special deal here, Senator. People can come in from the neighborhood in Rock Island, IL, in the morning, and I give them a cup of coffee and a doughnut for 99 cents. It is a pretty good deal in this day and age. It sure is, isn't it, compared to what we pay. He said: I want to get them in the store. But, he said, you know what. They turn around and use plastic at the cash register. I wasn't even breaking even at 99 cents, and now I am paying 44 cents to some bank and credit card company because people have used plastic.

That world changed October 1—last Saturday. The new law went into effect where the Federal Reserve established the ceiling—the maximum—that can be charged for a debit card swipe fee that is issued by the largest banks in America. The maximum now comes down to about 24 cents. Is this a big deal? It certainly is, because each year in the economy, swipe fees accounted for about $10 billion or $12 billion—$10 billion or $12 billion—in additional charges to consumers and loss of profitability by businesses. One can imagine, $10 billion or $12 billion, even after it has been discounted by the Federal Reserve to about half that amount—$5 billion or $6 billion—has the banks in an uproar.

I guess it is a great honor that the Wall Street Journal on Friday had one of their people they invited in to comment who said this new bank fee that is being charged by Bank of America on debit cards is the Durbin fee—the Durbin fee. The same thing was said by the Chicago Tribune on Saturday.

Let me say at the outset I am honored to be associated with an effort to reduce costs to retailers and consumers across America. What we are doing is fair—trying to strike some balance in an industry that has shown little or no balance. One of the worst offenders in this is Bank of America—the largest bank in the United States.

Did you see what they did last week? They announced that anybody who had a debit card at Bank of America was now going to be subject to a $5 monthly fee because of this reform. What I have said in the media, and I will say here, is: Bank of America customers, vote with your feet. Get the heck out of that bank. Find yourself a bank or credit union that will not gouge you $5 a month and still will give you a debit card you can use every single day.

What Bank of America has done is an outrage. Last week, when they announced they were charging their own customers a $5 monthly fee for the use of the debit card, they went overboard. They are overcharging their customers even for this new debit card reform,

but it is nothing new in the history of Bank of America. Consumers across America and the customers of Bank of America are rightfully outraged. It is hard to believe a bank would impose such a fee on loyal customers who simply are trying to access their own money on deposit at Bank of America, especially when Bank of America, for years, has been encouraging their customers to use debit cards as much as possible.

It is particularly hard to believe this fee would come from a bank with a track record such as Bank of America's. After helping to drive our economy off the cliff's edge in 2008, Bank of America was happy to accept a $45 billion Federal bailout for their stupidity, their greed, and their mistakes. It was just as happy to take that money and hand out $3.3 billion in employee bonuses in the same year—2008. Don't forget the track record of Bank of America when it comes to handling mortgages. They picked up this company—Countrywide—which had issued mortgages all across America that were going bad. The record of Bank of America, when it comes to processing these same mortgages, is equally disappointing. When it is not losing paperwork or refusing to answer the phone, Bank of America is foreclosing on American families right and left.

But at least this time Bank of America is being open about the new charge to its loyal customers. In contrast to the overdraft fees, research fees, swipe fees, and other hidden fees they have charged, this time Bank of America is being up front about sticking it to its own customers. Transparency is a good thing. It allows customers, as I said, to vote with their feet. Not every bank treats its customers like Bank of America, and consumers can decide whether Bank of America's values reflect their own.

Bank of America is the largest bank in terms of assets in the United States. Now it is crying poverty, saying it is forced to hit their debit cardholders with this new monthly fee because Congress passed swipe fee reform. I don't buy it. Here is the reality: Bank of America and banks in general are still making billions of dollars with this new reform in the law of credit and debit card swipe fees. Swipe fees are an estimated $50 billion per year money maker for the banking industry—$50 billion. Bank of America alone makes billions from swipe fees each year. But Bank of America didn't earn those fees by competition. Instead, Bank of America receives these billions because Visa and MasterCard, this duopoly that runs the credit card business in America, basically fixed these prices and retailers and consumers have no voice in the process. This price-fixing has immunized the swipe fee revenue stream from competition. Now that Bank of America is out in the open with this overcharge of their own customers, it is time for real competition to step in. The Federal Reserve found it cost the bank, on average, 7 cents to conduct a debit transaction—a signature transaction. It costs a lot less, I am sure, for Bank of America, with its economies of scale. But the Fed also found Bank of America was getting an average of 44 cents, instead of 7 cents. They simply can't make that type of enormous profit margin—nearly 600 percent—in a transparent and competitive market. In a free and fair market, these profits would be competed down to a reasonable level. Without competition, credit card companies—these banks such as Bank of America—will continue to win, and consumers and retailers—and, of course, now the Bank of America's own customers—will lose.

Today, I have written a letter to the CEO of Bank of America. His name is Brian Moynihan. I told him it wasn't just me alone but others have done a little calculation on his $5 monthly fee. Do you know what we found out? When they thought the swipe fee was going to be limited to 12 cents, Bank of America said: That will cost us $2 billion a year. Turns out the Federal Reserve said: No, it will be 24 cents. So by our estimates, this new reform of the swipe fee may cost—may cost—Bank of America $1 billion a year in revenue. Guess what. If we do the calculation of $5 a month on the number of reported debit cardholders at Bank of America, they will bring back twice as much as their projected loss on this new law. They are overcharging their own customers, once again, twice as much as they should if they just want to cover the hidden fees they had in the past.

That is unfair to consumers, it is unfair to the customers, and it is unfair to do it in this tough economy, when a lot of Bank of America's customers across America are struggling to get by. What I am basically calling on Mr. Moynihan to do is to justify this $5 monthly fee based on their projected debit card transaction losses and the number of people they have holding debit cards by their company.

I didn't come up with this alone. A gentleman by the name of Lazarus, who is a business reporter in California, was the first one who called it to my attention on the ''Lehrer Report'' on Friday night. We have looked into it further, and it is clear, again—again—that Bank of America is overcharging its own customers. I can tell you it isn't the first time. Most people are aware of the fact Bank of America was sued for overcharging for various fees, such as overdraft fees, in the past. Because of that suit and the possibility of losing it, they entered into a settlement to pay over $400 million for overcharging their own customers. They are doing it again. Bank of America, with this monthly fee, is overcharging its customers again by any reasonable standard for a loss of revenue based on this new law.

The last point I wish to make is this—because I see some on the floor, including a Senator or two who may have a different point of view. When I was back in Illinois, I stood with the retailers, and I hope the retailers of Tennessee and Utah will be in touch with my colleagues and let us hear their side of the story. They have been victimized by these banks and credit card companies for too long. What we do with this law is establish a reasonable standard of compensation and now some disclosure about what is being charged for transactions.

I wish to help small businesses—and large retailers too, for that matter—across America. Their profitability, the success of their business, means more Americans go to work. If a Senator wishes to stand on the floor of the Senate and defend the Wall Street banks, such as Bank of America, and the credit card companies, be my guest. I would rather stand with the consumers and retailers that have been taken to the cleaners for years and years by these swipe fees.

The latest outrage by the Bank of America is a reminder that when it comes to valuing customers, those banks that don't gouge those customers, that don't overcharge for debt fees, are the ones that deserve America's business.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I actually am here to speak on another topic, but I was glad to hear the comments of the Senator from Illinois. I will say in general that I think consumers across our country are beginning to see the first of many consequences of Dodd-Frank. Sometimes I think my friends on the other side of the aisle believe money comes from air. But the fact is when you price fix something such as the Senate did through Dodd-Frank, when you price fix something like this, obviously it is going to have the consequences that have been laid out and, unfortunately, consumers across our country are going to be paying the price. It is interesting that most of the major retailers my friend was alluding to are all talking about the profits, the benefits they are going to have from this. At the end of the day it is the consumers who are going to be paying the price, and we are already seeing that play out. While Bank of America—I am not here to defend them. This is just the first of many charges and lack of credit that is going to be part of our American society as a result of Dodd-Frank.

But let me say, I came down today to talk about a bill we are getting ready to debate I understand this afternoon at 5:30. It is the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011. I probably won't recite that again, but that is the bill we are going to be having a cloture vote on tonight at 5:30.

I understand how people across this country are very frustrated about our

economic situation. I am very frustrated. I am frustrated for the people of Tennessee and the fact that our economy is not showing the kind of growth we would all wish to see. I understand how politicians like to respond to things back home by making it look as if they are doing something to benefit the folks back home during this tough economy. I plan to speak at length on this throughout the week that this bill is being debated.

The bill that is going to be on the floor tonight is not the answer. I think most of you know that tonight we are going to begin debating a bill that would call China, in essence, a currency manipulator. And, by the way, they are a currency manipulator and I will agree to that. But the response that this bill wants to put in place is to put tariffs on Chinese imports, and what I believe will happen is it will begin a trade war.

What I wish to say is this is the U.S. Senate. I understand that sometimes a hot bill will make it out of the House for lots of reasons, due to its makeup. I understand that a lot of times a bill such as this comes forth for messaging. What I would say is we are actually playing with fire here. This is something that is originating in the Senate. It is a place where typically things are to cool and we are to think through things.

I am hopeful we will have a vigorous debate on this, and many amendments, because my concern is that at a time in our country when we have had a financial crisis which has led to the type of economy we have here where we wish to see many people in our country have greater and more full employment, at a time when we come off high energy prices a few years ago that sucked a lot of life out of this economy, at a time when the global economy is slowing much due to the financial crisis that is occurring right now in Europe, I think the response we want to put forth is not to create a trade war with China.

I think most of us know China has been a currency manipulator. They have a managed float for their currency. We wish to see that rise much more quickly than it has. It has risen about 30 percent in the last several years.

So the point is they are making changes. China has an antiquated financial system that has to be changed; it has to be liberated; it has to become more like what we have in this country. And those steps are happening. There is no doubt that importers—there is no doubt that the goods that come here from China come here at a lesser price than they otherwise would because of the currency float they put in place in China. I understand that. But that is changing. And the fact is that with a country of 1.3 billion and as their standard of living continues to grow, we have an opportunity to have even more trade with this country. Our exports to China have grown sixfold over the most recent time.

So here we have an opportunity in this Chamber very soon to take up the three free-trade agreements with South Korea, Panama, and Colombia, trade agreements we have wanted to have in place for a long time. Here we are, the Senate, a body that is supposed to act with cooler heads. And I understand the pressures back home. I have them too. Our State has tremendously high unemployment, much higher unemployment than I wish to see happen. I know when I go to townhall meetings, people talk about China, and I understand that. But I think people may be misreading what is in this bill. I think a lot of people think this bill is sort of a plaything because it actually gives the President a chance to waive tariffs on goods that happen to come here cheaper because of currency manipulation. But that is not the case. That is not what this bill says. A lot of people have misunderstood what this bill says. They think it is sort of a plaything and the President can make it all right. The President, if you will, can be the adult and not create a trade war. But that is not what the bill says. The bill says this country has to put in place tariffs on goods coming into this country, as long as they are not being dumped into this country. If they come in at a competitive advantage, we have to put in place tariffs.

Is this what the Senate wants to do today? We have had a tremendous financial crisis. We have high unemployment in this country. We are tremendously overregulated. We are not doing the things within our own country we should be doing, that many of us have been arguing, to cause our economy to grow. We have a financial crisis that is taking hold and taking root and actually moving in parts to this country and hurting us. The markets are down.

So the Senate, a body of 100 people who are elected for 6-year terms, wants to put in place tariffs on a major growing country that we have growing exports to, and create a trade war—a trade war between the two largest economies in the world? That is our response, instead of understanding the best thing we can do for this country right now is to deal with those long-term solutions in our own country and ask this deficit reduction committee to go big, to get $3 trillion, to do tax reform, to do entitlement reform. These are the kinds of things we ought to be doing in this country: passing a 6-year highway bill; producing American energy; reducing regulations that are impeding our economy and not helping the country. Those are the kinds of things we ought to do. That is the response from the Senate, from people with 6-year terms who were elected to be the cooling of legislation, not to originate bills out of this body that we know, if passed, will likely create a trade war.

It is as though this country has lost its ability to see the fact that we are an exceptional country. It is as though we are cowering down now. It is as though we know what to do but we won't do it, and, instead, now we have got to find a bogeyman.

Do I like what China is doing with their currency? No. But is it changing? Yes. Is our country putting pressure on China to change? Yes. Is it occurring? Yes. It is going to have to. The middle class in China is going to want access to the kinds of goods our country produces. It is naturally happening. So why would we as a country tamper at this time of a global slowdown with creating a trade war?

I understand and I know many of the Senators in this room hear the same things back home I hear back home. But the last thing we need to do at this point in world history, at this point with the global economy as it is today, is repeat the same mistakes that happened back in the 1930s with Smoot-Hawley. That is exactly the path we are going down. It is as if we don't learn from history. I urge all Senators to think about this.

I understand we are probably going to move to this bill tonight. I do hope we have a vigorous debate. I hope we change this bill dramatically, if not kill it. But I think Senators need to understand, in my opinion, we are playing with fire. This is not the right thing for us to do. We need to be focusing on how we make this great Nation, the greatest Nation of all times, grow. We can do that by dealing with our own issues here internally. We know how to do it, and we can do this by courageously dealing with the long-term issues that confront this country. That will be the short-term stimulus this economy needs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask we move from morning business to the pending legislation.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1619, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 1619, a bill to provide for identification of

misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 4:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of S. 1619, the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act. First, I want to say this bill is the culmination of years of hard work and collaboration between Democrats and Republicans. I thank Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM of South Carolina. He and I have been partners in this endeavor for over 5 years. We have traveled to China together. We have worked long and hard to try to gain some fairness in the way China treats American industry, particularly in regards to currency.

I thank Senator SHERROD BROWN and Senator DEBBIE STABENOW. Both made very valuable additions to the proposal on the Senate floor today. In fact, Senator BROWN is the lead sponsor of this legislation because of the strong and good work he has done. They both have worked long and hard, realizing the industries in their States are at such a competitive disadvantage.

I thank my colleague, JEFF SESSIONS, as well, who has been one of our partners and leaders on this legislation over the last several months, and lead sponsors in addition: BOB CASEY, OLYMPIA SNOWE, JEFF SESSIONS, KAY HAGAN, and RICHARD BURR, as well as dozens of other cosponsors on this bill for their work on this issue for many years.

I also want to particularly express my appreciation to Chairman MAX BAUCUS and former ranking member of the Finance Committee CHUCK GRASSLEY for their leadership and work on currency manipulation. We believe our bill is WTO compliant, and it is in part because Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY looked at our original bill and worked with us on suggestions as to how to change it to make it just as effective but within the rules of WTO.

Today we have an opportunity to help put middle-class Americans back to work and, amazingly enough, in a bipartisan way. Today we stand together to defend American jobs against market-distorting, job-killing exchange rate policies that subsidize foreign manufacturers at the expense of American manufacturers. These currency policies artificially raise the price of U.S. exports and suppress the price of Chinese imports into the United States, undermining the economic health of American manufacturers and their ability to compete at home and around the globe.

China is by far the biggest exploiter of predatory currency practices, but our bill does not target China or any one country. Our bill, rather, says there will be consequences for any country that engages in currency manipulation to gain an unfair advantage over American businesses.

It has been 10 years since China joined the WTO. In those 10 years the Economic Policy Institute estimates that 2.8 million American jobs were lost or displaced in manufacturing or other trade-related industries as a result of increased trade with China and the Chinese Government's manipulation of its currency. My State of New York has suffered some of the biggest losses, with over 161,000 jobs lost or workers displaced since 2001. Accession to the WTO was supposed to bring China's policies in line with global trade rules meant to ensure free but fair trade. Instead, China has single-mindedly flouted those rules to spur its own economy and export-oriented growth at the expense of its trading partners, most of all the United States.

Our economic relationship with China needs a fundamental change. It is not just in currency, although that is the No. 1 issue. On issue after issue, whether it is poaching intellectual property, unfairly and illegally subsidizing Chinese businesses, monopolizing rare earths, not allowing American companies to compete in China—on issue after issue China is mercantilist, plain and simple. They use the rules of free trade when it benefits them and spurn the rules of free trade when it benefits them. For years Americans have grimaced, shrugged their shoulders, but never done anything effective to in large measure stop the Chinese pursuit of unfair mercantilism.

Six years ago I was in upstate New York and a steel manufacturer told me they could compete against Chinese steel just fine, even with labor costs being lower in China, except for the fact that China manipulated its currency and gave Chinese steel imports a 30- to 40-percent advantage. The owner of the company, providing 300 good-paying jobs, pleaded with me to do something. I happened to speak with Senator GRAHAM, and he was finding the same situation with industries in his State of South Carolina.

We began our crusade to get China to behave fairly. At first, people did not even accept the fact that currency manipulation was wrong and harmful to America. I remember at one point, within a short period of time, both the New York Times editorial page—a decidedly liberal editorial page—and the Wall Street Journal editorial page—a decidedly conservative editorial page—said China should not have to let its currency float, even though it is a tenet of free trade since Bretton Woods that said the way to correct large imbalances in trade is to let a currency readjust by floating.

We spent years convincing America, convincing our colleagues that this manipulation of currency dramatically hurt America and was unfair and against all tenets of free trade. We have achieved that goal. Now the editorials may pick reasons they do not like our particular bill, but they say: Oh, yes, we have to deal with Chinese currency manipulation.

But when we ask people who say: Don't do your bill, deal with it a different way, we say how? No one has another answer. It was true that our initial bill introduced 5 years ago was a blunt instrument to bring attention to the issue. It was our hope then not to pass the legislation—in fact, we allowed cooling off period after cooling off period in the legislation—but, rather, simply to get the Chinese to act. But about after 3 or 4 years, Senator GRAHAM and I became convinced that China would not act. When there was real pressure they might move the currency a little bit, but then they would back off.

The same proved true in other areas where China unfairly treats American industry, so we came to the conclusion that legislation was the only answer, no one having a preferred or even seemingly possibly effective alternative. So we worked, as I said, with Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY and came up with a proposal we believe meets WTO rules.

Then, because Senator STABENOW had worked long and hard on this issue along with Senator COLLINS, we combined her proposal and our proposal. Hers was mainly focused on the Banking Committee, Commerce Department, ours on Treasury. Then a year or two ago, Senator BROWN and Senator SNOWE had an additional proposal, and we have combined all of these proposals into one workable bill that will finally get fairness for American companies.

Over the past 6 years we have been sending a message to the Chinese Government about their exchange rate policies. Every Treasury Secretary since we began this crusade said: You know what. Let me just talk to the Chinese. I can bring reason to them.

They did it with the best of intentions and the best of hopes, every Treasury Secretary—casting no aspersions on any of them because the fault was China's, not ours—and could not get progress at all.

So it is down to this. If we want American companies to have a fair chance of competing, this is the solution. Not everyone will agree with every jot and tittle in this bill, but I think the vast majority of my colleagues will agree with its thrust and the need to do more than we have been doing. For that reason I am hopeful that large numbers on both sides of the aisle will vote for this motion to proceed so we can begin debating this measure and listen to some amendments if people have ideas as to how to change it.

Let me go over our bill. Our bill is intended to give the administration additional tools—this administration or any—to use if countries fail to take steps to eliminate currency misalignment. The bill would prohibit Federal procurement of products or services

from a country that fails to adopt appropriate policies or to take identifiable action to eliminate currency misalignment.

Our bill also uses U.S. trade law to counter the economic harm to U.S. manufacturers caused by currency manipulation. The artificially low value of the yuan—economists estimate it is anywhere from 20 to 40 percent less than what it should be—amounts, as is well known now, to a subsidy on Chinese exports and a tariff on imports from the United States and other countries to China.

Under existing trade laws, if the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission find that subsidized imports are causing economic harm to American manufacturers and workers, the administration must impose duties on those imports to offset or countervail the benefit conferred on foreign producers and exporters by government subsidies. Commerce already has the authority under U.S. law to investigate whether currency undervaluation by a government provides a countervailable subsidy, although it has failed to do so despite repeated requests by industry after industry to investigate.

Our bill specifies the applicable investigation initiation standard so Commerce can't just turn its back on these companies, and it will require Commerce to investigate whether currency undervaluation by a government provides a countervailable subsidy if the U.S. industry requests the investigation and provides the proper documentation.

Our bill also clarifies that Commerce may not refuse to investigate a subsidy allegation based on the single fact that a subsidy is available in circumstances in addition to export.

Our bill also uses the term ''currency misalignment,'' but it is not just a term. Administrations, both the Bush administration and the Obama administration, have, to the amazement of many Americans, refused to label China a currency manipulator. But manipulation is a subjective standard involving intent. What we do is refine that concept and go for misalignment. We believe misalignment is the appropriate standard. That is not subjective. It is not saying why the currency is misaligned or how or who did it. It is simply saying that it is. It is a narrower standard. It is a standard that is harder to wriggle out from under if anybody, any government official is intent on not enforcing the rules we think necessary to get the Chinese to act. So the bill is carefully thought out. The decimation of our middle class, our manufacturing sector, and the American economy as a whole is due in part to developing countries such as China employing currency manipulation and other aggressive mercantilist tactics to tilt the field in their favor. In the absence of action by the administration, we have a responsibility to protect the interests of American workers and companies.

One of the questions that is raised is, Is our bill WTO compliant? We believe it is. We have worked hard to ensure this. The bill provides the President with flexibility to waive any consequences that might have an adverse impact on the U.S. economy. The bill also continues to allow the U.S. Government trade officials to do their job and make the decisions on the basis of facts argued before them. We have talked to many experts in the field. They too believe our bill is WTO compliant.

What do the critics say? No one criticizes the idea that China has manipulated its currency. No one criticizes the thought, the actuality that China manipulates its currency. Almost everybody thinks not enough is being done. The main argument against our bill is not the bill itself, but critics of the bill worry that maybe this could start a trade war with China. Well, I have news for them: We are already in a trade war with China, and we are losing. China, by its mercantilist policies on currency above all but on rare earth and intellectual property, unsubsidization of homegrown industry, on exclusion of American exports where we might have advantage, is already engaged in a trade war, and the result is that millions of Americans do not have jobs who should. The result is that hundreds of billions of dollars flow out of America and into China. If we do not do anything about this, our country will be hurt badly, perhaps irreparably.

Some argue, as did the Washington Post today, that it will not have much of an effect because the industry of China has to revalue its currency; these industries will go to places such as Bangladesh. They are making an argument that is 5 and 10 years old and stale. We are not arguing about labor-intensive industries such as clothing or shoes or toys. Those are going to Bangladesh already, with the cost of Chinese labor going up. China uses its currency manipulation against our top-notch manufacturers. The large companies say nothing because most of them have plants in China, so they can get around it, but middle- and small-sized manufacturers are up against this wall and are desperate for our help.

One manufacturer in upstate New York makes a very advanced product that deals with cleaning pollutants as they go through a power system. It is a top-notch product. This manufacturer, who employs a couple hundred people in upstate New York, said to me: China's stealing my stuff even though I have patents and other things on it. They are stealing the method by which we do this. He said: I could live with that if they just sold the stuff in China. We are not big enough to export all around the world. Instead, what they do is steal our intellectual property on this, and then they come back and sell it in America at a 30-percent discount because of currency manipulation. How am I going to compete with that?

There is story after story just like that. When American companies are fighting for their survival and battling subsidized Chinese exports, including high-end exports, this is no longer an argument about labor-intensive industries alone.

I, for one, am not prepared to raise the white flag on American manufacturing and on American jobs, and neither should anybody else. I know American manufacturing can compete successfully against Chinese competition at home, in China, and around the world but only if the playing field is level, and our bill helps to level that playing field.

Critics of our bill say that while currency manipulation is an important issue, legislation to address it would ignore the many and growing challenges we face in China. The critics are wrong. We have no intention of ignoring the range of China's market-distorting practices, the ones I mentioned before. In fact, because China was emboldened on currency, which the whole world—Brazil, just a week or two ago, asked China to stop manipulating its currency. The European Union feels the same way we do. Nobody does anything, so China is emboldened to pursue mercantilist policies in other areas. Just recently, they have become involved in rare earths. They tell American manufacturers: If you want rare earths, you would be a lot better off sending your plant to China. It is just unheard of.

Critics of our bill say it is unlikely to create any incentive for China to modify its exchange policies. The experience Senator GRAHAM and I have had is that when China thinks something might be done, they begin to let their currency rise. Because nothing permanent is done, they go right back to their old habits as soon as the pressure is off. This idea that if we pressure the Chinese, they won't do it makes no sense. If we pressure them, they do nothing, and if we don't pressure them, they do nothing. The only answer is concrete legislation.

What would those who oppose this bill have us do? What is their suggestion? They do not really have one. Should we continue to sit back and watch while American jobs and American manufacturers and even large chunks of American wealth just drift away? Should we continue to, as one of my constituents put it, be not Uncle Sam but Uncle Sap? Well, there are too many of us in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle who will not sit back and continue to let mercantilist trade practices continue to decimate American manufacturing and American jobs—middle, low, and high—nor will my colleagues here in the Senate. Democrats and Republicans are united on this issue. We must take decisive action against China's currency manipulation and other economically injurious behavior. The fact that they manipulate their currency imbalances the whole world trading system. Many

economists list it as one of the reasons we had the decline in global trade in the worldwide recession. We simply have no choice but to right the wrong China is committing.

Any retaliation by China would be further evidence of their unwillingness to meet their obligations under the WTO and the global trade community. By the way, China has a lot more to lose with retaliation than we do. If there is one country that gains the most by exporting to the United States by international trade, it is China. They are very smart, and they are not going to cut their nose to spite their face.

I wholeheartedly support the President's goal of doubling U.S. exports over the next 5 years, but that cannot be done if we do not take concrete action to address the protectionist practices of foreign governments that concede tariff reductions only to replace tariffs with massive currency manipulation, border taxes, and a variety of state subsidies. We will not do it unless we get to the root cause.

China's currency manipulation would be unacceptable even in good economic times. At times of high unemployment, we can no longer stand for it. There is no bigger step to create American jobs that we can take than to confront China's currency manipulation. It is not a Democratic or Republican issue. Every one of us has manufacturers, companies that are struggling to compete at home and abroad with Chinese exports with a built-in price advantage. It is not China bashing. It is about fairness and defending American jobs.

Many of us and most Americans are worried about how things will be in 10, 20 years from now. Will America stay the leading economic power of the world? Will our children have a better life than we do? The No. 1 thing we have to do is change things at home to make that better, there is no question about it. Very high on the list as well is making sure China no longer unfairly sucks millions of jobs and hundreds of billions of dollars of American wealth to its shores. What China does will make our job of keeping America strong, of having the next generation live a better life than this generation far more difficult unless we force them to change. They will not change on their own.

Passage of this legislation will lead to real consequences for countries that unfairly manipulate their currency. We have waited a long time. We have declined to move the legislation at the request of two administrations. Patience—not of us but of the American people—has worn out. I ask my colleagues to stand with us on S. 1619. Stand up for American manufacturing, for American jobs, for American wealth. Stand up so our children can have an even brighter future than we have.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I have enjoyed the remarks of my distinguished friend from New York.

As we begin the debate today on the important issue of exchange rate misalignment, although it is an important debate, I seriously question its timing.

Let's step back for a moment. At the end of last month, the Senate approved legislation renewing and expanding trade adjustment assistance. We need to be clear about what this program is—a big government spending program of dubious value but one that is important to President Obama's union allies. Not surprisingly, given the heft labor unions wield in the liberal political coalition, this spending program is President Obama's top trade priority, so much so that he was even willing to abandon our allies in Colombia, Panama, and South Korea unless he secured this additional spending. To get more government spending for big labor, the President was willing to hold up the three free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea that everyone knows will grow this economy and create jobs.

I was happy to chat with the Trade Representative a few minutes ago, and he told me he was going to send those three trade agreements up today, and they should be here between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. I am really happy about that because it is way beyond time to get them here.

Americans need to remember this episode when they hear the President talk about his commitment to job creation. Put aside all the talk, and it is clear where the rubber hits the road. The President will prioritize government spending over private sector job growth.

Still, because of the President's insistence on this spending program, the TAA bill is likely to pass the House and become law. So here is my question: Given that we just debated a trade bill that we knew would likely become law, why was this currency bill not considered in that context? I can only conclude either that the administration opposes the currency bill and therefore asked that it not become part of TAA or that the consideration of this bill is merely a political exercise with little expectation that it ever will become law. With millions of Americans out of work and the economy stagnant, the people of Utah and all American citizens deserve more than political grandstanding.

Regarding the substance of the issue, the manipulation of currency values by major trading partners in order to gain unfair trade advantage represents a genuine threat to U.S. jobs and to rebalancing of the global financial and economic system. For many years and continuing into the present, that threat is a reality. There is virtually unanimous agreement among international analysts that there exists large-scale, prolonged, one-way intervention in exchange markets by some of our important trading partners in order to limit or preclude currency appreciation, primarily in China but also in some of the other economies as well. There also seems to be little question that China manipulates its currency in order to subsidize its exports.

The bill before us seeks to address exchange rate misalignment specifically and global imbalances generally by sharpening the tools available to counter currency manipulation by a trading partner. Of course, any additional tools we can construct must be carefully crafted to align with all of our international trade agreements and global rules of trade.

The issue of China's currency has been with us for far too many years.

The issue of China's currency has been with us for far too many years. We have repeated discussions about how to address lack of appreciation of China's currency, followed by diplomatic bilateral discussions assurances of moves from China to allow appreciation some modest subsequent appreciation while the political heat is on, and little change thereafter once the heat subsides.

This approach does not seem to be working. We have had large and persistent bilateral trade deficits with China, and those deficits continue. We have relied on China's massive excess savings to finance our growing debt, and we have worsened that reliance given the debt-fueled spending spree of the current President. China's dollar-denominated reserve holdings, which have grown for many years, have ballooned from around $1.9 trillion when President Obama took office to over $3 trillion, according to some recent estimates—a 50-percent increase.

But currency misalignment by China is not the only source of global financial and economic imbalances. If the President looked in the mirror, he would see his own responsibility for global economic uncertainty. Our budget deficits have far exceeded $1 trillion for the past 3 fiscal years. For 2011, the deficit is expected to be around $1.3 trillion, which is an unsustainable 8.5 percent of GDP and the third-largest deficit in the past 65 years, exceeded only by the deficits in 2009 and 2010. Deficits of this magnitude have not been seen since the years surrounding World War II, when virtually the entire economy was being directed by the Federal government. Given our budget deficits and the China currency issue, the important question is: What is being done?

Let's look at what is being done with a bit of recent history for context. Back in 2008, then-candidate Obama wrote the following to textile organizations:

> The massive current account surpluses accumulated by China are directly related to its manipulation of its currency's value. The result is not good for the United States, not good for the global economy, and likely to create problems in China itself.

He went went on to promise that, if elected, he would use all diplomatic

means at his disposal to induce China to change its foreign exchange policies. He promised to beef up U.S. enforcement efforts against unfair trade practices.

Also, back in 2009, during the Treasury Secretary's confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, now-Secretary Geithner stated that:

> President Obama—backed by the conclusions of a broad range of economists—believes that China is manipulating its currency.

Those are strong words. Yet once in office, the President and Secretary Geithner failed to follow up on those words with action. The Administration promised to usher in an era of change but failed to change the way the U.S. deals with the China currency issue.

The Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 requires that the Treasury Secretary report on exchange rate policies of major U.S. trading partners. Under the act, Treasury must consider whether countries manipulate exchange rates for purposes of preventing balance of payments adjustments or gaining unfair trade advantage.

The evidence clearly seems to show that China's currency policies amount to manipulation leading to an unfair advantage in international trade.

Candidate Obama agreed during his campaign.

Treasury Secretary Geithner agreed during his confirmation testimony.

Yet, as Treasury Secretary and as President, the two have refused to act.

Secretary Geithner has issued five foreign exchange reports, but has refused to label China as a country that manipulates its exchange rate for the purpose of gaining unfair competitive advantage in international trade. Let me repeat that, despite many bold claims about using all the tools at their disposal to counteract China's trade policies, the administration refuses to designate China's policies as being consistent with currency manipulation for trade advantage. The question that I and most of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have is: Why?

Clearly, the administration must recognize the consequences of China's manipulation for American workers and manufacturers and for the stability of the global financial and economic system. Why, then, is the administration protecting China by refusing to designate it as a currency manipulator?

Under the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act, once a country is so designated, there are no draconian actions required. The immediate repercussions are merely stepped-up monitoring and greater vigilance in dialogue. Those don't seem to be things that would lead to currency or trade wars.

So, why doesn't the administration act?

After all, American jobs are at stake. American workers can compete with any workers in the world, but our workers should not have to compete against foreign firms that receive massive subsidies. If the President is as intent on focusing on job creation in America as his campaigning suggests, then why has he refused to take such a simple step as designating known, existing currency manipulation?

There is a severe mismatch here between political rhetoric and action.

My fear is that the administration's overreliance on overseas funding—in particular from China—to finance their exploding deficits is preventing the President and his officers from acting on behalf of the competitive, but struggling, American workforce.

It is well past time for the administration to recognize the negative consequences of China's manipulation for American workers and manufacturers, and for global stability.

Even though there has been only tepid support, even on the Democratic side of the aisle, for the President's much touted jobs plan, there is bipartisan agreement that Congress needs to take significant actions to address the massive jobs deficit this Nation is facing. We face a national crisis in having unemployment persisting at over 9 percent, with elevated numbers of the unemployed suffering from long-term bouts of joblessness and with many American workers having become so discouraged that they have simply dropped out of the labor force.

According to statements by the majority leader of the Senate, a focus on jobs is precisely why we are considering the bill before us. According to one of those statements, the majority leader is reported as having said that ''I don't think there's anything more important for a jobs measure than China trade.''

I am starting to think my friends on the other side of the aisle are like the gang that couldn't shoot straight. The majority leader thinks that addressing China trade is essential to job creation. But based on its failure to use existing tools available to designate China as a currency manipulator, the administration apparently disagrees or it would have long ago used its authority to make such a designation under the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act and then acted on the problem.

The President's focus seems to be elsewhere. He seems to think that at least as important for jobs as the issue of China trade identified by the majority leader is his so-called American Jobs Act. Advertisements by the Democratic National Committee and campaign speeches by the President since he announced it in a joint session of Congress early last month tell us quite clearly that we should ''meet our responsibilities'' and consider that Act ''right away.''

Yet my friends on the other side of the aisle apparently believe that a political debate over China and its currency policies are more important for job creation than the President's American Jobs Act.

If the President's act is, as advertised, so crucial for job creation in the face of our national unemployment crisis, why is Senate Democratic leadership delaying its consideration? Why not consider the legislation right away, as demanded by the President in his campaign speeches and Democratic National Committee advertisements?

We are told by the President that Americans who are out of work cannot wait until the next election for us to act boldly for job creation. So why are we not considering his American Jobs Act, unless my Democrat friends disagree with the President that the act would be the most important job creator available to us today?

I suspect they know that the $447 billion in new stimulus spending included in the President's jobs bill, and the accompanying proposals to impose $1.5 trillion in new taxes on a sluggish economy, is economically counterproductive and a sure-fire political loser.

I must say that the President's Jobs Act looks like more of the same debt-fueled stimulus spending, cloaked under the guise of ''investment,'' along with higher taxes, cloaked under the label ''tax reform.''

While I may disagree on the particulars of the President's proposal, I do not disagree with his premise that we face a national crisis in our labor markets and that we should be debating measures that will promote American job creation now, without delay.

We are also told by the President that we must pass our pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Jobs are at stake, he says. As with the political campaign rhetoric exhorting Congress to pass the President's American Jobs Act, which the majority leader has opted to shelve until some unspecified future date, the President delayed the action required to get these agreements passed for much too long.

Pass the American Jobs Act, the President scolds.

But we can't because the Democrat's majority leader has not brought the Act to the Senate floor. The currency bill, which is unlikely to lead to much, if any, job creation before the next election, has come first, perhaps to allow more time for campaign speeches and ads by the Democratic National Committee.

Pass the free trade agreements, the President lectures. But they were delayed, as they sit idle on his desk.

I am pleased, since the trade leader in the administration called me a few minutes ago to tell me they are on their way up here today.

This currency bill is coming first. But what needs to come first is job creation, not electioneering and politics.

Our jobs deficit is a full-blown national crisis. The unemployment rate has been persistently above 9 percent since April of this year. It has averaged 9.4 percent since the President took office. It has been above 9 percent in 26

out of the 31 months since the President took office, despite promises by administration economists that the massive debt-fueled stimulus, which will cost over $1 trillion when all costs are included, would keep unemployment contained below 8 percent. And the unemployment rate is even higher, at over 16 percent, once we include, for example, people who want to work but have become so discouraged that they no longer look for work.

Nearly 14 million workers are unemployed, and the number grows when we include discouraged workers. The number of long-term unemployed workers has been at record highs. According to Census data released last month, those in their twenties and thirties are suffering from the highest unemployment rate since World War II. The enthusiasm of young citizens in 2008 long ago gave way to disappointment and disaffection.

Our joblessness crisis is nothing short of a crisis for liberty. When American men and women do not have jobs and opportunity, their freedom to make lives for themselves is eroded. Yet we are to understand that in the face of this historic crisis, there is no more important issue regarding jobs than our bilateral trade with China.

Again, I agree we need to address the issue of currency manipulation and our sustained and large trade deficits with China. However, let us be clear that dealing with issues related to China involves only one bilateral trade relationship. The trade and current account problems facing the United States, and the global financial, trade, and economic imbalances that everyone faces are not solved by addressing this one trading relationship. That is one reason I will be offering an amendment to this bill calling for multilateral and plurilateral negotiations to address currency misalignment. If we are going to succeed, we need to look at the big picture and work with our allies to counter China's current practices. I will discuss my amendment in more detail soon, but hope it will receive strong bipartisan support.

Our trade imbalances are not with China alone. Rather, as part of the problem of saving too little, the United States has multilateral trades imbalances which require more action than focusing solely on one bilateral relationship.

According to recent data from the U.S. International Trade Commission, the United States has trade deficits with nearly 100 countries. The United States saves too little, and that problem will not be solved solely by passing the bill before us.

Make no mistake, the legislation we are considering can provide useful tools for addressing concerns about China, if the administration actually uses the tools. But those tools alone are not sufficient. If we try to address our multilateral problems by putting pressure on China alone, without also attending to our lack of saving and our own role in generating trade deficits with nearly 100 other countries, the Chinese piece of the U.S. imbalance will migrate somewhere else. This bill is not a magic bullet to solve our problems or the problems arising from global imbalances. And it almost surely is not the highest priority piece of legislation if job creation is truly our focus.

The United States, for its part, contributes to global imbalances by persistently saving too little. Following the financial crisis, which was precipitated partly by large runups in household indebtedness, American families have tightened their belts to save more and repair their own balance sheets. It is the U.S. Federal Government that has been missing in action to restore national savings, reduce our Federal debt, and promote global balance.

Rather than repair the Federal balance sheet, the administration has chosen to run trillions of dollars of debt-fueled deficits and borrow ever-increasing sums from abroad, including China. And rather than facing the fact that the Federal Government has a spending problem, the President is advertising and campaigning on a new American Jobs Act stimulus and tax hike platform containing even more spending and short-term debt accumulation.

We are told that it will be in the interest of the American people to borrow more today in order to spend more on infrastructure, for example. The stimulus proponents say: Interest rates are low, so let's ramp up borrowing right now. That is the same approach the Senate took when it voted to extend and expand trade adjustment assistance. They ignore, however, that piling trillions more onto our national credit card issued by China and our other creditors moves us that much faster into the company of the eurozone countries who now face default and elevated interest costs.

While Federal borrowing rates are low today, what happens when global markets tire of our profligacy and debt-financed spending and begin to demand higher interest compensation? As Spain and Italy have seen recently, low interest rates are not guaranteed and the interest rate environment that you face can pivot on a dime and escalate rapidly. Borrowing at low rates today sounds great, until you wake up tomorrow and are forced to refinance at more punitive rates. More debt-fueled government spending beyond our means is sure to drive us rapidly down the road to the stagnation and debt crisis we are seeing today in Europe.

Of course, the President claims his new stimulus and tax hike proposals are all paid for, but the payments are largely promises of future austerity. Anyone who has paid attention knows that when the Federal Government promises to go on a spending diet later it never leads to fiscal weight loss because future Congresses are not bound by today's promises.

It is interesting to hear the President's persistent calls for more debt-fueled infrastructure spending. Presumably, given his interest in job creation ''right now,'' the projects he has in mind will be more shovel-ready than the readiness of the previous stimulus projects, which turned into something the President found so funny that he joked about it. Of course, it is no joke to jobless Americans who are stuck with the stimulus debt bill.

We heard in early September from the chairman of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness that the council identified ''ten high-priority infrastructure projects based on their potential to put Americans to work right away—projects that have already been funded, but are being held up by regulations.''

The jobs council says it will work with the administration to try to get the projects moving. Let me repeat that: the projects ''are being held up by regulations.'' This comes from the chairman of the President's own jobs council.

Yet when some on the other side of the aisle are reminded that regulations are holding back job creation, they recoil in disbelief. If there are 10 large-scale infrastructure spending projects ready to go and already fully funded and are only being held up by regulatory review lag, I urge the President to act ''right now'' to get those projects underway in the interest of job creation. Make one fewer campaign appearance and use that time to expedite regulatory review and get those projects going if, as should be the case, he believes job creation is more important than politics and wishes to act on that belief.

We have also heard the President remarking on how, from a global competitiveness perspective, the United States should borrow more today and spend on what he generically calls ''infrastructure,'' which, as it turns out, can be anything from paving a road to doling out money to solar panel makers.

The President cited in his infrastructure advocacy a set of global rankings on infrastructure from the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. The President seemed to read the report and its ranking of the United States as 23rd out of 139 countries for transportation infrastructure competitiveness as a call for more spending on whatever it is he thinks of as infrastructure.

It appears, however, that he did not read the report in its entirety. If he did, he would have noticed that the ranking is for only one of nine factors in the report's overall infrastructure assessment. More importantly, if he had read the report, he would have noticed the overriding area identified as the weakest one for the United States in terms of eroding our global competitiveness. To quote the report directly:

A lack of macroeconomic stability continues to be the United States' greatest area of weakness (ranked 87th). Prior to the crisis, the United States had been building up

large macroeconomic imbalances, with repeated fiscal deficits leading to burgeoning levels of public indebtedness; this has been exacerbated by significant stimulus spending. In this context, it is clear that mapping out a clear exit strategy will be an important step in reinforcing the country's competitiveness going into the future.

There you have it. The report the President data-mined to find a number to use to support more stimulus quite clearly says that declining U.S. global competitiveness has come from fiscal deficits, exacerbated by stimulus spending. It clearly says the solution is to exit from our unsustainable fiscal path. That means reining in the runaway debt-fueled spending, not more spending.

Before turning to the legislative process on the bill before us, let me post a trail marker for our deliberations. The currency bill we are considering includes reliance on exchange rate models used by the International Monetary Fund. Those models allow for the macroeconomic effects on currency valuations of fundamental changes in policies of trade partner countries. For example, if the United States engages in fundamental tax reform that would lead to improved growth and reduced deficits and debt, the models considered in the legislation before us have the ability to capture those effects.

The marker I wish to set here is a reminder that we should be similarly so inclined to use economic models that allow for macroeconomic effects of policy changes when we choose to make fundamental changes to tax and spending policies. We should be as willing to have our budget score keepers use economic models that allow for long-run growth and macroeconomic effects of fundamental tax and spending reform policies as we seem to be here in this legislation to use models that incorporate such effects when evaluating currency alignments. If it is good to use economic models that allow for an accounting of growth effects here, then it should be good elsewhere.

I also need to address the process we will follow in our consideration of the currency bill before us. The bill has garnered bipartisan support. In the interest of promoting a truly bipartisan effort, which the American people would love to see, it is my hope there will be balance in amendments that are allowed to be considered. This bill has sound objectives, but it is not perfect. I believe amendments from both sides of the aisle can improve the final product. And, as I mentioned earlier, I have an amendment that I believe will improve this bill significantly and help us devise a long-term approach to dealing with currency misalignment. I hope there will be an opportunity for it, and others, to be considered. I hope they are not going to lock up the tree again, which is the standard practice around here by the majority. This bill is an important bill, and we ought to be able to amend it with important amendments.

The overriding objective of the legislation—job creation—is shared by Republicans and Democrats alike. Therefore, it is my hope that amendments from my side of the aisle, designed to promote job growth today and in the future, will be duly considered, allowed, and duly debated.

I look forward to consideration of the currency bill before us and a robust, bipartisan process, which includes consideration of amendments from both sides to promote job creation.

As I have said, our Nation faces a crisis of unemployment and joblessness that is filled with pain today and threatens erosion of human capital and skills, which will negatively impact families and the overall economy for years and years to follow. Let us not have politics and special interests dictate what we consider to promote job creation and economic growth. American workers and families, many of them struggling and in pain, cannot wait until the next Presidential election is resolved for the Federal Government to act to promote job creation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I know our time expires shortly. Senator HATCH has concluded his remarks, so I wish to speak on two other subjects until Senator LEAHY arrives.

SSI EXTENSION

Mr. President, I rise in support of a bill to be introduced along with Senators LEAHY, GILLIBRAND, MENENDEZ, FRANKEN, and KLOBUCHAR, called the SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act of 2011.

This bill, which the Senate is considering passing today by unanimous consent, is truly unique because it accomplishes three incredibly important objectives at the same time.

First, it ensures that approximately 5,600 disabled refugees will not lose critical life-sustaining benefits that are their only safety net, protecting them from homelessness, illness, and other effects of extreme poverty.

Some of the disabled refugees this bill helps are people who have aided American troops overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan—and risked their lives for America's cause. Others are victims of torture or human trafficking, whose injuries are so severe that they are now unable to sustain themselves without these benefits. The bill continues the Bush administration policy of making sure this vulnerable group does not lose its benefits.

But, unlike past bills, the second key fact about this bill is that it is fully paid for. It is paid for by imposing a $30 fee on individuals applying to enter the country through the diversity visa lottery program. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people apply to be one of the 50,000 individuals allowed to emigrate to the United States. The program has had great success. I have been very supportive of it. It has also enriched the American fabric with immigrants from countries that are not traditionally represented in the immigrant pool.

But, unfortunately, because applying for a ''lottery ticket'' has been traditionally free, the program has recently been compromised by third parties filing applications on behalf of unknowing foreign nationals, who then turn around and try to extort money from these foreign nationals if the ticket turns out to be a ''winning ticket.'' That is wrong and unfair. The State Department has told us that by charging this $30 fee, we can eliminate this misconduct. So it is a win-win. We get some money to pay for these refugees who we all agree should be admitted here. As I said, many helped us in Iraq and Afghanistan and, at the same time, it does not cost us a nickel and eliminates a scam that involves a very worthy program, the diversity visas.

Finally, the third great thing about this bill is, by setting the fee at $30, the CBO projects we will actually reduce our deficit by $24 million. So it will help, in a small way, reduce the deficit. So the bill hits the trifecta: It helps a very small, targeted group of the most vulnerable and needy disabled individuals whom we traditionally have not abandoned, it virtually eliminates misconduct in the diversity visa program, and it reduces the Federal deficit. Because it is a win-win-win for all sides, I ask that my colleagues in the House take up and pass this bill immediately.

The benefits for these folks already expired on October 1. If we do not act soon, we will not be able to repair the irreparable harm that will be done to those most vulnerable individuals. I wish to thank my cosponsors and chairmen and ranking members of the relevant committees governing this bill: Senators LEAHY, GRASSLEY, BAUCUS, HATCH, CONRAD, SESSIONS, and CORNYN. I would also like to thank Senator COBURN for working with me to have this bill pass and address his concerns to make the bill better.

We have done something very good. I thank all my colleagues who have joined in the work on this bill.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM F. KUNTZ, II

Mr. President, William F. Kuntz, II, is the nominee to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. I wish to describe to my colleagues the extraordinary qualifications of Dr. Kuntz, the nominee to the bench of the Eastern District, whom hopefully we will confirm later today.

Dr. Kuntz has exactly the skills, temperament, and experience to be a perfect addition to one of the busiest U.S. district courts in the country. Dr. Kuntz, currently a partner in the New

York office of Baker Hostetler, is a native of Harlem. He grew up in what was then called the Polo Grounds projects and went to high school at Fordham Prep in the South Bronx.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University, followed by a master's degree in history, a law degree, and a Ph.D. in American legal history, all from Harvard—I hope no one will hold that against him—and all within 11 years of arriving in Cambridge, from Harlem.

What an amazing man. What an American dream story. I would venture that throughout this country, Dr. Kuntz has few peers, in terms of education and training. But he did not use his degrees to go on to teach and write, a valuable career path, to be sure, but possibly not one that would have put his skills as an advocate and his commitment to the people of New York to their highest and best use.

Instead, Dr. Kuntz went on to log 33 years of litigation experience in some of New York City's finest law firms. Most impressive to me, he served for 23 years as commissioner on the City Civilian Complaint Review Board. This independent agency oversees the investigation of citizens' claims of misconduct by New York City police officers. By all accounts, Dr. Kuntz staked out an admirable middle ground, informed by hard investigative work and careful consideration of all the 5,000 cases that came before the board every year.

When my legal committee looked into his work there, he was praised by both the police side and those who brought cases before the board. In that kind of tempestuous situation, that is rare indeed. Dr. Kuntz's commitment to public service is long and impressive. He served in leadership positions on the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Legal Aid Society, the New York Bar, and PLI, among others.

I will note that Dr. Kuntz will be filling a judicial emergency vacancy in the Eastern District of New York, a court that adjudicates a large share of critical cases, such as terrorism and terrorism financing, organized crime and mortgage fraud.

Dr. Kuntz is sorely needed and more than up for the task. I look forward to Dr. Kuntz's service on the bench. I congratulate him and his family.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF HENRY F. FLOYD TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

NOMINATION OF NANNETTE JOLIVETTE BROWN TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

NOMINATION OF NANCY TORRESEN OF MAINE TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM FRANCIS KUNTZ, II, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

NOMINATION OF MARINA GARCIA MARMOLEJO TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER GUERIN ZIPPS TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Henry F. Floyd, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; Nannette Jolivette Brown, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana; Nancy Torresen, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine; William Francis Kuntz, II, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Marina Garcia Marmolejo, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas; and Jennifer Guerin Zipps, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour for debate with respect to the nominations, with the time equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, that would bring us to 20 minutes of 6. I think there was probably an attempt to vote at 5:30. I ask unanimous consent that the time be still divided in the regular way but the votes begin at 5:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today's consideration of six qualified consensus judicial nominations is welcome. It is all too rare. I commend Majority Leader REID for pressing for Senate votes on all 27 of the judicial nominees fully considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee and awaiting final action by the Senate.

We have a judicial vacancy rate that stands at 11 percent. We have 95 vacancies on Federal courts around the country. We have to build on today's efforts, the regular consideration of nominations without needless delay.

I was talking the other day with Bruce Cohen, who is the chief of staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee—chief counsel—and somebody who has had a great deal of experience working with different Senators. We were talking about the fact that there has never been anything such as this. We usually, whether it is a Republican President, Democratic President, Republican-controlled Senate, Democratic-controlled Senate, when nominees go through the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously, supported by the Senators from their home State, they usually, within a few days during wrap-up, are voice voted through.

Once in a while whoever is leader may need a vote on a Monday afternoon. So the next Monday afternoon one will be voted on. It is always 100 to nothing.

Then we have people go through unanimously, supported by Republican and Democratic Senators, and they wait month after month after month. I hope we can get away from that. I hope, for the integrity of our judicial system, we can get away from that. But also just think of the personal account that it means to the people who have been nominated. If a person is a lawyer, a distinguished lawyer, they are nominated for the Federal bench, everybody is going to congratulate them, saying that is wonderful. Then the rest of their law firm is kind of looking at them, saying: Are you going to leave now? When are you going to leave? Because their life is put on hold. They are probably going to take a significant cut in salary anyway. But they cannot take on new clients.

I hope this is probably an indication we will finally get moving.

The Senate will need to vote on four to six nominations judicial nominees a week, not just this week or next week, but throughout the fall if we are to make a real difference and make real progress. With a judicial vacancy rate that stands at 11 percent and with 95 vacancies on Federal courts around the country, we need to build on today's effort with the regular consideration of nominations without needless delays.

Among the nominees selected for Senate action today from the 27 awaiting final consideration is the nomination of Magistrate Judge Jennifer Guerin Zipps of Arizona. She will fill a vacancy in Tucson created by the tragic murder of Chief Judge Roll earlier

this year. This confirmation sets the benchmark for how judicial nominations should be being treated. It has been little more than 70 days since her nomination was sent to the Senate, and Judge Zipps has participated in a hearing, was considered by the committee and is now being confirmed by the Senate. If, on the other hand, Senate Republicans had adhered to the timeframe that they have utilized during the last 2 years for delaying consideration of consensus nominees, Judge Zipps would not be considered or confirmed until next year. I know this nomination is important to Senator KYL and I am glad to be able to support it and work with him to have it considered by the Senate. I hope that the Arizona Senators will now give consent for the committee to move forward with the nomination of Rosemary Marquez to fill another emergency vacancy in Arizona so that we can do more to help meet the critical needs on the Federal court in their State.

The judicial emergency vacancy Judge Zipps will fill is important, just as the action to fill the judicial emergencies in New York, Texas and on the Fourth Circuit that we will fill today is much needed. There are other nominees ready for final Senate action to fill judicial emergency vacancies on the Second, Fifth and Ninth Circuits and in New York, Pennsylvania, Florida and Texas. Given the extensive delays in filling vacancies, and the historically high level of vacancies that inaction on confirming President Obama's nominees has perpetuated, it is no surprise that so many pending nominees will fill judicial emergency vacancies. Of the 17 judicial nominations Republicans have not consented to consider, that are stuck before the Senate, seven of them would fill judicial emergency vacancies, as well.

I have repeatedly thanked Senator GRASSLEY for his cooperation in making sure that the Senate Judiciary Committee regularly considers nominations. Regrettably, our work has not been matched on the Senate floor, where the refusal by the Republican leadership to promptly consider consensus nominations has contributed to the longest period of historically high vacancy rates in the last 35 years. The six nominees we consider today are double the number allowed to be considered since the August recess. Such unnecessary and unexplained delays are wrong, and are harmful to the Federal judiciary and to the American people who depend on it.

Only one of the nominations which the Republican leadership has agreed to consider will fill a vacancy on our courts of appeals. This is in spite of the fact that four circuit court nominees, all for judicial emergency vacancies and all unanimously voted out of the Judiciary Committee, are awaiting final Senate action. The nomination of Judge Henry Floyd of South Carolina to fill a judicial emergency vacancy the Fourth Circuit is finally being considered after a wait of nearly 5 months. This is only the fifth circuit court nomination the Senate has been allowed to consider this entire Congress. This stands in sharp contrast to the 17 circuit court nominations in 17 months that we confirmed when I chaired the Judiciary Committee in 2001 and 2002 and President Bush was in the White House.

The nomination of Judge Floyd is another example of how President Obama is working with home State Republican Senators to select a qualified, consensus nominee. Judge Floyd received the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary and has the support, as do all the nominees awaiting final Senate action, of both of his home State Senators, in this case two Republican Senators. A Federal District Court Judge for the District of South Carolina since 2003, Judge Floyd previously served as a State court judge for 11 years, and before that he spent 19 years in private practice. It is no surprise that his nomination was reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee. What is disappointing is that it has taken almost 5 months for Republicans to consent to Senate consideration of this nomination. The people of South Carolina and the other states of the Fourth Circuit—Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, and North Carolina—should have had a circuit court judge and not a judicial emergency vacancy for the last several months.

They are not alone. There are qualified, consensus nominees who were reported unanimously by the Judiciary Committee now on the Senate calendar to fill judicial emergency vacancies on the Second, Fifth and Ninth Circuits. Those judicial emergency vacancies affect the people of Vermont, Connecticut and New York; Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas; and Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona and California. These are not controversial nominees. The Senate should be able to take up and confirm nominees like Stephen Higginson of Louisiana, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy on the Fifth Circuit with the support of his home State Senators, one a Democrat, and the other a Republican. His nomination was reported unanimously nearly 3 months ago. The Senate should be able to take up and confirm the nomination of Christopher Droney of Connecticut, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy on the Second Circuit, who has the support of both of his home State Senators, Senator BLUMENTHAL, a Democrat, and Senator LIEBERMAN, an Independent. The Senate should be able to take up and confirm the nomination of Morgan Christen of Alaska, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy on the Ninth Circuit, who has the support of both of her home State Senators, Senator MURKOWSKI, a Republican, and Senator BEGICH, a Democrat. Each of these circuit nominees received the unanimous support of all Democrats and all Republicans serving on the Judiciary Committee. Each is being delayed from filling a judicial emergency vacancy and serving the people of their State and their circuit.

Republicans who will not consent to votes on these nominations should explain to the people of the many States that comprise the Second Circuit—Vermont's circuit—and the Fifth and Ninth Circuits why those important Federal appeals courts are short on badly needed judges who could be confirmed today.

The Senate's Republican leadership continues to delay votes on qualified, consensus district court nominations, as well, leading to the backlog we have today of over two dozen judicial nominations pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar—nearly half of them to fill judicial emergency vacancies. They continue to refuse to consent to votes on 17 of the 27 nominations and have unnecessarily delayed votes on all of them for months.

Millions and millions of Americans are directly affected by this obstruction. More than half of all Americans—nearly 170 million—live in districts or circuits that have a vacancy that would be filled today if the Senate would act. More than half of all States—26—are served by courts that have nominations currently pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar. The Republican leadership should explain to the millions of Americans in these States why they will not vote. They should explain to the people of New York, Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wyoming, Alaska, California, and Delaware why they will not consent to votes today on qualified, consensus nominees to fill vacancies on the Federal trial courts in their States.

These 170 million Americans should not have to wait additional weeks and months for the Senate to fulfill its constitutional duty and ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans around the country. They should not have to bear the brunt of having too few judges available to do the work of the Federal courts. At a time when judicial vacancies have remained at historically high levels for over 2 years, these needless delays perpetuate the judicial vacancies crisis that Chief Justice Roberts wrote of last December and that the President, the Attorney General, bar associations and chief judges around the country have urged us to join together to end. The Senate can and should be doing a better job working to ensure the ability of our Federal courts to provide justice to Americans across the country.

We could easily act today to improve this situation dramatically and alleviate the crisis. Of the 17 nominations the Republicans continue to obstruct, 15 were reported by the committee unanimously. All of these consensus nominees have been favorably reported after a fair but thorough process, including extensive background material

on each nominee and the opportunity for all Senators on the committee, Democratic and Republican, to meet with and question the nominees. They have a strong commitment to the rule of law and a demonstrated faithfulness to the Constitution. These are the kinds of consensus nominees that in past years would have been considered and confirmed within days or weeks of being reported, not delayed for weeks and months.

During the first years of the Bush and Clinton administrations, we were able to reduce vacancies significantly by confirming judges. The vacancies that had numbered over 100 early in those administrations were dramatically reduced by this juncture. By early October in the third year of the Bush administration judicial vacancies had been reduced to 46. By early October in the third year of the Clinton administration they had been reduced to 57. In contrast, the judicial vacancies now in October of the third year of the Obama administration stand at 95, with a vacancy rate of 11 percent. That is a vacancy rate that is more than double where it stood at this point in President Bush's third year.

Rather than coming down as they have in the past with Republican and Democratic presidents, Federal judicial vacancies have remained near or above 90 for more than 2 years. As the Congressional Research Service confirmed in a recent report, this is a historically high level of vacancies, and this is now the longest period of historically high vacancy rates on the Federal judiciary in the last 35 years.

I hope that we can come together to return to regular order in the consideration of nominations as we have on the Judiciary Committee. The refusal by Republican leadership to come to regular time agreements for the Senate to vote on nominations continues to put our progress—our positive action—at risk. It does no good for the Judiciary Committee to vote on judicial nominees if the Senate does not act to confirm them. The hard work of the Judiciary Committee is being squandered. When the Senate is prevented from acting, as it has been with respect to 17 of the 27 judicial nominations left pending before it, the vacancies persist and the American people are not being served.

Last month, a Republican Senator was in error when he told the Senate and the American people that the Senate had already confirmed 67 article III judges this year. Had we, the Federal judicial vacancies would not remain at crisis levels. I wish he had been correct, but sadly he was not. At the time, only 38 nominees had been confirmed. Even if Senate Republicans were to abandon their obstructionist tactics and allow votes on all 27 of the judicial nominations currently awaiting final Senate action, we would still fall short of his proclamation.

In fact, even after an additional six confirmations today, the Senate will have confirmed only 44 judicial nominations, less even than last year. The first year of the Obama administration, Republicans would only allow 12 judicial nominees to be confirmed. That was the lowest total in more than 50 years. After last year, the total number of judicial nominees allowed to be confirmed was the lowest total for the first 2 years of an administration in 35 years. Last year, the Senate adjourned and left 19 judicial nominees without final action. Most had to be renominated again this year. The last of those nominees was not confirmed until June 21 of this year. Last year's stalling took us an extra 6 months to remedy. Accordingly, the Senate's confirmation of judicial nominees who had their hearings and were considered by the committee this year will total only 27 after the confirmations today.

Some seek to justify their continuing failure to take serious action to address the vacancies crisis by recalling selected instances where Democrats opposed some of President Bush's most controversial nominees. That is no justification for the across-the-board stalling on consensus judicial nominees. And this ignores the fact that we were able to make real progess in those years to confirm judicial nominees and fill vacancies. We confirmed 100 judges in the 17 months I chaired the Judiciary Committee in 2001 and 2002. The Senate will not confirm the 100th of President Obama's circuit and district court judges until today, during the 33rd month of the Obama administration, nearly twice as long.

At the end of President Bush's first 4 years in office, the Senate had confirmed 205 of his judicial nominees. We have a long way to go to reach that total before the end of next year. At this point in the presidency of George W. Bush, 162 Federal circuit and district court judges had been confirmed. On October 3 of the third year of President Clinton's administration, 163 Federal circuit and district court judges had been confirmed. By comparison, after today we will have confirmed only 104 of President Obama's circuit and district court nominees. To match the total at end of President Bush's first term the Senate will need to confirm more than 100 Federal circuit and district court judges during the next year. That means doubling to tripling the pace at which the Senate has been acting.

We can and must do better to address the serious judicial vacancies crisis on Federal courts around the country that has persisted for over 2 years. We can and must do better for the nearly 170 million Americans being made to suffer by these unnecessary delays.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I am happy to support Nannette Jolivette-Brown's nomination to the Eastern District of Louisiana. She is an experienced, real world practitioner with strong ties to the Louisiana legal community. I was very pleased when the president nominated my former classmate at Tulane Law School to the Federal bench. She possesses a wonderful, warm, calm personality that is perfectly suited to the right demeanor a judge should have.

Nannette is currently serving as the city attorney for New Orleans, a challenging position that is tasked with providing legal advice to all city officials and departments in addition to representing New Orleans in all legal matters. She has handled this responsibility well and her experience as a public servant will be an asset to her new position as a Federal judge.

Throughout her career in private practice, Ms. Brown established herself as an expert in environmental law. Additionally, she has taught law at Loyola University New Orleans, the Southern University Law Center, and as a teaching fellow at Tulane Law School.

Nannette Brown will bring a wealth of both public and private sector experience to the Federal bench, as she has practiced, taught, and administered the law throughout her career. She is exceptionally qualified to serve as a Federal judge.

I believe that the Constitution is clear that judges must interpret the law and not legislate from the bench. Accordingly, we have a responsibility to confirm judges who respect the rule of law and will practice judicial restraint. I am confident that Nannette Brown will be just such a judge. I urge my fellow Senators to unanimously support her confirmation today.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am honored to support the nomination of Nancy Torresen to be a U.S. District Judge for Maine. She is eminently well qualified to be confirmed. She has led an exemplary career of public service, culminating in her current position as an assistant U.S. attorney.

Ms. Torresen graduated from Hope College cum laude in 1981 and received her law degree cum laude in 1987 from the University of Michigan Law School where she was executive editor of the Law Review. After graduation, she came to Maine to serve as a law clerk to the extraordinarily well-respected Maine Judge Conrad Cyr. From 1988 to 1990, she worked at the law firm Williams and Connolly here in Washington.

In 1990, she had the good judgment to return to Maine when she became an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Maine and initially handled civil matters involving Federal agencies.

In 1994, she was assigned to the appellate section of the criminal division of the Maine attorney general's office where she was responsible for representing the State in appeals of serious violent crime convictions.

In 2001, Ms. Torresen returned to the U.S. attorney's office where she has been responsible for investigating and prosecuting Federal crimes in the northern half of Maine.

I am impressed by her dedication and passion for the law. I also appreciate her 21-year long commitment to public

service. She has remarked that she is proudest of her criminal prosecution efforts because of the urgent need to protect the public from violent criminals and her desire not to let down the victims.

One of her more significant cases was the recent prosecution of a multistate bank robber dubbed the ''Burly Bandit.'' From April through July, Robert Ferguson robbed more than 10 banks and credit unions throughout New England. The spree ended with a robbery of Bangor Savings Bank in July, and on October 1 of last year Mr. Ferguson pleaded guilty in U.S. district court in Bangor to 11 counts of bank robbery. Maine's U.S. attorney recognized Ms. Torresen for her outstanding work in coordinating the prosecution in the six States.

Except for a brief stint in private practice, Ms. Torresen's entire career has been that of a dedicated public servant. She is well respected in the legal community and was rated ''unanimously well-qualified'' by the American Bar Association.

Let me share one of my many conversations with her colleagues in the Maine legal community. Tim Woodcock is a well-known attorney in Bangor, whose comments are very typical of what I heard when I called and asked people what they thought of Ms. Torresen. Tim said that he regards her as ''highly professional, extremely capable, tough, but fair and is a strong advocate for the adherence by law enforcement to all legal requirements.''

These are all qualities that we should look for in our judicial nominees. Ms. Torresen's work as a prosecutor in both the Federal and State judicial systems, her integrity, her temperament, and her respect for precedent make her well qualified to serve as Maine's next Federal judge.

Maine has a long, proud history of superb federal judges, and I believe that Ms. Torresen will continue that tradition if confirmed.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I strongly support the nomination of Magistrate Judge Jennifer Guerin Zipps to the Federal district court.

At the outset, I would like to point out that Judge Zipps has been nominated to fill the seat once occupied by Chief Judge John Roll, who was, of course, murdered earlier this year during the same attack that left Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS gravely wounded. On every level, this was a tragic loss for Arizona and the judiciary. John Roll was known for his fairness to those who appeared before him, plaintiffs and defendants alike. As chief judge, he was a tireless advocate for all Arizonans, working to ensure that the federal courts in our state were able to handle growing caseloads while simultaneously seeking swift and fair justice for all.

The day we lost Chief Judge Roll, we lost an outstanding jurist, a dedicated public servant, and a great Arizonan. Judge Zipps has big shoes to fill, but I am confident she is up to the challenge, and that she will serve with honor and distinction.

I would like to say a few words about the background of Judge Zipps. Her qualifications are quite strong. Judge Zipps graduated from the University of Arizona and from Georgetown University Law Center. After law school, she clerked on the Ninth Circuit for Judge Canby and then worked for 4 years at the law firm of Molloy, Jones & Donahue. She spent the next decade as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona. She rose to be chief of the Civil Division and for the last three years was the Chief Assistant in the office. She earned numerous awards, including one for leadership and one for her performance as the civil chief. It is easy to see why Judge Zipps was awarded the ABA's highest rating: Unanimous ''Well Qualified.''

Judge Zipps has served as a magistrate on the Federal district court in Arizona since 2005. She has a distinguished record that has earned the respect of the legal community in Arizona. With her judicial experience, Judge Zipps will be able to hit the ground running and help tackle one of the heaviest caseloads in the Federal judiciary.

Perhaps most telling is the high regard in which Judge Zipps is held by her colleagues on the district court. They come from different backgrounds and were appointed by Presidents of both parties, but they all speak highly of her.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I will vote to confirm Judge Henry Floyd to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit despite my strong disagreement with his ruling in an important case that involved our national security. As a Federal district court judge in 2005, Judge Floyd ruled that the President of the United States did not have the authority to detain as an enemy combatant Jose Padilla, the so-called Dirty Bomber, because Mr. Padilla was an American citizen who was apprehended in the United States. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit reversed Judge Floyd in that case. The Fourth Circuit noted, correctly in my view, that under the plain language of the Authorization for Use of Military Force and the plurality opinion of the Supreme Court in Hamdi versus Rumsfeld, the place of Mr. Padilla's eventual capture was immaterial to the authority of the Commander-in-Chief to detain him as an enemy combatant. Mr. Padilla had associated himself with al-Qaida in Afghanistan during hostilities against U.S. forces. Mr. Padilla then fled to Pakistan, whereupon he met with Khalid Sheik Mohammed, who directed him to travel to the United States to blow up apartment buildings. Mr. Padilla was in the United States at the time of his capture in order to carry out this mission. As a result, the Fourth Circuit correctly held that the President could properly designate and detain Mr. Padilla as an enemy combatant. Judge Floyd erred in adopting a rule that would, in essence, allow enemy combatants to escape military jurisdiction if they simply succeed in entering—or re-entering—the United States—and in Mr. Padilla's case, for the purpose of conducting additional and lethal operations against the United States and its citizens.

Judge Floyd has had an accomplished legal career, and has served with distinction as a state and federal judge for nearly two decades. Because of this lengthy and distinguished judicial record, I supported his nomination to the Fourth Circuit, despite my serious disagreement with his ruling in the Padilla case.

VERMONT DEVASTATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to talk about the devastating flooding in Vermont but also our recovery. Last week, my wife Marcelle and I probably drove 400 miles around the State of Vermont—inside the State. We are a small State. The distinguished Presiding Officer knows how in small States one can go from one end to the other fairly quickly. But we crisscrossed the State over a period of a little over 1 week, a lot of the time just the two of us in the car. We would drive around and say thank you to volunteers.

Some of the things we saw were so touching. People who had lost everything were helping others and vice versa. The spirit is wonderful. The reality is, our little State, the State where both my wife and I were born, has been hurt in a way we have not seen in our lifetime.

I have talked about these inspiring actions of Vermonters. One of the things we saw is some of the worst damage caused by the storm has been to the houses and mobile homes and apartments, where Vermonters had built their lives. They had made their homes, had become part of the community. Their kids go to school. They are the fabric of the community.

We have seen entire mobile home developments washed away. Where homes once stood, now lies a path of damage and destruction and heartbreak. Look at the horrific flooding we have right here—suddenly no roads where there were roads. Look at the forefront of this picture—a house collapsed in on itself, children's toys on what might have been a playground at one time that is now devastated. I had people tell me: We lost everything. Then, in tears: We lost our wedding album. We lost the pictures of our children when they graduated from high school. We lost pictures of their baptism or their bar mitzvah.

I mean, it tears one apart because they have lost not only their homes, they have lost part of their memories.

I commend my staff both in Washington and in Vermont, because they

have worked sometimes literally around the clock—weekends, evenings, days—to help. They have seen firsthand the ruin and pain delivered by this disaster. They have seen it with their eyes and in the tearful eyes of the families around the State. Over the sounds of generators powering sump pumps and heavy equipment removing debris, we have had countless conversations with people as they stared at foundations—empty foundations—that once held their homes; as they dug toxic muck out of their basements and shops; and as volunteers helped with pulling down wet drywall, in a race against the onset of mold.

Most of these conversations begin with memories of fast-rising water and death-defying rescues. In Northfield—a town a few miles from where I live—dozens of homes along the peaceful Dog River were flooded with as much as 6 feet of water. One homeowner who escaped the rising waters by canoe fears the insurance and FEMA assistance will not be enough to help him restore his home, which is part of his life. Like many of the residents of his Water Street neighborhood, he is left wondering whether rebuilding is possible or even worth the effort.

In Brattleboro, which is down in the southeast corner of our State along the Connecticut River, and which is a boundary between Vermont and New Hampshire, the Brattleboro Housing Authority lost 60 units of housing. They put families in hotels, on their friends' couches, and spread throughout the region, as the housing authority tries desperately to fix what is lost. I saw a lot of that damage. I went there with the Governor and with the head of our Vermont National Guard. I saw it.

In Roxsbury—a beautiful town—one family along a peaceful brook that is normally about 1 foot wide was forced to their roof as floodwaters rose, and the brook became a raging rapid more than 20 feet across and 6 feet deep.

In Duxbury—the next town over from mine—in Quechee, in Berlin, and in nearly a dozen other towns, mobile home parks quickly became submerged. These homes are especially vulnerable to flood damage and are easily destroyed by a few feet of water. These are areas where they have never seen a few feet of water, and suddenly it was there.

Last week, in Woodstock, I visited a mobile home park where, on the night of the flood, the entire community crowded onto a small mound in the middle of the park awaiting rescue, watching as their homes were being destroyed. Marcelle and I stood on that mound. It was a beautiful fall day. We looked down and you could see everything that had been torn up. You could see the gouges and all the damage. I wondered, how could somebody stay in there? Honestly, as the houses were destroyed and they watched that water come up, they probably thought if it comes up any farther, we are going to die.

Just 1 week after the flooding, FEMA estimated that more than 900 homes in Vermont had suffered damage. Today, that number continues to grow, and families who found safety and comfort in their homes before Irene now find themselves living in temporary homes, in shelters and hotels, while winter is quickly, quietly approaching.

Our small State's ability to build new homes depends greatly on support from Federal safety net programs, such as the emergency community development block grant funding that I was proud to support included in the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. While this emergency funding is a first step in addressing the urgent housing needs of States such as Vermont that have been struck by natural disasters, we know that much more will be needed to help our decimated towns and communities and their citizens get back on their feet.

Housing authorities need section 8 choice vouchers to provide relief to low-income renters permanently displaced, and they need the flexibility to make use of the few available units of government-subsidized housing without the burden of stringent income-eligibility requirements. To some, this sounds like numbers, but it is very important to the people who depend upon them.

I am proud that in the Senate, on the Appropriations Committee over the past several weeks, we have been working so hard and we have been able to make prompt, significant, and bipartisan strides toward addressing the emerging disaster recovery needs in States such as Vermont, New Jersey, and North Carolina. Actually, 48 States face emergency disaster needs this year.

I remember the stories my parents and grandparents told me of flooding long before I was born in Vermont. I am 71 years old, but I have not seen damage and destruction of this magnitude in Vermont in my lifetime. Other States were also hit by Irene and are stretched to the limit. Just as victims of past disasters throughout the country were able to rely on fellow Americans in their times of need—including Vermont—so should Vermonters be able to count on a helping hand when they need it most. It is regrettable and disappointing—actually incomprehensible—that some in Congress continue to insist that assistance can only come at the cost of other Federal programs that are relied upon by the American people. Do we take it out of education or medical research or job creation? Do we rob Peter to pay Paul? Some of these same voices have had no problem with spending hundreds of billions of borrowed dollars on wars waged overseas and on rebuilding communities in Iraq and Afghanistan. They will borrow the money to rebuild roads and villages and homes in Iraq and Afghanistan, but they are going to apply a different standard to recovery efforts that are desperately needed for Americans here at home in America. It is Alice in Wonderland. An old Vermonter said to me: You know, PAT, we give them money in Iraq and Afghanistan to build homes and bridges and roads, and then they blow them up. If we build them here in America, we will take care of them and we will use them. I could give a 10-hour speech on the floor on those two sentences, summing up what I have heard from everybody. I don't care what their political background is.

Now is not the time to ask Americans to choose between helping victims of a disaster and funding for cancer research, equipment for first responders, or job-creating programs. We need to come together as a country, as we always have in the past, to pass an emergency disaster relief bill for our States in their time of need.

The Senate has answered the call by passing critical disaster relief legislation. It is time for the House to do the same and let the victims of Hurricane Irene start rebuilding their homes. As they rebuild their homes, they will rebuild their lives. They will rebuild their lives and they will rebuild our communities. When they rebuild our communities, they rebuild our State. We are part of the United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum, with the time equally divided on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Senate will confirm six more of President Obama's judicial nominees. Four of these vacancies have been deemed to be judicial emergencies. With these votes, we will have confirmed over 44 percent of the judicial nominees submitted by President Obama during this Congress, and 66 percent of all his judicial nominees.

As I have stated, the confirmation of executive and judicial appointments is one of the highest responsibilities of the Senate. It is a duty I take seriously. It is not, as some have suggested—a pro forma process. We are not here to merely rubberstamp the President's nominees. Sometimes that process takes a little time. It is the Senate's right and duty to review thoroughly the record, qualifications, and temperament of nominees. Above all, the process is to be treated with respect and with dignity. This is important for the nominees, for the Senate, and for public confidence in our constitutional process.

So I was disturbed to read recent news reports regarding what was described as an induction ceremony in the Northern District of California for

Judge Edward Chen. I believe, at this event, Judge Chen showed disrespect to the Senate and to the confirmation process. I regret that I would have to spend any time on this, and take away from the confirmation of the pending nominees. But there are important points that need to be addressed to protect our process and our members.

The Senate confirmed Judge Chen last May by a 52–46 vote. Needless to say, he was not a consensus nominee. Among the concerns about this nomination was Judge Chen's judicial philosophy, his willingness to adopt the ''empathy standard,'' and concern that he would not set aside his personal views—largely shaped by his long association with the ACLU. Remarks reportedly made at this recent event indicate our concerns were valid.

I have not seen a transcript of the event, but an article entitled ''Chen Toasted, Republicans Roasted'' makes this look more like a political rally rather than a judicial event. Chief Judge Ware, in commenting on Judge Chen's confirmation quipped, ''It made me wonder if Judge Chen should be running for political office.'' That is what many of us thought was more appropriate for Judge Chen, rather than appointment as a Federal judge.

The news article describes remarks made by Judge Chen, which I can only describe as mocking one of our members, Senator SESSIONS. This is distasteful, if not ironic. It was only after a personal appeal by SENATOR FEINSTEIN to Senator SESSIONS that the vote on Judge Chen went forward. Senator SESSIONS agreed to that vote and pressed other Members to let the vote proceed. If the press accounts are accurate, I believe Judge Chen owes an apology to Senator SESSIONS.

Judge Chen went on to again embrace his ACLU background, stating, ''Having the ACLU in your DNA is not a disease, it's an honor.'' As I have said before, Judge Chen's advocacy on behalf of the ACLU is not disqualifying, by itself. But I have to wonder about the impartiality of Judge Chen. More importantly, what are potential litigants appearing before Judge Chen to think. If the ACLU is an opposing litigant, is there any way to think Judge Chen can be fair and impartial. I would think mandatory recusal would be required in any ACLU case coming before him.

Federal Judges must abide by the code of conduct for United States Judges. I will withhold judgment on whether or not Judge Chen violated those canons, but in my opinion he clearly went too far—particularly with regard to the requirement to uphold the integrity of the judiciary, to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities, and to refrain from political activity. I hope Judge Chen realizes the important responsibility he has and acts accordingly in the future. I also hope this is a lesson to other nominees—that they treat this process with respect, even after confirmation and appointment.

I have been working throughout this Congress to confirm consensus nominees. I continue to remind my colleagues of the progress we have made. With a hearing in the Judiciary Committee scheduled for tomorrow, 85 percent of President Obama's judicial nominees will have received a hearing. At this point in President Bush's presidency, only 77 percent had been afforded a hearing.

Not only have we processed a higher percentage of nominees, but we have done it in shorter times. President Obama's circuit court nominees have only had to wait, on average, 66 days for a hearing. President Bush's circuit court nominees were forced to wait 247 days. In fact, we will be hearing from a Fourth Circuit nominee tomorrow after only 26 days in committee. None of President Bush's circuit court nominees were afforded a hearing that quickly. President Bush's Fourth Circuit nominees were particularly treated in a harsh manner. My friends on the other side of the aisle allowed four qualified and consensus nominees to languish at a time when the Fourth Circuit was one-quarter vacant.

President Obama's district court nominees have also received better treatment. On average, they have only waited 79 days for a hearing. President Bush's district court nominees waited 247 days. These nominees are also being reported out of committee at a quicker pace as well. On average, President Obama's circuit and district court nominees have been reported more than 66 days faster than President Bush's.

All in all, we have taken positive action on 85 percent of President Obama's judicial nominees this Congress. Even though I am proud of this progress, I must note, I will continue to focus on quality confirmed over quantity confirmed.

Shortly, we will be voting on Henry Floyd, who is nominated to the appeals court for the Fourth Circuit. This is President Obama's fifth nominee to be confirmed to the Fourth Circuit alone. President Bush's nominee to the Fourth Circuit from South Carolina, Steve Matthews, did not receive the same treatment. In fact, he went 484 days without so much as a hearing, let alone an up-or-down vote. Not only that, he was blocked from being considered. I would note the seat to which he was nominated was subsequently filled by a nominee from North Carolina, rather than South Carolina where the vacancy arose.

Another vacancy we will be voting on tonight is the District of Arizona seat held by the late Judge Roll before his tragic and untimely death on January 8, 2011. The entire judicial community felt this great loss. After Judge Roll's murder, I repeatedly implored the administration to focus on filling this seat as quickly as possible. It was deemed to be a judicial emergency instantly. However, it took over 5 months for the administration to nominate Judge Jennifer Guerin Zipps to the seat, even though she was a sitting magistrate judge. Since the President took his time in submitting a nomination, I felt it appropriate to work with the chairman to move this nomination through in an expeditious manner. Nominated in late June of this year, Judge Zipps received her hearing a mere 34 days later. Judge Zipps was reported to the floor shortly after we returned from the August recess and I am happy we have continued this fast pace and are confirming her to a lifetime position today.

In addition to Judge Floyd and Judge Zipps, we will confirm Nannette Jolivette Brown to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana; Nancy Torresen to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine; William Francis Kuntz to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; and Marina Garcia Marmolejo to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

I am pleased to support each of these nominees. I thank them for their public service and congratulate them on their prior accomplishments and confirmation today.

I would like to say a few words about each of the nominees.

Henry F. Floyd, is nominated to be a circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit. This seat has been deemed to be a judicial emergency. Mr. Floyd is currently a U.S. district court judge for the District of South Carolina. He was nominated to the bench by President George W. Bush in 2003, and has sat by designation on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit several times.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Floyd was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly to serve as a circuit court judge for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in 1992.

He began his legal career in private practice, first as a solo practitioner and eventually forming the law firm of Floyd & Welmaker, which then merged with Acker & Acker. He focused on civil, criminal and domestic litigation as well as trust and commercial law. He also served as an attorney for Pickens County while maintaining his full-time law partnership. Judge Floyd is a graduate from Wofford College and received a Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina. It was during his second year of law school when Judge Floyd was elected to the South Carolina House of Representative, serving three terms until 1978.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Judge Floyd with a unanimous ''Well Qualified'' rating.

Nannette Jolivette Brown is nominated to the Eastern District of Louisiana. Ms. Brown currently serves as city attorney for the city of New Orleans, where she represents the city as its chief legal officer. Prior to that, Ms. Brown was in private practice, working on real estate, environmental, personal

injury, insurance, commercial and business law. She taught a number of courses at Southern University Law Center, and was a clinical professor at Loyola University.

From 1994 to 1996, Ms. Brown served as the Director of Sanitation for New Orleans. She was also a teaching fellow at Tulane Law School. Ms. Brown is a graduate from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and received her J.D. and L.L.M from Tulane Law School.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Ms. Brown with a unanimous ''Qualified'' rating.

Nancy Torresen is nominated to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine. Since 2001, Ms. Torresen has served in the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Maine. She has investigated and prosecuted Federal crimes in the northern half of the district.

From 1994 to 2001, the Department of Justice detailed Ms. Torresen to the Maine Department of the Attorney General Criminal Division in the Appellate Section. In this position, Ms. Torresen represented the state of Maine in appeals of serious violent crime convictions.

From 1990 to 1994, Ms. Torresen served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Maine. She represented a variety of federal agencies in litigation involving medical malpractice, employment and discrimination cases.

She began her legal career as a law clerk with the Honorable Conrad K. Cyr, of the United States District Court for the District of Maine. In 1988, she joined Williams and Connolly as an associate, working on medical malpractice, libel, and contract disputes. Ms. Torresen is a graduate from Hope College with a B.A. and from the University of Michigan School Of Law with a juris doctorate.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has unanimously rated Ms. Torresen as ''Well Qualified.''

William Francis Kuntz, II, is nominated to the Eastern District of New York. This seat also has been deemed to be a judicial emergency. Since 1986, he has been a partner with a number of private law firms. While he has focused his practice on commercial litigation, he has represented financial services institutions, and large industrial entities.

From 1987 through 2010, Mr. Kuntz was appointed by Mayors Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani and Bloomberg, and confirmed by the New York City Council, to serve on the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, CCRB. As a commissioner, he has reviewed thousands of complaints filed by citizens against New York City police officers. Mr. Kuntz has taught courses in American Legal History at Brooklyn Law School.

Mr. Kuntz received his bachelor of arts, a master of arts, a juris doctorate, and a Ph.D from Harvard University.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has unanimously rated Mr. Kuntz as ''Well Qualified.''

Marina Garcia Marmolejo, is nominated to the Southern District of Texas. This is another judicial emergency seat. Ms. Marmolejo is currently a partner with Reid Davis LLP., where she has been focusing on complex commercial cases. Prior to this, she served as Of Counsel for two firms, working on complex Federal and State criminal defense matters, public corruption matters, criminal tax fraud, health care fraud, and mortgage fraud.

In 1999, Ms. Marmolejo worked briefly for the law offices of Jesus M. Dominguez before becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas. As an AUSA, Ms. Marmolejo was assigned to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force where she handled narcotics cases and money laundering investigations.

After graduating from law school, Ms. Marmolejo joined the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Western District of Texas as Assistant Public Defender where she remained until 1998. She then moved to the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Southern District of Texas where she again served as an Assistant Public Defender until 1999.

Ms. Marmolejo is a graduate of the University of Incarnate Word and received her master of arts from St. Mary's University Graduate School, and her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from St. Mary's School of Law.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Ms. Marmolejo unanimously ''Qualified.''

Jennifer Guerin Zipps, nominated to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona. As I mentioned, this seat has been deemed to be a judicial emergency. Judge Zipps has served as a U.S. magistrate judge since 2005. Prior to her serving on the bench, Judge Zipps served as an assistant U.S. attorney. While in that role, Judge Zipps was promoted to chief of the civil division. She also has private practice experience, serving as an associate in the firm of Molloy, Jones & Donahue. She began her legal career as a clerk for Judge William C. Canby of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Zipps is a graduate of the University of Arizona and received her juris doctorate from Georgetown Law. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has rated Judge Zipps unanimously ''Well Qualified.''

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to speak on two topics, briefly, the nomination of Judge Henry Floyd for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the motion to proceed on China's currency.

First, Judge Henry Floyd has been nominated by President Obama to serve on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, VA. He has a lot of bipartisan support from South Carolina. He was nominated by President Bush to be a district court judge. He served as a State court judge before that, and he has a distinguished record as a State and Federal jurist. He is an outstanding choice by the President to serve on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I have known Henry Floyd for many years. I have practiced law with him. I have appeared before him as a State judge and have followed his career. He is unanimously rated as well qualified to proceed to the Fourth Circuit. He has an outstanding legal background, great temperament, and is one of the most qualified district court judges in South Carolina. He will serve the people of the Fourth Judicial Circuit well on the court of appeals. He has the kind of intellect and common sense I think most people in this part of the country will appreciate having on the court.

I want to thank the Obama administration, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this well-qualified, fine man to go to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has a lot of bipartisan support at home. Everybody who knows Judge Floyd is a big fan—right, left, and center.

CHINA'S CURRENCY EXCHANGE PRACTICES

The issue after this vote is whether the Senate should proceed to debate legislation I have authored with Senator SCHUMER and others dealing with the currency exchange practices of the Communist dictatorship of China. I have been involved in this for almost 7 years. We did a sense-of-the-Senate resolution back in 2004, I believe it was, urging the Chinese to change their currency policy.

But what does this mean to the average American? The exchange rate today is 6.38 yuan to the dollar. When you look at the dollar to the euro, I don't know what it is trading today, but it goes up and down every day. China's economy is growing at 9 and 10 percent. They are the second largest economy in the world. They are moving like gangbusters. Does it really matter for them to suppress the value of the currency? Yes, it does.

Any objective observer, looking at the history of the way the Chinese Government deals with its monetary policy, concludes they keep the yuan below its true value to create a discount on products made in China. Look at it this way. If you are competing with China in the world marketplace, not only do you have cheap labor to compete against, but you have the Government of China directly supporting their industries in a way we don't here, and then add to that intellectual property theft. When you do

business in China, the next thing you know, a Chinese company across the street is producing the very product you went to China to produce.

So the Chinese Government needs to follow the rule of law and live with the norms of international business practices. And when it comes to currency manipulation, it is impossible to believe that the dollar-to-yuan ratio exists without the government manipulating the value of the yuan. People estimate that it is 25 to 40 percent below its true value. What does that mean? It means if you are competing with China, selling the same product made in China, there is a discount on the Chinese product based on the value of their money.

The trade deficit with China has exploded. Last year, it was $273 billion. We were at $160.4 billion in July of this year. Cheap exports coming out of China are the source of cash for the Chinese Government and Chinese industry.

We can't convert the currency in China. In the United States, we can take your money and convert it to any currency we would like. But if a Chinese manufacturer sells a product in the United States and gets paid in dollars, they have to convert it to the yuan. They have very restrictive monetary policies, and the ban of trading on the yuan is 0.5 percent day. The dollar can fluctuate based on all kinds of economic forces—our debt, our trade deficit, and what is going on here at home. But the Chinese Government restricts the fluctuation of the currency in a way that costs us jobs.

It is estimated that over 2 million jobs have been lost over the last decade because of currency manipulation alone. It is one way to get an unfair advantage in the marketplace. Over 41,000 jobs have been lost in South Carolina alone because companies can't compete with China.

So this legislation would allow the Treasury Department to create new criteria to monitor the currency practices of the Chinese Government. If it is found to be misaligned or manipulated, the Treasury Department can bring countervailing duty proposals, counterveiling duty action against China. We have done this before when the Chinese dumped steel into our market.

If a country is violating the international trading standards or business norms, under the WTO we have the ability to fight back. This legislation would elevate currency manipulation. It is one thing to dump a product such as steel or tires into the American economy, creating an unfair advantage for the Chinese manufacturing community; we have tools to deal with that. But we haven't embraced pushing back against currency.

China should be a great place to do business, but it is not. It should be more balanced than it is. I want to do business with China. I just don't want trade deficits of $273 billion that are artificially created. If they do something better than us, they should win in the marketplace. That is just the way business works. But if the government intervenes and creates an advantage for a Chinese company, that is not winning in the marketplace. This would not matter if it were a small country such as the Dominican Republic or some small country where they have to keep the currency in check because they don't want wild swings of their currency. But major economic powers—China, the United States, European countries—can't play that game.

So I hope my colleagues will vote to allow this debate to go forward because this is about American jobs at the end of the day.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all pending nominations other than the nomination of Henry Floyd are confirmed.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Henry F. Floyd, of South Carolina,to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit?

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Ex.]

YEAS—96

Akaka	Coburn	Heller
Alexander	Cochran	Hoeven
Ayotte	Collins	Hutchison
Barrasso	Conrad	Inhofe
Baucus	Coons	Isakson
Begich	Corker	Johanns
Bennet	Cornyn	Johnson (SD)
Bingaman	Crapo	Johnson (WI)
Blumenthal	DeMint	Kerry
Boozman	Durbin	Kirk
Boxer	Enzi	Klobuchar
Brown (MA)	Feinstein	Kohl
Burr	Franken	Kyl
Cantwell	Gillibrand	Landrieu
Cardin	Graham	Lautenberg
Carper	Grassley	Leahy
Casey	Hagan	Lee
Chambliss	Harkin	Levin
Coats	Hatch	Lugar
Manchin	Portman	Snowe
McCain	Pryor	Stabenow
McCaskill	Reed	Tester
McConnell	Reid	Thune
Menendez	Risch	Toomey
Merkley	Roberts	Udall (CO)
Mikulski	Rockefeller	Udall (NM)
Moran	Rubio	Vitter
Murkowski	Sanders	Warner
Murray	Schumer	Webb
Nelson (NE)	Sessions	Whitehouse
Nelson (FL)	Shaheen	Wicker
Paul	Shelby	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Blunt	Inouye
Brown (OH)	Lieberman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE OVERSIGHT REFORM ACT OF 2011—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 183, S. 1619, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Sherrod Brown, Charles E. Schumer, Tom Udall, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Daniel K. Akaka, Jack Reed, Joe Manchin III, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse, Kay R. Hagan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kent Conrad, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Robert Menendez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 183, S. 1619, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 155 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Akaka	Franken	Nelson (FL)
Alexander	Gillibrand	Portman
Ayotte	Graham	Pryor
Barrasso	Grassley	Reed
Baucus	Hagan	Reid
Begich	Harkin	Risch
Bennet	Hatch	Roberts
Bingaman	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Sanders
Boozman	Isakson	Schumer
Boxer	Johanns	Sessions
Brown (MA)	Johnson (SD)	Shaheen
Brown (OH)	Kerry	Shelby
Burr	Klobuchar	Snowe
Cardin	Kohl	Stabenow
Carper	Landrieu	Tester
Casey	Lautenberg	Thune
Chambliss	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Manchin	Vitter
Conrad	McCain	Warner
Coons	McConnell	Webb
Cornyn	Menendez	Whitehouse
Crapo	Merkley	Wicker
Durbin	Mikulski	Wyden
Enzi	Moran	
Feinstein	Nelson (NE)	

NAYS—19

Blunt	Inhofe	Murkowski
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Murray
Coats	Kirk	Paul
Coburn	Kyl	Rubio
Corker	Lee	Toomey
DeMint	Lugar	
Heller	McCaskill	

NOT VOTING—2

Inouye	Lieberman

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 19. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CRISIS IN SUDAN

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this evening to call attention to the disturbing developments in Sudan and the newly created nation of South Sudan. I fear the ongoing violence there risks undermining the progress that has been made for lasting peace after decades of civil war and bloodshed.

It has been indeed a historic year for the people of South Sudan. Almost 3 months ago, on July 9, South Sudan was formally recognized as a sovereign nation, becoming Africa's 54th state. An overwhelming 98.8 percent of South Sudanese voters chose independence from the central government of Sudan in the referendum held this January. For the millions of people whose lifetimes have known only war, the hope of a better future was finally on the horizon.

Like many, I was cautiously encouraged by the news that the South Sudanese decided to take a path toward democracy and toward justice. Like many, I realized this path would be a difficult one as conflict persists in Darfur and other areas around the border, such as Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan.

Unfortunately, recent reports of violence confirm the tenuous relationship between north and south that exists in the wake of independence. Escalating unrest points to the abandonment of peaceful negotiations by the north and a return to military intimidation and fighting. Tragically, civilians have been caught in the crossfire.

According to a post from CNN in late July, hospitals in the Nuba Mountains are overflowing with civilians who have been hurt in attacks by the northern army. This is how the report describes the scene:

> In one hospital room a nurse tried to clean the blown apart face of a young boy. In another, a 12-year-old girl suffered from advanced tetanus after her arm was cut off by shrapnel. Doctors said she had little chance of surviving.

This violence, affecting innocent children, is unacceptable. Attacks against civilians are among a number of violations that have been cited by the United Nations against Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's government, which denies the allegations and insists it is only fighting rebels loyal to South Sudan.

In a report this summer, the United Nations suggests the attacks by Sudanese Armed Forces in the border state of Southern Kordofan have amounted to human rights violations and war crimes. Most of the violence there is affecting the Nuba people, a mostly Christian minority aligned with South Sudan but left on the opposite side of the border. Thousands have been forced to flee to caves for refuge in the Nuba Mountains. Even more worrisome is that the violence is spreading. In May, the Sudanese Armed Forces invaded the disputed area of Abyei and displaced an estimated 100,000, among them nearly 4,000 children. Just last month, the Sudanese Parliament authorized military action in nearby Blue Nile.

We should not forget the legacy of President Bashir's dictatorial regime as these atrocities continue to mount. Mr. Bashir has already been indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity and war crimes over the conflict in Darfur, and the United States continues to impose sanctions on the northern government.

The full extent of the violence in the border areas between Sudan and South Sudan is hard to determine because U.N. agencies and humanitarian groups have been denied access. But this is no excuse for ignoring the warning signs of a dangerous predicament. All too often, we recognize crises after far too many lives have been lost.

What we do know about the current situation is ominous. The African Center For Justice and Peace Studies says supporters of the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North are being arbitrarily arrested on the basis of their perceived political affiliation and subject to extrajudicial killings. Refugees have described execution-style murders. International calls for the northern government to cease its aerial bombings have been blatantly ignored. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, reports that more than 100,000 people are thought to be displaced by fighting in Blue Nile alone. The U.N. estimates for South Kordofan top 200,000 displaced persons. Just last month, an article in the New York Times reported that a satellite imagery project monitoring parts of Sudan had captured images of mass graves.

We have always known South Sudan would face serious challenges this year and in the coming years as a free independent nation. What we cannot allow is its democratic future to hang in the balance as old scores are reignited and innocent lives are lost. Let's not forget the horrors of the civil war that ensued for 22 years before President George W. Bush engineered the comprehensive peace agreement in 2005. During that civil war, more than 2 million died, more than 4 million were displaced, and 600,000 fled the country as refugees.

I urge my colleagues not to lose focus on the hundreds of thousands of people who have been unfairly hurt by this violence. They have already endured far too much suffering. I join the U.S. State Department in its call for the hostilities to stop and for responsible dialog to resume. The longer the violence continues, the harder it will be to move forward toward lasting peace.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SNOWE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan legislation we will be considering this week regarding the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2011. I am very pleased it received overwhelming support for us to proceed to consideration of this most critical legislation.

This day has been a long time in the making, if you ask those of us who have been calling on our government, under the leadership of both Democrats and Republicans, to hold our foreign competitors accountable when they violate our trade laws. In that respect I want to express my gratitude to my colleague from Ohio, Senator SHERROD BROWN, with whom I have partnered in repeatedly calling for a vote on this crucial legislation, as well as the Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, and the Senator from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM, for also being with us

and working on this legislation to address all of the facets of this issue that have been long overdue in consideration by the Congress.

This day has been far too long in coming for the millions of American workers who are out of work and whose wages have been decimated as a result of our inability to compete with unfairly subsidized Chinese imports. Since Congress first began requiring the Treasury to analyze the exchange rate policies of foreign countries in 1988, China has been cited as a currency manipulator five times, all occurring between 1992 and 1994.

Since then, despite China's continued and in many ways intensification of these practices, our government, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, has failed to cite China even once for its policy of fixing its currency to the dollar. This is also despite Congress's repeated efforts to make currency manipulation a top priority in our Nation's trade agenda.

In fact, in April 2005 I joined my Senate colleagues in decisively supporting an amendment calling on China to reform its currency practices. This action is largely viewed as helping to prompt China to allow its currency to gradually appreciate between 2005 and 2008. In July 2007 I joined a majority of colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee in favor of reporting the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act of 2007 by a vote of 20 to 1. That was 4 years ago. We started 6 years ago, and yet we still had not had any concrete, substantive action on this fundamental issue. None of these bills were brought up for a vote by the full Senate.

From 2008 to mid–2010, China again froze its exchange rate constant in an effort to maintain its production edge during the financial crisis. It was only last June that China showed signs that it might allow the RMB to gradually appreciate. But according to the Congressional Research Service, it gained only 6 or 7 percent on the dollar over the last year.

Faced with these blatantly inequitable trade distortions, I have witnessed Maine's manufacturers and their employees going to great lengths to improve their competitiveness. According to the Manufacturers Association of Maine, workers in our State have increased output per employee by 6 percent over a period of 8 years—from 60,000 in 2001 to 89,000 in 2009. Yet the dramatic job losses we have witnessed in the American manufacturing sector over the last decade tell a very different story.

According to recent reports, between 2001, when China joined the WTO and 2010, 4.1 million manufacturing jobs were lost in this country, and 1.9 million of those jobs or 47 percent can be directly linked to our growing trade deficit with China.

In Maine, this withering of our manufacturing base has contributed to wage and salary employment levels falling precipitously through December 2010, with job losses of 26,900, a 4.4-percent drop. Overall, employment numbers in my State have returned to 1999 levels—1999 levels—erasing any economic gains of the previous 10 years.

U.S. manufacturing employees, including thousands who live in small towns throughout my State, are recognized as the most productive workers in the world. These are the types of jobs that should be thriving in a global economy, but they cannot if foreign producers, such as those in China, are playing with a proverbial stacked deck.

For this reason I rise today to urge my colleagues to join us in supporting the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, legislation that I have authored with the Senator from Ohio to enforce the rules and address a paramount contributing factor in the decimation of our Nation's once unparalleled manufacturing base—currency exchange rate manipulation.

For over a decade China has manipulated its exchange rate by pegging the Chinese renminbi to the dollar. As a result, China's currency is estimated to be undervalued by anywhere from 12 to 50 percent according to the Congressional Research Service. In fact, despite the Chinese Government's announcement last year that it would begin allowing its currency to gradually appreciate, the Treasury Department's exchange rate report, released May 27, noted that ''the real exchange rate of the renminbi remains substantially undervalued.''

Some of my colleagues will no doubt argue that mill closings and layoffs in States such as Maine have little to do with the value of the Chinese currency, and that legislation to hold countries such as China accountable when they intervene in currency markets will not create jobs or grow our economy.

For that matter, proponents of China's entry into the World Trade Organization 10 years ago also claimed that liberalizing trade with China would improve our trade deficit. At the time of its entry into the WTO in December 2001, China agreed to provide greater transparency when it comes to trade policies, to enforce intellectual property rights, and to end discriminatory and unpredictable rules impeding market access for American products.

In fact, as the agreement to allow China into the WTO was being negotiated in 2000, President Clinton argued it would create, in his words, ''a win-win result for both countries.''

However, as President John Adams once said, ''facts are stubborn things.'' Let's examine some of the evidence.

For one, in January, I met with Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer a few hours before he attended a private meeting at the White House. Mr. Ballmer told me that in fiscal year 2010 over 30 million PCs were sold in China that ran illegal copies of Windows. Rather telling, he noted that while China is their second largest personal computer market in the world, it is 70th in terms of Microsoft revenue per personal computer.

If one of the largest and most integrated companies in the world is being hamstrung by China's piracy and blatant infringement of intellectual property rights, how can we expect smaller U.S. companies to stand a chance when it comes to entering the Chinese market? On top of its failure to police intellectual property rights infringement, unlike most other countries where exchange rates are determined by market forces, the Chinese Government does not allow the renminbi to fluctuate freely and instead pegs it tightly to the U.S. dollar at a rate that makes it significantly undervalued vis-a-vis the dollar.

As a result, Chinese exports to the United States are artificially made less expensive, as we well know, and the cost of U.S. exports to China and the rest of the world are made more expensive by a similar or equivalent amount.

According to a new report featured last week in the Wall Street Journal, one significant consequence of China's trade practices is that over the last two decades it has surged as an exporter at a ''break-neck pace,'' while the growth of U.S. spending on imports from China has climbed steadily. As indicated by this chart to my right, according to the report, imports from China as a share of U.S. spending climbed from below 1 percent throughout much of the 1990s, to over 5 percent today. There is no question that this trajectory reflects it in this chart, seeing China as a total of U.S. spending, and what has occurred is a dramatic rise—without abatement, without any intervention whatsoever—and we have seen a steady major rise in terms of the amount of imports and spending by Americans on Chinese imports.

Due in large part to China's currency manipulation and other trade-distorting practices, manufacturers in Maine and places like Maine have not been able to compete against this surge in artificially cheap Chinese imports. As Americans spend increasingly more on Chinese products, as illustrated in the chart, these imports displace goods made in the USA.

Consequently, China's currency undervaluation has contributed directly to our soaring trade deficit with China, which has ballooned from $83 billion, when China joined the WTO in 2001, to $273 billion in 2010. Those numbers are worth repeating—when you are speaking about $83 billion, which our trade deficit was in 2001, and now in 2010 it has skyrocketed to $273 billion.

This ever-expanding, explosive trade deficit, unprecedented, of course, in our history, which grew 20 percent between 2009 and 2010, destroys existing jobs, prevents new job creation and, as economists from the Economic Policy Institute have indicated, increases the global ''race to the bottom,'' in their words, when it comes to middle-class wages.

For example, the Economic Policy Institute recently released a report noting that as plants have closed, workers displaced by trade from the manufacturing sector have had particular difficulty in securing comparable employment, and average wages of those who found new jobs fell by 11 to 13 percent.

As we see on the chart, reflected and demonstrated here, most graphically, the Economic Policy Institute report discovered that since China's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001 and through 2010, when we saw that explosive growth of the trade deficit from $83 billion to $273 billion between 2001 and 2010, the increase in the U.S.-China trade deficit eliminated or displaced 2.8 million American jobs or 310,000 jobs per year.

As we can see illustrated on the chart, virtually every State in America has been affected by the trade deficits with China, with displaced thousands and thousands of jobs, and in less than a decade 2.8 million American jobs.

In my State of Maine this means the trade deficit has displaced nearly 10,000 workers or nearly 2 percent of State employment. As the chart depicts, the pain of job losses is not unique to one individual State or region of the country. Workers in all 50 States, from California to South Carolina, from Michigan to Texas, have been harmed and unable to compete against artificially cheap Chinese imports.

While these charts and reports may paint a picture of doom and gloom, there is recourse available to American workers injured by unfair trade. Under the U.S. countervailing duty law, tariffs can be imposed on imports benefiting from foreign government subsidies if it demonstrates that the subsidies cause or threaten injury to a U.S. industry producing the same or similar product.

But while numerous U.S. industries have attempted to bring allegations of currency manipulation as an export subsidy under our trade laws, in each instance the Department of Commerce has refused to investigate.

For example, it is a little known fact that the U.S. pulp and paper industry employs 900,000 workers—roughly the equivalent number employed by the U.S. auto industry—making it an indispensable economic pillar in rural communities in Maine and across the country.

Last year, several U.S. paper manufacturers with mills in Maine brought forward allegations that China was violating trade rules by illegally subsidizing their products in the U.S. market. Just over a year ago, in 2010, I testified before the International Trade Commission and made the case—and we were ultimately successful on these points—that foreign paper manufacturers in China and Indonesia were illegally selling their products in the United States at unfairly subsidized and underpriced rates.

Amazingly, however, the Commerce Department refused to investigate whether China's currency practices constituted an illegal—and therefore countervailable—export subsidy.

Simply put, this failure to take action is unacceptable. In response, in November of last year, the Senator from Ohio, Senator BROWN, and I sent a letter to the Senate's leadership asking that a vote be scheduled on legislation directing the Commerce Department to investigate allegations that currency undervaluation provides a countervailable subsidy at the expense of American jobs. When the Senate failed to take action, Senator BROWN and I filed the House-passed currency reform bill as an amendment to the tax extender package in December of 2010.

In January 2011, during Chinese President Hu's visit to the United States, we sent a letter to Secretary Geithner underscoring the need to enforce trade remedy laws to provide U.S. industries affected by China's currency practices with a lifeline to compete. And, finally, in response to our government's failure to investigate these unfair trade practices, on February 10 of this year, Senator BROWN and I introduced our legislation, the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act.

Simply put, the Department of Commerce has failed to use its authority to respond to currency manipulation by investigating these allegations brought by U.S. industry and placing countervailing duties on foreign imports benefiting from these unfair trade practices. The purpose of our bill is to make clear that Commerce has the ability to investigate—regardless of whether the subsidy is provided to all foreign businesses in a given country or just to those that are exporting.

That is an important point, because if we wait to make that demonstration, they can continue to export their goods to the United States before we could ever reach the point of being able to make that determination on imposing that countervailing subsidy or determining which companies in China are actually doing the exporting. So it is important to eliminate that distinction, because that has been a barrier.

In fact, it certainly prevented the Department of Commerce, in their words, from being able to impose any kind of subsidies or to investigate the case before they could impose a countervailing duty. So this way we eliminate the distinction, irrespective of whether a business is exporting within China their goods. The point is, we don't want to wait for the Department of Commerce to make that determination. Those industries that do export—and once they do export—have already done the damage. So it is clearly important to be able to have the Department of Commerce in a position of being able at the outset to initiate this investigation on those companies that actually export goods to the United States from China at an unfair price.

Notably, our bill does not legislatively deem that a currency undervaluation satisfies the requirement of finding a countervailing subsidy. It just requires Congress to determine on a case-by-case basis whether currency undervaluation is giving foreign companies an unfair competitive advantage over their counterparts in our country.

Since introducing our legislation in February, we have added 11 bipartisan Senate cosponsors, and the House companion to our legislation has over 200 cosponsors. Furthermore, on September 23, I was proud to join as a lead original cosponsor of the bipartisan legislation before us today, which combines the key elements of our bill with critical provisions of the legislation authored by the Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, and the Senator from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM, that I also supported as an initiative when it came before the Senate Finance Committee in 2007.

The merged bill utilizes U.S. trade law to counter the economic damage and harm to U.S. manufacturers caused by currency manipulation and it authorizes new consequences for countries that fail to adopt appropriate policies to eliminate unfair currency undervaluation. Most critically, it will also provide businesses that are damaged by China's trade practices with the tools to respond on behalf of American workers. It ensures our government will heed the requests of a wide range of U.S. industries, such as paper manufacturers in Maine, to investigate whether currency undervaluation by a government provides a subsidy, and one in which we can initiate an action by imposing countervailing duties.

Finally, while some of my colleagues have expressed concerns that challenging China's unfair trade practices could lead that government to retaliate against U.S. goods and jeopardize our economic recovery, the fact is the potential benefit of currency reform is enormous when it comes to fighting unemployment and boosting the American economy, because as of today China essentially rigs the game to undercut true market competition and undermine U.S. businesses.

For example, a study released in June by the Economic Policy Institute discovered that addressing Chinese currency manipulation and enforcing fair trade provisions when it comes to these violations would support the creation of more than 2 million U.S. jobs, increase the gross domestic product by as much as $285 billion, and reduce the deficit by more than $70 billion a year.

Failing to act now is not an option. The International Monetary Fund recently announced that China will surpass the United States economically in 2016—a mere 5 years from now. If this turns out to be true, it will be due in large part to our current policies, which are fueling our decline and China's rise. We import more than we export, keep running huge trade deficits, consume more than we produce, and outsource thousands of jobs.

If one manufacturer is compelled to close because we failed to combat subsidized imports, that is one less manufacturer able to export and help grow our economy. And frankly, if there was ever a moment to empower a workforce when it comes to competing in a global economy, is there any doubt, given our dire economic state, that time is now? From Maine to the Midwest, China's currency manipulation has been among the greatest impediments to our manufacturing sector. Unfortunately, the silence of our government when it comes to this issue has become the silence of our factories.

It is time to take action to rebuild our economic foundations, and this legislation will ensure our government has the tools to respond on behalf of American companies and workers by imposing countervailing duties on exports subsidized by currency manipulation undervaluation.

It is absolutely vital we take this action this year—right now—because, as I indicated at the beginning of my remarks, if you look at the historical picture of the consideration of this legislation, it is clear it has been underestimated, it has been overlooked in terms of the value it brings to our country, to the value it brings to the manufacturing segment of our economy, and to the value it brings to our workers. I am deeply concerned, because it also seems as if it is an either/or proposition when we talk about trade-related issues—either we do nothing or we will invite a trade war.

We have to look at the trade practices of our trading partners and the laws which they are required to uphold—in this case, for China, through the World Trade Organization. They made a commitment at the onset when they joined that organization, and they have refused to uphold it when it comes to leveling the playing field and creating the equilibrium—to let the currency flow as required and stipulated under that agreement when they became a member of that organization. They have failed time and again to monitor these agreements and to monitor the actions of their own companies with respect to this practice, and it has decimated many industries across this country.

As I indicated with this chart, virtually every State in America has been damaged as a result of the loss of jobs because we have failed to uphold the standards of fair trade. So it isn't about encouraging a trade war. Far from it. I think it creates not only a level playing field, but it creates an equitable circumstance for our trading partners. And it is important for those countries, such as China, to be prepared to live up to the agreements to which they have subscribed through the World Trade Organization. They are required to live by their agreement, and that means they have to establish the standards where they cannot manipulate their currency, as they have been doing for more than two decades.

It has been a problem, and it has been a persistent problem. Unfortunately, both sides of the aisle—whether it is Democratic or Republican administrations, the presidency or here in Congress—have failed to take a concrete, concerted action that could have made a profound difference long before this point. This could have been averted. Time and again we haven't been able to have a Treasury Secretary designate China as a currency manipulator that I think would have then prompted much more significant action on the part of any administration.

So that issue has been addressed in this legislation—to change the threshold, to redesign and to target the legislation more precisely so that it will give the tools to the administration, and specifically to the Treasury Secretary, to be able to designate China as a currency manipulator, which then kicks in certain safeguards and actions.

The same is true for the Department of Commerce, that they will be able to initiate at the outset an investigation to determine whether devaluing the currency on the part of China has contributed to unfair trading practices and, obviously, adversely affecting our goods and workers and companies here in the United States. It is important to give the tools to our agencies to make sure they can fulfill their obligations.

I know there are times in which they have not done so, even when they have had the tools, and they have been empowered to use those tools, much to the detriment of our industries—much to the detriment of these jobs and these manufacturing companies all across America—that have either closed their doors or they have sharply curtailed their businesses or their level of employment.

I know that firsthand from my State. It has brought tremendous consequences to rural Maine and to rural America as a result, because that is what has been the basis of our economy. The manufacturing segment of our industry has been so critical to good-paying jobs, and that ultimately has been damaged and harmed as a result of this currency manipulation issue that has been persistent on the part of the Chinese, and one that we now have to address through this legislation.

I appreciate this opportunity to address the Senate on this critical issue. As we go forward in the days ahead in debating this legislation, I look forward to working with my colleagues—the Senator from Ohio, who has done yeoman's work on this issue and has brought this issue to the highest levels in terms of its attention and importance to this country, most assuredly. I am looking forward to working with him and our other colleagues to make sure we can fulfill our commitment to passing this legislation.

It is not only about debating it, it is not just voting on it, it is about its becoming law. I think we should bring this to its logical conclusion and send it to the President for his signature. The time has come, as I said, and it is long overdue. We have failed the workers and the industries of this country who are trying to compete and who can make goods. We are not going to forsake our manufacturing sector, because we have the ability to make the best goods with the most productive workers in the world, and we should be able to continue to do that. The only way we can fulfill that obligation to them is through this legislation. There is no other recourse at this moment in time.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I, first of all, thank Senator SNOWE for her leadership on this currency legislation. Its time has come, as she has said. She has been a real leader on this for months—years, for that matter. I so appreciate her work on this problem.

Pure and simple, this is the most important bipartisan jobs bill the Senate will pass in my 4½ years since I have been a Member of the Senate. Senator SNOWE has been here a good bit longer and has been a member of the Finance Committee that understands these issues of how China has gamed the system. Senator SNOWE and I were joined in our legislation, combining it with Senator SCHUMER and Senator GRAHAM in their legislation, also Senator STABENOW, a Democrat from Michigan; Senator SESSIONS, a Republican from Alabama; both Senators from North Carolina, Senator BURR, a Republican and Senator HAGAN, a Democrat; joined by Senator CASEY and the other Maine Senator, Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania, a Democrat, and the other Maine Senator, a Republican, Senator COLLINS. And that just shows the bipartisan support.

We had this vote today. On S. 1619, the cloture vote was 79–19, which is a strong message to the House and to our colleagues that this legislation as we debate this week is so important. It is deserving of basically a week of the Senate's time to discuss and debate what China trade is all about.

We know what China trade is all about. We know, as Senator SNOWE said, the trade deficit with China has ballooned in the 10 years since China has been part of the World Trade Organization. Think of it this way. Every day we buy $750 million more from China than we sell to China—every single day—Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday—every day of every week every year. So for the past year, $750 million we buy from China more than we sell to China. You just can't keep doing that. You can't keep doing that and hold the industrial base that the people of Oregon, the people of Maine, the people from Ohio care about.

Look at it this way. I don't want to inundate my colleagues with figures and numbers and dollars and job numbers and all that, but President Bush I

said $1 billion in trade surplus or trade deficit translates into 13,000 jobs. He said that 15 years ago. No President has quantified that since. But think about that. Thousands of jobs for every $1 billion in trade deficit or surplus. Well, with China alone, we have three-quarters of $1 billion every single day. Our trade deficit with the whole world is $600 billion, more than that.

So we buy $600 billion more than we sell to the world every year. How can a country, no matter how wealthy—and this is a rich country still, even though millions of people have been unemployed, have lost manufacturing jobs in my State and other States across the country. How can we continue as a prosperous nation if manufacturing is outsourced and these jobs go somewhere else?

I don't believe ever that I can think of in world history—and I have said this before and nobody has challenged it—have we seen a business plan of American companies moving to China, manufacturing there, and then selling back to the United States. A company such as Proctor & Gamble, on the other hand, they moved production to China, but they sell from their Chinese operations to China, East Asia, probably Taiwan and maybe Japan and Malaysia. They have their production in the areas they sell to. That makes perfect sense. That is good for those countries, good for those workers, good for the United States, and good for Cincinnati where Proctor & Gamble is located. But these companies that have it as their business plan to shut down production here, move to China, and then sell those products that they make in Shanghai and Wuhan and Beijing instead of in Akron, Canton, and Toledo—sell those products back to consumers in Oregon, Ohio, and Maine—that is why this legislation is so important.

A new study said we have lost 2.8 million jobs in the last decade to China because of currency manipulation; 1.9 million of those jobs are in manufacturing. You know what has happened in places such as Portland, and the Senator from Maine knows what has happened in her Portland, and what that has meant to lost jobs in this country. And understanding the reason that happens is because China games the system, because China doesn't play fair—pure and simple, say it straight, because China cheats. They have been given, for all intents and purposes, a 25 or 30 percent subsidy to their products. So because they cheat on currency—putting aside how they subsidize their paper industry, for instance, with water and capital and energy and land. Just on currency alone, when they sell something into the United States, they have a 25 to 30 percent cost advantage. I know companies in places around my State, in Mansfield, Springfield, Zanesville, Chilicothe, will say that the cost of raw materials is higher than the cost of the product when it comes from China. Why? Because China cheats. And one of the ways they cheat is they undervalue their currency so they have a 25-percent discount on their products sold into the United States. We can't compete with that, no matter that our workers are efficient, no matter that our companies are efficient, no matter that we cut costs in so many ways with the more advanced technologies and advanced manufacturing that we do.

So that is why this was such an important step, passing overwhelmingly and sending to the floor for debate today—79–19—this bipartisan jobs bill called the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight and Reform Act of 2011.

Earlier today I was in Cleveland and I had a meeting with two owners of a company in Brunswick, OH, more or less a Cleveland suburb, Automation Tool & Dye. It is a family company that has been in operation since 1974. The owners, the two sons, Randy and Bill Bennett, spoke today about their company. They have, I believe they said, 55 employees who are a major part of American manufacturing. They are the kind of company that when it is such a disadvantage on currency, it puts them in a less than competitive position sometimes. They are still doing OK, but they know how hard the business climate is when they are at that disadvantage.

So when they are making products, because China has gamed the system and an American company might move to China to do production, they can't up and move their family company of 55 employees—they can't move to China to service the company that has moved to China because of the competitive disadvantage.

So we know how that has worked. We know why this legislation that Senator SNOWE has worked on, the two bills we put together, Senator SNOWE and my bill with Senators SCHUMER and GRAHAM. As I said, we have had good strong bipartisan sponsorship on this bipartisan jobs bill and we have also had a very good vote today that was 79–19 to move this forward.

The Economic Policy Institute issued a new report showing that addressing Chinese currency manipulation could support the creation of 2.25 million American jobs, mostly in manufacturing, mostly the kind of jobs that will create other jobs because of the wealth that Senator SNOWE talked about, the wealth that manufacturing creates. And as Senator SNOWE pointed out, when the opponents to this—and too often we have seen administrations of both parties oppose bills such as this. When opponents say this is protectionism, I don't know what is wrong with protecting our families and protecting our neighbors and protecting our country. But ceding that, they say this is protectionism. This, in fact, is a reaction to Chinese protectionism. And the People's Republic of China has not really believed in the rule of law when it comes to trade. There is an emphatic strong insistence by the U.S. Senate that we do believe in the rule of law for international trade; that we do think all actors should behave. We do think that everybody in the trading system should work on a level playing field.

Today was the biggest step I have seen the U.S. Senate take since I came here in 2007. We are going to have a long debate this week. Everybody is going to get their chance. Some Members of the Senate who wanted us to debate this are still not quite sure exactly where we go with this. I think it is pretty clear, though, that the U.S. Senate today reflects what the people of this great country believe: That we make things.

My State is the third largest manufacturing State in America. Only Texas and California, States that are twice and three times our size in population, make more than we do. We know how to produce. We need to continue to produce. We know that manufacturing creates wealth.

This is a huge victory—only a first step but a huge first step and a victory for American manufacturing to help us reindustrialize our country.

I thank my colleagues for this 79–19 vote. I thank Senator SNOWE especially for her terrific work on both sides of the aisle in getting this bill moving forward. It is going to matter for workers in Toledo, Dayton, Cleveland, and Columbus. And for that, I am grateful.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BURMA SANCTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to note final passage last week of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, which extends sanctions on the Burmese regime for another year. As in years past, I am joined in this effort by my good friend, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN. Alongside the two of us are 64 other cosponsors, including Senators MCCAIN, DURBIN, and LIEBERMAN. This overwhelming bipartisan support for sanctioning the junta reflects the clear view of the U.S. Senate that the purportedly ''new'' Burmese regime that took office earlier this year so far appears little different from the ''old'' regime.

The casual observer could be excused for thinking that things have changed

dramatically for the better in Burma over the past year. After all, elections were held last fall, a ''new'' regime took office earlier this year, and Aung San Suu Kyi was freed. However, as our experience with Burma has taught us, things there usually require a closer look.

First, the November elections took place without the benefit of international election monitors, and no reputable observers viewed the elections as free or fair. This was in large part because the National League for Democracy—Suu Kyi's party and the winner overwhelmingly of the last free elections in the country in 1990—was effectively banned by the junta and couldn't participate in the election. There were restrictions placed on how other political parties could form and campaign. No criticism of the junta was permitted. And the results were unsurprising: the regime's handpicked candidates won big and the democratic opposition was largely sidelined.

Second, the ''new'' regime appears to be essentially the junta with only the thinnest democratic veneer. The Constitution, which places great power in the hands of the military, cannot be amended without the blessing of the armed forces. Furthermore, those in parliament are limited in how they can criticize the regime.

The only legitimately good news was Suu Kyi's release. Yet the extent of her freedom to travel remains an open question. Moreover, despite her release, nearly 2,000 other political prisoners remain behind bars in Burma; they are no better off than before. Neither are the hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons who are without a home due to the repressive policies of the junta.

That the political situation in Burma remains largely unchanged is also reflected in the defection this summer of two Burmese diplomats. One of them was the Burmese Deputy Chief of Mission here in Washington. He wrote a letter to the Secretary of State requesting political asylum and, according to press reports, in the letter, he stated as follows:

> My efforts to improve bilateral ties have been continually rejected and resulted in my being deemed dangerous by the government. Because of this, I am also convinced and live in fear that I will be prosecuted for my actions, efforts, and beliefs when I return to Naypyidaw after completing my tour of duty here. The truth is that senior military officials are consolidating their grip on power and seeking to stamp out the voices of those seeking democracy, human rights, and individual liberties.

These words do not come from a Western government or an NGO; they come from a senior Burmese diplomat. His words make clear that the democratic trappings of the ''new'' regime are in many ways just a façade.

Finally, it is worth noting that there remain important security considerations that must be addressed before ending sanctions. The junta's increasingly close bilateral military relationship with North Korea, in particular, is a source of much concern.

I am hopeful that the time will soon come when sanctions against the Burmese government will no longer be needed; that like South Africa in the early 1990s, the people of Burma will be able to free themselves from their own government. However, as evidenced in the Deputy Chief of Mission's letter, the Burmese junta appears to maintain an iron grip on its people, and continues to carry out a foreign policy that is inimical to U.S. interests. The United States must continue to deny this regime the legitimacy it craves by continuing sanctions, and these sanctions must remain in place until true democratic reform comes to the people of Burma.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this past month we recognized Hunger Action Month, a time for all Americans to focus on the problem of hunger in our communities. As we begin the month of October, we must remember that this is a year-round reality for many individuals and families around the country and that our efforts to eradicate this problem must continue.

Our Nation continues to face both a 9.1-percent unemployment rate, as well as a 15.1-percent poverty rate. Everyone has been touched in some way by this challenging economy. Many of our friends, neighbors and family members still might be struggling in ways that they never imagined with less money to spend and tough choices to make. Thankfully, there have been a number of community assistance organizations that have been able to step up and help out.

Many of these are local food banks and soup kitchens that are challenged to find resourceful ways to do more with less in order to provide services to those in need in their communities. One such organization that is still making a significant difference is the Arlington Food Assistance Center, AFAC. For over 20 years the AFAC has partnered with local churches, schools and social service agencies to assist over 1,200 families weekly with their basic food needs. Last year the AFAC was able to distribute over 2.3 million pounds of food directly to Arlington community residents. Community support of AFAC and thousands of organizations like it across the country is integral to their ability to provide the necessary services to those most in need. We must continue to give our support.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the Arlington Food Assistance Center and the many other organizations like it, as well as the importance of our commitment to addressing the problem of hunger across the Nation.

CUBA

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article highlighting the Castro regime's continued abuse of the Cuban people as they organize efforts to create a freer Cuba. The people being held unjustly and abused in Cuban prisons—as well as those being intimidated and repressed outside of prison—need the continued support of America.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, Oct. 3, 2011]

AMERICA'S: CUBA'S REPRESSION ESCALATES

(By Mary Anastasia O'Grady)

Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson returned home from an attempted hostage-rescue mission to Cuba last month empty-handed and ''still scratching [his] head'' as to why the Castro regime double-crossed him. What is truly baffling is why Mr. Richardson expected anything different from a dictatorship operating in extreme-repression mode.

In a Sept. 14 interview with CNN's Wolf Blitzer, Mr. Richardson said he had been invited to the island to discuss the release of U.S. Agency for International Development contractor Alan Gross. Mr. Gross was arrested in December 2009 and is serving a 15-year sentence.

Mr. Richardson admitted that he got stiffed by Cuba's ''foreign ministry, which a lot of the people there I know and have been friends'' with. What he could not grasp is why those ''friends''—a strange designation for individuals who might one day be hauled before an international human-rights tribunal—don't appreciate the Obama administration's outreach. Yes, they are ''hardliners,'' he admitted, but they ought to understand that the White House has been bending over backward to get along.

Actually they do understand, and that's why they treated him so badly.

Mr. Richardson told Mr. Blitzer that he was ''flabbergasted'' when, after a ''delightful'' three-hour lunch discussing how U.S.-Cuba relations might be improved—including, he told me by phone Friday, the possibility of removing the country from the list of state sponsors of terrorism after the release of Mr. Gross—the foreign minister ''slammed me three ways: one, no seeing Alan Gross; no getting him out; and no seeing Raul Castro.''

What happened was very predictable. The ''loosened travel restrictions'' and increased ''remittances [from] Cuban-Americans'' that Mr. Richardson cited as signs of Mr. Obama's willingness to deal are read as weakness by the bullying regime. It has something, i.e., somebody, the U.S. wants back very badly, and the administration acts as if it is powerless. Why should Castro deal?

Mr. Richardson did even less for Cuba's dissidents. One Richardson pearl of wisdom, shared on CNN, was that Cuba's ''human-rights situation has improved.'' In fact, human rights in Cuba are rapidly deteriorating. To claim otherwise is to abandon the island's brave democrats when they most need international solidarity.

Ask Sonia Garro, pictured in the nearby photo (See accompanying photo—WSJ October 3, 2011) . . . For years Ms. Garro has denounced the regime's discrimination against Afro-Cubans. Despite her own poverty, in 2007 she created a recreation center in her home for poor, unsupervised children, according to a report by an independent Cuban

journalist. One of her goals: to get young girls out of prostitution. Ms. Garro is also a member of Ladies in Support, a group that pledges solidarity to the Ladies in White, which was founded by the wives, sisters and mothers of political prisoners in 2003 to work for their liberation.

In October 2010, Ms. Garro was detained by state security and held for seven hours. She emerged from the ordeal with a broken nose. Another woman taken into custody with Ms. Garro had her arm broken.

The nongovernmental organization Capitol Hill Cubans has reported that in the first 12 days of September, authorities detained 168 peaceful activists. These ''express detentions'' are designed to break up dissident gatherings, which risk spreading nonconformist behavior. Locking up offenders for long periods would be preferable, but the regime wants people like Mr. Richardson to go around saying that human rights have improved. The regime is also making greater use of civilian-clothed ''rapid response'' brigades that are trained, armed and organized to beat up democracy advocates.

Mr. Richardson told me he considers Cuba's record improved because 52 political prisoners were sent to Spain in 2010. Yet exiling promising opposition leadership hardly qualifies as a humanitarian gesture. Nor are gruesome Cuban prisons anything to ignore.

Last month in a speech in New York, one former prisoner, Fidel Suarez Cruz, described his seven years and seven months of solitary confinement, including two years and eight months in a cell with no windows, ventilation or artificial light. One favorite pastime of his torturers: Four military men would pick him up and then drop him on the floor. His testimony, posted on Capitol Hill Cubans website, is required viewing for anyone who doubts the evil nature of this regime.

Nevertheless, Cuba's dissidents remain relentless, and there are signs that the regime is giving up on the express-detention strategy. Fearless democracy advocate Sara Marta Fonseca and her husband Julio Leon Perez have been in jail since Sept. 24. Ms. Fonseca's son has seen her and says she is black and blue all over and has an injury to her spinal column. Word is the regime is preparing to charge the couple; 11 other dissidents are awaiting trial. Meanwhile, Yris Perez Aguilera, the wife of the prominent dissident Jorge Luis Garcia Perez ''Antunez,'' and two peers were detained on Sept. 26. Their whereabouts are unknown.

Any hope of protecting these patriots lies in international condemnation. Mr. Richardson could help by returning to CNN to correct the record.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ELLEN NELSON

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, 18 years ago, Mary Ellen Nelson started in my Kalispell office. In that time, Mary Ellen earned the respect and admiration of her colleagues both in my offices across the State, in Washington, DC and with the Finance Committee. Staff always enjoyed getting the chance to talk with Mary Ellen and hear her words of wisdom. I have treasured her caring nature and thoughtful advice and am grateful for all her hard work over the years. It is important to note: my staff members don't just work for me—they work for all Montanans. Mary Ellen has served the young, the old, the successful, the downtrodden, and Montanans of all political stripes. It has been an honor to have her on staff and to work together for the State we cherish.

Working for VISTA is what brought Mary Ellen to Montana where she met and married her husband Ray of 34 years. A few years later they moved to Kalispell where she worked for the school system and the mentally disabled children of Flathead Valley before her work in the U.S Senate. Mary Ellen's compassion to others resonates in her dedication to her family, community and the constituents of Montana. Mary Ellen has helped thousands of Montanans work their way through Social Security, Medicare, and other issues throughout the years. Her calm, nurturing character and commitment to helping others have benefitted thousands of Montanans throughout her 18 years of service.

A few years ago when Mary Ellen's two sons were graduating from college, I told her that graduations and weddings were important events and needed to be celebrated. The same is true of retirements. Mary Ellen will be enjoying her hours with her family, including her son Matthew in Kalispell, son George and daughter-in-law Monica in DC, her 90-year-old father, Leo Holland, and visiting her first grandchild Dominic who was born on Mary Ellen's birthday January 24 of this year. Mary Ellen, congratulations, good luck, and enjoy your retirement. Thank you for your many years of service in my office, the U.S. Senate, the community of Kalispell, and countless Montanans for your tireless work to help others. We are sure going to miss you, your talents, and your warm and accommodating personality.

Mary Ellen is proud of her Irish heritage so I would like to end with this Irish Retirement Blessing:

May you always have work
for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold
always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright
on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain
to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend
always be near you.
And may God fill your heart
with gladness to cheer you.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TRACEY L. WATKINS, USAF

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of COL Tracey L. Watkins of the U.S. Air Force on the occasion of his reassignment from the Air Force Congressional Budget and Appropriations Liaison Office and to say hail and farewell.

Colonel Watkins graduated from the Citadel in 1991 and since then has served in a variety of comptroller assignments across the Air Force. He has held leadership positions at all field and staff levels, including assignments in personnel, logistics, and operational planning. Colonel Watkins' time in the Air Force has included three joint tours: on the Joint Staff, as part of Combined Joint Task Force 76 in Uzbekistan, and in the Multi National Corps in Iraq.

Colonel Watkins' experiences in those tours were a benefit when he assumed the directorship of the Air Force's Congressional Budget and Appropriations Liaison Office. In that role, Colonel Watkins directed all Air Force appropriations liaison work on the Hill, including arranging key engagements for Air Force senior leaders with Members of Congress and helping to prepare their testimony during Appropriations Committee hearings. In each of those engagements, Colonel Watkins served as the Air Force point man for working with the Congress on all budgetary and appropriations issues. His office also supports congressional delegation trips and Colonel Watkins accompanied me on an important trip to Russia.

I have been impressed with many of the staff that Colonel Watkins led during his tenure as Director of the Air Force Congressional Budget and Appropriations Liaison Office, which I find to be the mark of an outstanding leader and manager. I am sure that my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to Colonel Watkins for his service to the Air Force and to the Congress. On the occasion of his reassignment to command the Mission Support Group at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas, I wish Colonel Watkins, his wife Kelly, and his children all the very best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD FRANK MOSHER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the great treasures of Vermont is Howard Frank Mosher. Mr. Mosher is a writer who knows and understands Vermont, and in books like ''Where The Rivers Flow North,'' he makes any Vermonter know they are home.

A recent article in The Burlington Free Press by Sally Pollak speaks to the man he is, and I would like to take this opportunity to share this with the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, the article to which I referred.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press]

ALL ROADS LEAD TO KINGDOM COUNTY

(By Sally Pollak)

(Vermont author Howard Frank Mosher has lived in the Northeast Kingdom since 1964 and the region is character-like in his books. Free Press Staff Writer Sally Pollak and Free Press photographer Glenn Russell spent a day traveling the roads in the north country with Mosher, listening to his stories and discovering his sense of place.)

IRASBURG—The tan Nissan rolling down the dirt road in Brownington came to a slow stop, and the man behind the wheel surveyed the shallows and grooves of mud in front of him. The place he wanted to go was on the far side of the mud pit, and up a small hill that curved out of sight.

Two men with trucks were on the other side of the mud ravine. The Nissan driver left his car to approach the men. I was in the

back seat of the Nissan. Glenn Russell, a Free Press photographer, had the front seat.

Through the window, we watched the three locals talk mud, and discussed if we'd try to forge the muddy road if we were driving. No way, I said.

Glenn said he might if he were Howard Frank Mosher, our tour guide that day. Mosher knows the people and trucks around here; he can always get a tow.

Mosher, meanwhile, had made another arrangement.

If he couldn't get to the other side of the mud, where Margery Moore, 91, his longtime friend lives, then Moore would come to him. One of the men Mosher had been talking to was her son, Michael; he'd pick up his mother in his truck and drive her through the mud to Mosher.

While we waited for Moore to arrive, Mosher, 68, told us stories. Delightful and engaging tales—warm and humorous, with a north country bite. The kind of stories you might read in his Kingdom County novels.

And now here we were, deep in the Northeast Kingdom on Moore Lane in Brownington, waiting to meet a woman of Mohawk ancestry, whom Mosher got to know 47 years ago, his first year in the Kingdom.

She showed up in a big blue rig to say hello. Her son lifted her from his truck and helped her into a wheelchair. Moore greeted Mosher with a hug.

He gave her a copy of his most recent novel, ''Walking to Gatlinburg.'' After some talking, we headed back to the Nissan.

Michael Moore called to us as we walked to the car: ''Don't let Howard lead you astray out here!''

To read Mosher is to be led, if not astray, then away—to a place that is, at once, invented and familiar, enchanted and real, made-up and true.

The truth can be found in Mosher's evocation of the place he calls Kingdom County, a rugged, rural border landscape where people scratch out hardscrabble livings, go without spring, learn to read the woods and rivers, build strong allegiances and cast a wary eye on newcomers. Mosher's county and the characters who inhabit it are informed by and created from the landscape and people around him: He uses for his material a place that is distinct and fascinating, yet one that's been changing—maybe merging with outer and other regions—even as Mosher put pen to paper: making it last.

In Mosher's 1999 novel, ''The Fall of the Year,'' the book's central figure, Father George Lecoeur, is writing ''A Short History of Kingdom Common.'' Mosher, too, is the author of a history of the Kingdom—his history is contained in the thousands of pages that make up his 11 books.

The words Mosher uses to describe ''A Short History,'' can be applied to his own work. They are narrated by Frank Bennett, Father George's adopted son, as Frank settles down to read the history: ''I could hear Father George's voice in my head, hear its slightly speculative, wry resonance. And at that moment, whatever else I still did not understand about the events of the past summer, I realized that long after the passing of the hill farms and the big woods and Kingdom Common as we had known it, these stories would remain: a golden legacy, to me and to the village, from Father George.''

A SPECIAL PLACE

Mosher and his wife, Phillis, a retired teacher and school counselor, have lived in the Northeast Kingdom since 1964. It is where they raised their two children, Jake and Annie. Advertisement I was like a kid in the backseat on a recent drive to the hot spots of Mosher's adopted home turf.

The kid thing involved a surprise and recurring attack of carsickness: no fun! On the upside, it meant that as a passenger of Mosher's, even a newcomer from Burlington, I was given a free pass to the Kingdom, embraced by the old timers on Moore Lane.

Like a kid who (still) believes in the grownups up front, I saw the world through the eyes and observations of the driver—which thankfully transcended my own hazy vision. As we pulled out of the driveway of his Irasburg home, not far from the town green, Mosher enticed us. First stop, he said, was a place he'd had an ''epiphany.''

What and where it was, we'd find out when we arrived at the scene: Orleans' sleepy main street. This is going to be a fun trip, I thought. Anyone who can have an epiphany in downtown Orleans, is the right person to ride with.

The street was deserted the day Mosher steered his grandfather's Super 88 Oldsmobile into town. He and Phillis, farm kids from upstate New York barely in their 20s, were in Orleans to interview for teaching jobs.

The Kingdom quiet was busted that day by two rough-looking drunks in fisticuffs, fighting their way down the otherwise empty street. Mosher rolled down his window to speak a sentence that revealed the budding wordsmith within: ''Could one of you gentlemen please tell me how to get to the high school?''

We'll do you one better, promised the brawlers. We'll take you there. With a welcome from Mosher, they climbed into the backseat of the Oldsmobile and directed the teaching recruits to the school.

''I was beginning to get the idea we had come to a special place,'' Mosher said. Just how special, was soon to be revealed: After the gentlemen disembarked from Mosher's car, Phillis turned around to peek at the two. She saw they had started punching each other again, and suggested Mosher take a look.

''Well, honey,'' she said. ''Welcome to the Christly Kingdom.''

RECITING FROST AT A COVERED BRIDGE

Kingdomy words like Christly—if there's another word like Christly—were flowing from the front seat, sprinkling my way that day.

Gool, Glenn said. What is that word?

It's a dam, Mosher said.

At least he thinks it is, and that's how he uses it. He picked it up from the locals many years ago; people talk about taking a walk to the gool after supper.

What about carcajou? Glenn asked.

''Wolverine,'' Mosher replied.

We talked about poems and poets and novels and writing that day in the car—and outside it, too.

At a covered bridge in Coventry, which Mosher noted with appreciation was set afire after it received historic designation, we talked about Kingdom colors and seasons, poised for change. The novelist recited a poem by Robert Frost: Nature's first green is gold, Her hardest hue to hold.

Her early leaf's a flower; But only so an hour.

Then leaf subsides to leaf.

So Eden sank to grief, So dawn goes down to day.

Nothing gold can stay.

Switching tenor and tone, Mosher launched into a story of a Depression era whiskey runner and friend who, fleeing the law, missed the curve at the bridge and wound up in the river. He hid in the river while the feds passed by on the bridge above, satisfied his thirst, and finally made his way to Barre.

Stories like these, which Mosher heard from Kingdom old-timers and which still give him a kick, persuaded Mosher he had found his living and writing place. (''Imagine if Faulkner got here first,'' he said.)

WISE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM

Mosher found, in the woods and village, not just stories, but wisdom and guidance and important friendship—in particular from two people. As a pair, the two are as improbable as Mosher's talking turtle or spire-climbing tomboy.

James Hayford, who died in 1993 at age 79, was a Montpelier-born poet who settled in Orleans, where he had a teaching career. Hayford studied poetry with Robert Frost at Amherst College, and captured the life of his village in verse.

The memory of meeting Hayford, at a teachers' party in Orleans, is as vivid as the day his kids were born, Mosher said. Hayford, a scholar of Vermont, assured Mosher he would find his voice as a novelist.

Frost had assured Hayford he would find his poet's voice, Mosher said.

From Moore, a close friend, he heard real life stories of traveling in a boxcar with a menagerie of animals, of cooking in a lumber camp and waitressing in a dance hall. He heard a different voice assure him he'd find his way.

After her first marriage fell apart, Moore allowed herself to cry only after her sow's 13th—and final—piglet was born.

''Margie, my girl,'' she said to herself. ''What have you done with your life?''

''And she told me that right when I was trying to figure out what to do with mine,'' Mosher said.

In their ways, characterized by a fierce independence of mind, Hayford and Moore are among the great people he has known, geniuses to some degree, Mosher said.

''They could've gone anywhere, done anything and been anything including president of the United States,'' Mosher said.

''What they wanted to do was live in the Northeast Kingdom.''

Mosher spoke wise words of his own that day from the front seat. After asking if we'd like to stop for lunch at McDonald's—holy moley! McDonald's in the land of the localvores and I'm carsick!—Mosher said something I've passed on to my daughter.

He told Glenn and me he's never known a person who pursued an interest in the arts and regretted it.

But he could think of many people who turned away from artistic interests and talents, and did.

GO BACK WHILE YOU CAN

Teachers' pay wasn't so great in Orleans back in 1964, Mosher discovered not long after the drunk brawlers guided him to the school. By then, however, he'd had his first Kingdom epiphany—and that was clearly worth something.

Still, the working plan was to teach a few years, save money and go to graduate school. Was it possible on a salary of $4,100, and less than that for Phillis? Sensing hesitation from the teaching recruits from upstate New York, the superintendent asked the couple if they fished. When they answered yes, he took them to the Barton River.

The trout were jumping that spring day, making their way up river.

''I looked at Phillis, she looked at me,'' Mosher said. The sight of the fish jumping the falls persuaded them to move to Orleans. They accepted the teaching jobs, and taught for a few years before moving to California, where Mosher planned to get his master's of fine arts in writing. He scrapped that plan after eight days, long enough for a truck driver to pull up to the Moshers' car at Hollywood and Vine in L.A., and deliver a message on seeing their green license plates. ''I'm from Vermont, too,'' the trucker driver

said. ''Go back while you still can.'' The stories Mosher wanted to tell were rich and ready and far from Hollywood and Vine. ''I cut myself off from all my material before I understood it well enough to write about it,'' Mosher said. They headed home; Mosher to write, Phillis to teach. ''We knew right away we had found a gold mine of stories,'' Mosher said. ''And we found out nobody had written them. I couldn't believe it. It took me 15 years or so to begin to figure out how to do it.''

Much of his first novel, ''Disappearances,'' was written in the library/opera house in Derby Line, a granite and brick building that straddles the U.S.-Canada border. Mosher would place half his chair in the U.S., and half in the foreign country, when he wrote. He sometimes got such a kick from his own work, he created a disturbance. Or so the librarian thought. ''I would burst into gales of laughter with each new outrageous passage,'' Mosher recalled. '' ' Mr. Mosher,' he was warned, if you can't control yourself, we will have to ask you to leave.' ''

KEEP THE KIDS OUT OF THE MILL

Talking in hushed library tones in the dual nation reading room where he wrote Disappearances,'' Mosher said he was amusing himself during the writing of the book. ''But I was also in a state of desperation,'' he said. ''There's a degree of desperation about the writing.''

Decades later, Mosher is amused by the response to ''Disappearances'' of Wallace Stegner, the famous novelist who lived in Greensboro. Stegner read Mosher's book to write a possible blurb for the cover.

Stegner, the story goes, didn't get too far before crumpling up the manuscript and throwing it in the fire, announcing: ''This book is a hymn to irresponsibility.''

''I didn't know enough to use it,'' Mosher said.

Mosher drove us past the place in Irasburg that would serve as a springboard for perhaps his best known story: the house where a black minister was living in the summer of 1968, when his home was shot at. The racial shooting, which came to be called the Irasburg Affair, informed Mosher's 1989 novel, ''A Stranger in the Kingdom.''

We visited, too, a place that will figure in the book Mosher is writing. His forthcoming novel also has a black man as a central character: Alexander Twilight, believed to be the first black person in the country to graduate from college (Middlebury, 1823).

We walked outside the wonderful stone schoolhouse, reminiscent of the Middlebury campus, Twilight designed and built on a quiet plateau in Brownington. Twilight was principal of the school, and a minister and state legislator.

''He had a dream,'' Mosher said of Twilight.

''There's no doubt about it.''

When the Moshers started teaching in Orleans, they were instructed by the district superintendent to ''keep the kids out of the mill.'' The administrator was referring to the Ethan Allen furniture factory, which appears in Mosher's novels as American Heritage.

Mosher, whose first apartment was next to the mill, said he heard the words ''keep the kids out of the mill; keep the kids out of the mill'' rise in rhythmic chant from the plant's vents outside his window.

It is unlikely the long-ago superintendent, issuing that directive, had in mind the manner by which Mosher would fulfill the mandate. But any Kingdom kid who has found his way to Mosher's novels, is transported to a place that is true to the mill, and the river nearby, yet worlds apart and away.

TRIBUTE TO JACK WILLIAMS

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Jack Williams of Boston, MA. For the past 30 years, Jack, a well-respected veteran news anchor, has hosted WBZ-TV's ''Wednesday's Child'', the longest-running adoptive-family-recruitment TV feature in the Nation. Since ''Wednesday's Child'' first aired on WBZ in 1981, Jack Williams has used the weekly news segment to tell the story of more than 1,000 special needs children who are in need of loving, safe and permanent homes. Thanks to Jack's effort, many of these children have found ''forever'' homes with viewers of the weekly segment.

Jack Williams has used his notoriety and public platform to provide an invaluable service that has changed the lives of so many children and their adoptive parents. ''Wednesday's Child'' is backed by the Endowment for Wednesday's Child, an exemplary nonprofit with very little overhead and no employees. In fact, Jack and Marcie are the sole employees of the Endowment for Wednesday's Child; they have never drawn a salary and run the foundation out of a home office.

The Endowment for ''Wednesday's Child'' is supported by individual and corporate donations including Wendy's Restaurants, as well as Volvo, which donates a vehicle for the ''Win a Volvo, Help ''Wednesday's Children'' campaign. The endowment has raised and donated millions to worthy nonprofits that assist with special needs adoptions. Among these are the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange and group homes including the Walker Home, St. Ann's Home in Methuen and the Italian Home for Children in Jamaica Plain.

I also thank WBZ-TV for being exemplary stewards of the public airwaves in allowing Jack to use his position for such a noble cause.

On November 6, the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, other Wednesday's Child beneficiaries and Wednesday's Child ''alumni'' will gather to honor Jack Williams' 30 years of service to Massachusetts' foster children in need of permanent homes. I join them in congratulating Jack and Marcie and all those who support Wednesday's Child for their hard work and generosity.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DAVID J. BIXLER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor Corporal David J. Bixler for his courage, heroism and selfless dedication to the U.S. Army and his fellow soldiers.

CPL David J. Bixler of Harrison, AR, recently received the United Service Organizations Soldier of the Year Award for distinguishing himself both on the battlefield and during his recovery from the wounds he received from his actions during a firefight in the Arghandab River Valley of Afghanistan.

On September 30, 2010, Corporal Bixler and his platoon conducted a patrol in the volatile and dangerous region to talk with some local elders. During the mission, Corporal Bixler was assigned a small team of Afghan National Army soldiers to lead. The patrol came under heavy enemy fire forcing the unit to turn back to safety.

Corporal Bixlers following actions are heroic and inspiring. As the patrol turned around, one of the Afghan Army partners stepped outside of the cleared path and Corporal Bixler, recognizing the danger ran after the Afghan soldier. As he attempted to shove the soldier back onto the cleared path, he detonated an IED that caused extensive damage to his body. Through this courageous and selfless action, he saved the life of the Afghan soldier and the other members of his patrol. For his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Throughout his difficult recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Corporal Bixler has been an inspiration to those around him and to his unit that continues its service overseas.

CPL David Bixler has not only met the criteria for the Soldier of the Year Award, but eclipsed it. Words cannot express how proud I am of Corporal Bixler and his valor and bravery now how grateful I am for his service. We thank him, and all our servicemen and women, for their sacrifice and efforts on our behalf.•

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I wish to commend the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on the occasion of the institution's October 1, 2011, induction ceremony for the 231st class of members in Cambridge, MA. These 211 new members earned election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for extraordinary individual achievement and are among the world's most influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders. In accepting membership into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, these individuals agreed to contribute their talents, experience, and knowledge to help the academy advance the Nation's social welfare.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an august, quintessentially American institution founded by Massachusetts' own John Adams and other scholar-patriots during our Nation's struggle for independence. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is currently chaired by Louis W. Cabot and led by President Leslie C. Berlowitz and is a vital center of knowledge focused on the great challenges and concerns of the day, from science and technology policy to global security; social policy to the humanities; and culture, and education.

I won't read all 211 of the new members' names, but listed among these brilliant individuals are;

Dr. Daniel Arie Haber, the leading physician-scientist whose research has focused on the molecular genetics of human cancer. He identified genes implicated in breast cancer development and in Wilms' tumor, a children's kidney cancer.

Chester C. Langway, Jr., who is responsible for launching the era of deep ice core drilling programs. He recruited scientists from other disciplines and countries to work on ice cores and collaborated closely with them. Consequently, international teams of scientists have extracted fundamental information from ice cores, and studies have provided detailed climatological and other environmental data, over a geological time period including the Holocene and late Pleistocene ages, on the regional and global conditions existing at the time of snow deposit. Results reveal man's impact on the changing environment and long-term evidence regarding abrupt global climate changes and led to discovery of the Dansgaard-Oeschger event.

Dr. W. Jason Morgan, who was the first to propose that Earth's surface is made up of a number of rigid crustal blocks, establishing the kinematic framework for the paradigm of plate tectonics, which revolutionized the study of Earth and its history.

Also included in this group is Robert Kraft, who is probably best known as the owner of our beloved New England Patriots but has also dedicated his life to advancing science, philanthropy, the arts, and education.

I am including for the RECORD the names of all 211 inductees into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. I wish them all the best and thank them for their contribution to the knowledge of our Nation.

The information follows:

THE 231ST CLASS OF MEMBERS, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Name	Affiliation	Location
Dr. Richard Warren Aldrich	University of Texas at Austin	Texas
Mr. Paul Gardner Allen	Vulcan, Inc.	Washington
Dr. Victor Ambros	University of Massachusetts Medical School	Massachusetts
Professor Luc E. Anselin	Arizona State University	Arizona
Professor Frances Hamilton Arnold	California Institute of Technology	California
Dr. Wanda M. Austin	Aerospace Corporation	California
Mr. Jesse Huntley Ausubel	Rockefeller University/Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	New York
Professor Thomas Banks	University of California, Santa Cruz/Rutgers, State University of NJ	California
Professor John Andrew Bargh	Yale University	Connecticut
Professor Mary Beard	University of Cambridge	United Kingdom
Dr. Anna Katherine Behrensmeyer	Smithsonian Institution	Virginia
Professor Roland J.M. Benabou	Princeton University	New Jersey
The Honorable Douglas Joseph Bennet, Jr.	Wesleyan University	Connecticut
Professor Marsha J. Berger	Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, New York University	New York
Professor Timothy J. Besley	London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom
Dr. Clara Derber Bloomfield	Ohio State University	Ohio
Professor Philip V. Bohlman	University of Chicago	Illinois
Mr. Yves Bonnefoy	Paris, France	France
Dr. Melissa Foster Bowerman	Max-Planck-Institut für Psycholinguistik	The Netherlands
Mr. Dave Brubeck	Wilton, Connecticut	Connecticut
Dr. Anthony S. Bryk	Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching	California
Mr. John E. Bryson	Edison International	California
Mr. Kenneth L. Burns	Florentine Films	New Hampshire
Dr. R. Paul Butler	Carnegie Institution for Science	Washington, D.C.
Ms. Elizabeth J. Cabraser	Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP	California
Mr. Thomas P. Campbell	Metropolitan Museum of Art	New York
Dr. James Ireland Cash, Jr.	Harvard Business School	Massachusetts
Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa	University of Texas System	Texas
Professor Edmund Melson Clarke	Carnegie Mellon University	Pennsylvania
Professor James Clifford	University of California, Santa Cruz	California
Professor Geoffrey W. Coates	Cornell University	New York
Mr. Ernest H. Cockrell	Cockrell Interests, Inc./Cockrell Foundation	Texas
Mr. Leonard Norman Cohen	Montreal, Canada	California
Professor Timothy J. Colton	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Robert K. Colwell	University of Connecticut	Connecticut
Professor David Paul Corey	Harvard Medical School/HHMI	Massachusetts
Professor Stanley A. Corngold	Princeton University	New Jersey
Professor Robert Howard Crabtree	Yale University	Connecticut
Dr. George William Crabtree	Argonne National Laboratory/University of Illinois at Chicago	Illinois
Professor Peter W. Culicover	Ohio State University	Ohio
Dr. George Q. Daley	Children's Hosp. Cancer Inst./HMS/HHMI	Massachusetts
Dr. Chi Van Dang	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine	Maryland
Professor Marcetta York Darensbourg	Texas A&M University	Texas
Mr. Daniel Michael Blake Day-Lewis	New York, New York	New York
Professor Juan José de Pablo	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Baron David de Rothschild	Rothschild Group	France
Dr. Raymond J. Deshaies	California Institute of Technology/HHMI	California
Dr. Vishva Dixit	Genentech, Inc.	California
Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian	Rice University; Djerejian Global Consultancies, LLP	Texas
Dr. John P. Donoghue	Brown University	Rhode Island
Professor Steven Neil Durlauf	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Mr. Bob Dylan	Malibu, California	California
Professor Penelope Dorothy Eckert	Stanford University	California
Dr. Jonathan A. Epstein	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine	Pennsylvania
Professor Alex Eskin	University of Chicago	Illinois
Dr. Edward W. Felten	Princeton University	New Jersey
Dr. Russell Dawson Fernald	Stanford University	California
Professor Martha Finnemore	George Washington University	Washington, D.C.
Professor Claude S. Fischer	University of California, Berkeley	California
Professor Philip Fisher	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Nancy Foner	City University of New York, Hunter College and The Graduate Center	New York
Professor Catherine S. Fowler	University of Nevada	Nevada
Professor Scott E. Fraser	California Institute of Technology	California
Dr. Joseph Francis Fraumeni, Jr.	National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health	Maryland
Professor Glenn H. Fredrickson	University of California, Santa Barbara	California
Dr. Julio Frenk	Harvard School of Public Health	Massachusetts
Professor Sarah A. Fuller	State University of New York at Stony Brook	New York
Mr. Thomas W. Gaehtgens	Getty Research Institute	California
Professor Franklin I. Gamwell	University of Chicago Divinity School	Illinois
Professor Daniel E. Garber	Princeton University	New Jersey
Professor Sylvester James Gates, Jr.	University of Maryland	Maryland
Professor Sharon C. Glotzer	University of Michigan	Michigan
Professor Annette Gordon-Reed	Harvard University/HLS/Radcliffe Institute	Massachusetts
Dr. Maxwell E. Gottesman	Columbia University Medical Center	New York
Mr. Hugh Grant	Monsanto Company	Missouri
Mr. Paul Anthony Griffiths	Manorbier, United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Professor Sol Michael Gruner	Cornell University	New York
Mr. John Guare	New York, New York	New York
Mr. Robert D. Haas	Levi Strauss & Company/Levi Strauss Foundation	California
Dr. Daniel Arie Haber	Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital/HHMI	Massachusetts
Professor Jacquelyn Dowd Hall	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	North Carolina
Reverend Ray A. Hammond	Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church	Massachusetts
Professor Martin P. Head-Gordon	University of California, Berkeley	California
Professor Jeffrey Henderson	Boston University	Massachusetts
Professor James Higginbotham	University of Southern California	California
Mr. Robert F. Higgins	Highland Capital Partners/Havard Business School	Massachusetts

THE 231ST CLASS OF MEMBERS, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES—Continued

Name	Affiliation	Location
Dr. Katherine Ann High	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine	Pennsylvania
Professor Oscar Hijuelos	Duke University	New York
Dr. Okihide Hikosaka	National Eye Institute	Maryland
Mr. Edward Hoagland	Edgartown, MA	Vermont
Dr. E. Brooks Holifield	Emory University	Georgia
Mrs. Jenny Holzer	Hoosick Falls, New York	New York
Dr. Eric Joel Horvitz	Microsoft Research	Washington
Professor Thomas Yizhao Hou	California Institute of Technology	California
Dr. Leah H. Jamieson	Purdue University	Indiana
Professor Jay H. Jasanoff	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Farish Alston Jenkins, Jr.	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Mr. W. Thomas Johnson, Jr.	Cable News Network	Georgia
Mr. Alex S. Jones	Harvard Kennedy School	Massachusetts
Professor Michael I. Jordan	University of California, Berkeley	California
Professor Marcel Kahan	New York University School of Law	New York
Professor Frances Myrna Kamm	Harvard University/Harvard Kennedy School	Massachusetts
Dr. Linda P.B. Katehi	University of California, Davis	California
Professor Kazuya Kato	University of Chicago	Illinois
Professor Jonathan N. Katz	California Institute of Technology	California
Professor Thomas Forrest Kelly	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor J. Mark Kenoyer	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Dr. Talmadge Everett King, Jr.	University of California, San Francisco	California
Dr. Robert E. Kingston	Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital	Massachusetts
Professor Joseph Klafter	Tel Aviv University	Israel
Dr. Steven Knapp	George Washington University	Washington, D.C.
Mr. Robert Kraft	The Kraft Group	Massachusetts
Professor David I. Laibson	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Chester Charles Langway, Jr.	State University of New York at Buffalo	Massachusetts
Dr. Lewis Lee Lanier	University of California, San Francisco	California
Professor L. Gary Leal	University of California, Santa Barbara	California
Dr. Andrei Dmitriyevich Linde	Stanford University	California
Professor John A. List	University of Chicago	Illinois
Professor Beatrice Longuenesse	New York University	New York
Professor William Roger Louis	University of Texas at Austin	Texas
Mr. Morton Mandel	Parkwood Corporation/Mandel Foundation	Ohio
Professor Todd Joseph Martinez	Stanford University	California
Dr. Raghunath A. Mashelkar	Global Research Alliance; CSIR	India
Professor Mark A. Mazower	Columbia University	New York
Mr. Bill McKibben	Middlebury College	Vermont
Professor H. Jay Melosh	Purdue University	Indiana
Professor Louis Menand	The New Yorker/Harvard University	Massachusetts
Dr. Jeffrey H. Miller	University of California, Los Angeles	California
Professor Geoffrey P. Miller	New York University School of Law	New York
Dr. Chad A. Mirkin	Northwestern University	Illinois
Dame Helen Mirren	London, United Kingdom	United Kingdom
Professor Margaret M. Mitchell	University of Chicago Divinity School	Illinois
Professor Gregory Winthrop Moore	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey	New Jersey
Dr. W. Jason Morgan	Harvard University/Princeton University	Massachusetts
Dr. Richard I. Morimoto	Northwestern University	Illinois
Dr. Ellen Mosley-Thompson	Ohio State University	Ohio
Mr. Alan Roger Mulally	Ford Motor Company	Michigan
Professor Shree K. Nayar	Columbia University	New York
Dr. William Barlow Neaves	Stowers Institute for Medical Research	Missouri
Professor Ei-ichi Negishi	Purdue University	Indiana
Professor Ann E. Nelson	University of Washington	Washington
Professor Dr. Angelika Neuwirth	Freie Universitat Berlin	Germany
Dr. Katherine S. Newman	Johns Hopkins University	Maryland
Professor Dr. Svante Pääbo	Max-Planck-Institut für evolutionöre Anthropologie	Germany
Dr. David Conrad Page	Massachusetts Institute of Technology/HHMI	Massachusetts
Professor Scott E. Page	University of Michigan	Michigan
Professor David G. Pearce	New York University	New York
Professor Monika Piazzesi	Stanford University	California
Professor Hugh David Politzer	California Institute of Technology	California
Professor Trevor Douglas Price	University of Chicago	Illinois
Mrs. Roberta Cooper Ramo	Modrall Sperling	New Mexico
Professor Peter B. Reich	University of Minnesota	Minnesota
Dr. Robert D. Reischauer	Urban Institute	Maryland
Professor David N. Reznick	University of California, Riverside	California
Sir Adam Roberts	British Academy/ University of Oxford	United Kingdom
Dr. Malcolm Austin Rogers	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	Massachusetts
Professor Thomas Romer	Princeton University	New Jersey
Professor C. Brian Rose	University of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
Dr. Rodney J. Rothstein	Columbia University Medical Center	New York
Dr. Martine F. Roussel	St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/University of Tennessee	Tennessee
Dr. Roberta L. Rudnick	University of Maryland	Maryland
Dr. David W. Russell	University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	Texas
Professor Laurent Saloff-Coste	Cornell University	New York
Professor Larry Samuelson	Yale University	Connecticut
Professor Michael Scammell	Columbia University	New York
Professor Michael H. Schill	University of Chicago Law School	Illinois
Dr. Amita Sehgal	University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine/HHMI	Pennsylvania
Professor Louis Michael Seidman	Georgetown University	Washington, D.C.
Dr. Sybil Putnam Seitzinger	Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences	Sweden
Dr. Patricia Griffiths Selinger	IBM Almaden Research Center	California
Professor Eric Ursell Selker	University of Oregon	Oregon
Professor James S. Shapiro	Columbia University	New York
Professor Kevan M. Shokat	University of California, San Francisco/HHMI	California
Professor Peter Williston Shor	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Massachusetts
Mr. Paul Simon	New York, New York	New York
Professor P. Adams Sitney	Princeton University	New Jersey
Dr. David J. Skorton	Cornell University	New York
Dr. Bruce David Smith	Smithsonian Institution	Virginia
Professor Eduardo E. M. Souto de Moura	Universidade do Porto/Souto Moura-Arquitectos SA	Portugal
Dr. Debora L. Spar	Barnard College	New York
Professor Gabrielle M. Spiegel	Johns Hopkins University	Maryland
Professor Charles Haines Stewart III	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Massachusetts
Professor Howard A. Stone	Princeton University	New Jersey
Dr. Gisela T. Storz	National Institutes of Health	Maryland
Professor Thomas J. Sugrue	University of Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
Dr. Wesley I. Sundquist	University of Utah	Utah
Professor Michael K. Tanenhaus	University of Rochester	New York
Dr. Ann Taves	University of California, Santa Barbara	California
Professor Herbert F. Tucker	University of Virginia	Virginia
Professor Christopher R. Udry	Yale University	Connecticut
Ms. Luisa Valenzuela	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Argentina
Mr. Michael R. Van Valkenburgh	Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc., Landscape Architects P.C.	New York
Mr. J. Mario Pedro Vargas Llosa	Madrid, Spain	Spain
Professor Lothar von Falkenhausen	University of California, Los Angeles	California
Professor Brian A. Wandell	Stanford School of Medicine	California
Dr. Jean Yin Jen Wang	University of California, San Diego	California
Mr. Samuel A. Waterston	West Cornwall, Connecticut	California
Professor Sandra Robin Waxman	Northwestern University	Illinois

THE 231ST CLASS OF MEMBERS, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES—Continued

Name	Affiliation	Location
Professor Daniel Merton Wegner	Harvard University	Massachusetts
Professor Barbara Weinstein	New York University	New York
Mr. Miles D. White	Abbott	Illinois
Professor Henry S. White, Jr.	University of Utah	Utah
Dr. Marvin Pete Wickens	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Wisconsin
Professor Avi Wigderson	Institute for Advanced Study	New Jersey
Mr. Robert Wilson	Watermill Center/The Byrd Hoffman Watermill Foundation	New York
Professor Hisashi Yamamoto	University of Chicago	Illinois
Professor Stephen Campbell Yeazell	University of California, Los Angeles School of Law	California
Dr. Shigeyuki Yokoyama	Riken Systems and Structural Biology Center	Japan
Professor Yuk Ling Yung	California Institute of Technology	California
Professor James C. Zachos	University of California, Santa Cruz	California
Professor Shoucheng Zhang	Stanford University	California
Professor Shou-Wu Zhang	Columbia University	New Jersey•

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALFONSO BATRES

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Dr. Alfonso Batres with the Department of Veterans Affairs for his dedicated service to our Nation's veterans. Dr. Batres is a Vietnam veteran who now serves as the chief officer for Readjustment Counseling Service, where he has devoted his career to building a national network of community-based vet centers. At these vet centers, veterans can obtain counseling, job assistance, and medical referrals, in addition to other services.

Dr. Batres was recently awarded a 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal from the Partnership for Public Service. The award, also known as a ''Sammy,'' is awarded annually to exceptional Federal employees. Specifically, Dr. Batres was awarded the 2011 Career Achievement Medal, which recognizes a Federal employee for significant accomplishments throughout a lifetime of achievement in public service.

Under Dr. Batres' leadership, the number of vet centers across the country has dramatically expanded from 200 to 300 in an effort to meet the growing needs of hundreds of thousands of combat veterans and their families. In addition, Dr. Batres created and launched 50 mobile vet centers, greatly improving the access to services available to veterans. Dr. Batres also developed the Combat Call Center, a national call-in service where combat veterans can call in to talk to another combat veteran regarding any readjustment issues they may be facing.

Dr. Batres is an especially deserving recipient of the Career Achievement Medal as he has led the Vet Center Program to provide services to a record level of veterans and their family members. As a result of Dr. Batres' efforts, over 191,000 veterans and their family members visited vet centers nearly 1.3 million times in the year 2010 alone.

Vet centers have proven so successful due to the unique services they provide, which seek to treat the whole person. At vet centers, combat veterans can receive counseling from other combat veterans who truly understand the struggles veterans face. In 2010, approximately 80 percent of vet center staff members were veterans, 60 percent were combat veterans, and approximately one third of all Vet Center staff had served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

In addition, vet centers are located in convenient locations within communities that possess a large population of underserved veterans. The programs are constantly adapting to meet the evolving needs of veterans and have strict protections in place in order to ensure maximum privacy for veterans. This is a truly revolutionary method of delivering services and Dr. Batres' vision, along with his natural propensity to foster young talent, have proven invaluable in its success.

Dr. Batres' selfless service on behalf of our Nation's veterans has greatly improved the lives of many, and I am so pleased to see his achievements recognized.•

TRIBUTE TO W. TODD GRAMS

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize W. Todd Grams for his service to our Nation's veterans. Mr. Grams serves as the chief financial officer and executive in charge for the Office of Management at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, where he has led the effort to improve the provision of benefits for our veterans through efficient financial management.

Mr. Grams was recently awarded the prestigious 2011 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Management Excellence Medal from the Partnership for Public Service. The award, also known as a ''Sammy,'' is one of the most important annual awards provided to Federal civil servants who have made a significant contribution to our country. Mr. Grams was recognized for his leadership in integrating and streamlining VA's operations, reducing costs, and improving delivery of services to veterans.

Mr. Grams is a worthy recipient of the Management Excellence Medal. In his role as VA chief financial officer, he has demonstrated not only the courage, but also the creativity and tenacity necessary to help VA maximize value for our veterans. Along with the help of his qualified team, Mr. Grams' initial push for an in-depth analysis of VA's financial management priorities allowed VA to serve veterans with higher quality service and care. He redirected resources to lower the cost and risk for investment for VA. Furthermore, Mr. Grams integrated the management governance structure and established systems that allowed VA to spend money more wisely and improve services to veterans.

I appreciate Mr. Grams' hard work and dedication at VA, and I am so pleased that his extraordinary talents and effort have been recognized.•

TRIBUTE TO THEODORE M. DOLNEY

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I honor Theodore M. Dolney, a veteran of World War II and a member of this Nation's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Dolney, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say ''thank you'' for your service to this Nation.

I am proud to share Mr. Dolney's story of heroism, because like so many others, it is a story that should never be forgotten.

Ted Dolney joined the Army in April of 1941, after spending the first 19 years of his life growing up on his family farm in Glenville, SD. After training, the Army sent Mr. Dolney to northern Africa. In February of 1943, German troops captured him and took him as a prisoner of war.

Mr. Dolney spent 27 months more than 2 years of his life imprisoned by Nazis. Mr. Dolney was moved from place to place in Germany. Conditions were cruel and brutal. Food was scarce. In fact, Mr. Dolney says many American POWs would have died if it had not been for supplemental food packages sent by the Red Cross.

Because Mr. Dolney knew how to speak German, and because he had the strength to work as a POW on railroads, he sometimes got extra food.

On the eve of the invasion of Normandy, some of the prisoners smuggled in a radio. Hours later, they heard news of the allies landing in France.

Months later, when Germany lost the war, the Nazi guards simply ran away. Mr. Dolney and the others left on foot to find help. After walking several days, they finally encountered American soldiers. And they were sent home as heroes.

Ted Dolney returned to the United States. He moved to Montana where he met Darlene, his wife of 50 years. He worked for three decades as a lineman for the Rural Electrification Administration.

But Mr. Dolney never received recognition for his service and sacrifice as

a Prisoner of War in World War II. And throughout his life, he never complained.

In 1973, his military records were destroyed by a fire in St. Louis.

But after his family reached out to my office, we were able to secure the medals Mr. Dolney never received.

Last month, I had the honor of presenting to Ted, a Bronze Star, and a European-African-Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars.

It was also my honor to present an American Defense Service Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal.

Last month I also presented to Ted: a Combat Infantryman Badge First Award, a Good Conduct Medal, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button, World War II.

These seven medals are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HORIGAN

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John L. Horigan, a veteran of Vietnam.

John, on behalf of all Montanans and all Americans, I stand to say ''thank you'' for your service to this Nation.

It is my honor to share the story of John Horigan's sacrifice in Vietnam, because no story of heroism should ever fall through the cracks.

John joined the Army in October of 1967. He was part of the 86th Transportation Company, based in Long Binh, Vietnam.

His job? Operating equipment and driving trucks for the Army in unimaginable, dangerous conditions.

On August 26, 1968, John's unit came under fire. And he was shot in the arm and in the back.

John returned to the United States after 2 years of service to this Nation. He worked as a millwright in California, and eventually moved with his wife Cindy to the Big Sky State of Montana, where he is welcome as a hero.

After his return home, the military lost John Horigan's records. And he never received the recognition he earned more than 40 years ago. Throughout that time, he never complained.

Last month, I had the honor of presenting to John, in the presence of his family, a Purple Heart, and a Vietnam Service Medal and Bronze Star Attachment.

It was also my honor to present a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and a National Defense Service Medal.

Last month I also presented to John: a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device, and the Cold War Recognition Certificate.

These six decorations are small tokens, but they are powerful symbols of true heroism, sacrifice, and dedication to service.

These medals are presented on behalf of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO POSTMASTER SHAUNA D. ANDREWS

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and honor Postmaster Shauna D. Andrews, of Hereford, OR, for her exceptional service to her customers and dedication to her neighbors.

Located in eastern Oregon, Hereford is a highly rural, unincorporated community in Baker County. Although Hereford is unincorporated it has a post office that serves approximately 100 postal patrons. Like many rural postmasters, Shauna knows her customers well and connects with them on a regular basis; especially older folks who don't have access to the Internet, cell phones, and other conveniences that are driving down the traditional use of post offices. In Hereford, the post office is a place where people send and receive packages, including mail order prescriptions and vote by mail.

Over the years, Shauna, who is also a first responder, has demonstrated a strong commitment to the folks she considers customers and neighbors. During the week of September 19, 2011, she became concerned when an 85-year-old patron who lives alone on a rural route failed to collect her mail. After 2 days, she grew worried and decided to go to the patron's home. When Shauna and her 19-year-old son arrived at the patron's house, they discovered the woman lying incapacitated on the floor. Shauna immediately called Baker City for transport to the nearest hospital, located 38 miles from Hereford. As of last week, the patron remained in the hospital in Baker City. It is more than a possibility that by taking the time to check on her postal patron, Shauna saved this woman's life.

Shauna has displayed exceptional service and dedication to her customers and neighbors. The Hereford Post Office is on the national closure study list and as we address the future of the Postal Service, it is absolutely imperative that we examine the function of post offices in rural communities. As Shauna has demonstrated, many rural postmasters know their customers well and having a post office is central to a town's identity and vitality.

I recognize Shauna Andrews for her exceptional service to the community of Hereford. Her example is one from which we can all learn.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (Agreement), a landmark agreement that supports American jobs, advances U.S. interests, and reflects America's fundamental values.

The Agreement levels the playing field for U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, investors, and service providers by offering them unprecedented access to Korea's nearly $1 trillion economy. The Agreement eliminates tariffs on over 95 percent of U.S. exports of industrial and consumer goods to Korea within the first 5 years and, together with the agreement entered into through an exchange of letters in February 2011, addresses key outstanding concerns of American automakers and workers regarding the lack of a level playing field in Korea's auto market. The Agreement also ensures that almost two-thirds of current U.S. agricultural exports will enter Korea duty-free immediately. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers much greater access to Korea's $580 billion services market.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance.

Increased U.S. exports expected under the Agreement will support more than 70,000 American jobs. The Agreement will bolster our economic competitiveness in the Asia-Pacific region and our regional security interests. The United States once was the top supplier of goods exported to Korea. Over the past decade, our share of Korea's import market for goods has fallen from 21 percent to just 10 percent—behind China and Japan, and barely ahead of the European Union (EU). The EU and several other trading partners are negotiating or have recently concluded trade agreements with Korea. If

the United States-Korea trade agreement is not approved, the United States could lose further market share, export-supported jobs, and economic growth opportunities, with damage to our leadership position in the region.

As a part of an ambitious trade agenda, it is important that the Congress renew a strong and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program consistent with reforms enacted in 2009. Renewal of that program is necessary to support Americans who need training and other services when their jobs are adversely affected by trade. As we expand access to other markets abroad, we need to ensure that American workers are provided the tools needed to take advantage of these opportunities and are not left behind in the global economy.

Approving and implementing the Agreement is an opportunity to shape history. We must seize the moment together to support jobs for the American people today and to sustain U.S. leadership well into the 21st century. I urge the Congress to enact this legislation promptly.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011.*

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration's efforts to spur economic growth, increase exports, and create jobs here in the United States, while promoting our core values. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers, investors, and businesses by opening Panama's market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

The Agreement also represents an important development in our relations with Panama, and accords with the goal, as expressed by the Congress in the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, to conclude comprehensive, mutually advantageous trade agreements with beneficiary countries of the Caribbean Basin Initiative trade preference program. The Agreement further reflects a commitment on the part of the United States to sustained engagement in support of democracy, economic growth, and opportunity in Panama and the region.

Panama is one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America. Upon entry into force of the Agreement, Panama will immediately eliminate its tariffs on over 87 percent of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial goods and on more than half of U.S. exports of agricultural goods. Panama will eliminate most other duties on U.S. exports within a 15-year transition period. Eighty-five percent of U.S. businesses exporting to Panama are small- and medium-sized enterprises. The elimination of duties provided for in the Agreement will help to level the playing field for them and for all U.S. exporters, based on 2010 trade flows, as approximately 98 percent of our imports from Panama already enjoy duty-free access to the U.S. market. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers greater access to Panama's $20.6 billion services market.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance. Panama has already made significant reforms related to the obligations it will have under the labor chapter.

As a part of an ambitious trade agenda, it is important that the Congress renew a strong and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program consistent with reforms enacted in 2009. Renewal of that program is necessary to support Americans who need training and other services when their jobs are adversely affected by trade. As we expand access to other markets abroad, we need to ensure that American workers are provided the tools needed to take advantage of these opportunities and are not left behind in the global economy.

Approval of the Agreement is in our national interest. The Agreement will strengthen our economic and political ties with Panama, support democracy, and contribute to further economic integration in our hemisphere and economic growth in the United States. I urge the Congress to enact this legislation promptly.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011.*

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-COLOMBIA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement is an important part of my Administration's efforts to spur economic growth, increase exports, and create jobs in the United States, while promoting our core values. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and consumers by opening the Colombian market and eliminating barriers to U.S. goods, services, and investment.

The Agreement also represents a historic development in our relations with Colombia. Colombia is a steadfast strategic partner of the United States and a leader in the region. The Agreement reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting democracy and economic growth in Colombia. It will also help Colombia battle production of illegal crops by creating alternative economic opportunities.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on over 80 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports will be eliminated immediately. United States agricultural exports in particular will enjoy substantial new improvements in access to Colombia's market. Currently, no U.S. agricultural exports enjoy duty-free access to Colombia. Once the Agreement enters into force, almost 70 percent, by value, of current U.S. agricultural exports will be able to enter Colombia duty-free immediately. In addition, the Agreement will give American service providers greater access to Colombia's $134 billion services market. This will help to level the playing field, since 91 percent of our imports from Colombia have enjoyed duty-free access to our market under U.S. trade preference programs.

The Agreement contains state of the art provisions to help protect and enforce intellectual property rights, reduce regulatory red tape, and eliminate regulatory barriers to U.S. exports. The Agreement also contains the highest standards for protecting labor rights, carrying out covered environmental agreements, and ensuring that key domestic labor and environmental laws are enforced, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance. Colombia has already made significant reforms related to the obligations it will have under the labor chapter. A number of these steps have been taken in fulfillment of the commitments Colombia made in the agreed Action Plan Related to Labor Rights that President Santos and I announced on April 7. Colombia must successfully implement key elements of the Action Plan before I will bring the Agreement into force.

This Agreement forms an integral part of my Administration's larger strategy of doubling exports by the end of 2014 through opening markets around the world. In addition, the Agreement provides an opportunity to strengthen our economic and political ties with the Andean region, and underpins U.S. support for democracy

while contributing to further hemispheric integration and economic growth in the United States. This Agreement is vital to ensuring Colombia continues on its trajectory of positive change.

As a part of an ambitious trade agenda, it is important that the Congress renew a strong and robust Trade Adjustment Assistance Program consistent with reforms enacted in 2009. Renewal of that program is necessary to support Americans who need training and other services when their jobs are adversely affected by trade. As we expand access to other markets abroad, we need to ensure that American workers are provided the tools needed to take advantage of these opportunities and are not left behind in the global economy.

Approval of the Agreement is therefore in our national interest. I urge the Congress to enact this legislation promptly.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND KOREA THAT CONTAIN THOSE COMMITMENTS, WHICH FURTHER ENHANCE THE UNITED STATES-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—PM 27

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying reports and papers; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

By separate message, I have transmitted to the Congress a bill to approve and implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement. In that message, I highlighted new commitments that my Administration, in close coordination with the Congress, successfully negotiated to provide additional market access and a level playing field for American auto manufacturers and workers exporting to Korea.

Herewith I am transmitting the letters exchanged between the United States and Korea that contain those commitments, which further enhance the most commercially significant trade agreement the United States has concluded in more than 17 years. The documents I have transmitted in these two messages constitute the entire United States-Korea trade agreement package.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S BUDGET REQUEST ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and as contemplated by section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's 2012 Budget Request Act. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the D.C. government's requests.

The proposed 2012 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For 2012, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of $10.9 billion.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 3, 2011*.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2005. An act to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

H.R. 2017. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1636. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1637. A bill to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers or employees are parties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1638. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1639. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 1640. A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to determine the price of all milk used for manufactured purposes, which shall be classified as Class II milk, by using the national average cost of production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 1641. A bill to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 1642. A bill to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MCCONNELL) (by request):

S. 1643. A bill to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. Res. 285. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Habitat Day, October 3, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 50

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to strengthen Federal consumer product safety programs and activities with respect to commercially-marketed seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to coordinate with the Federal Trade Commission and other appropriate Federal agencies to strengthen and coordinate those programs and activities.

S. 102

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 102, a bill to provide an optional fast-track procedure the President may use when submitting rescission requests, and for other purposes.

S. 381

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 381, a bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to provide that certain firearms listed as curios or relics may be imported into the United

States by a licensed importer without obtaining authorization from the Department of State or the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 504

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 542

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 542, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents.

S. 556

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes.

S. 566

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 566, a bill to provide for the establishment of the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to prohibit the Department of Justice from tracking and cataloguing the purchases of multiple rifles and shotguns.

S. 606

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 606, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the priority review voucher incentive program relating to tropical and rare pediatric diseases.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the establishment of a National Women's History Museum.

S. 798

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

S. 810

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 810, a bill to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, and for other purposes.

S. 834

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 834, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve education and prevention related to campus sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to improve the provision of Federal transition, rehabilitation, vocational, and unemployment benefits to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to prevent online threats to economic creativity and theft of intellectual property, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, regarding restrictions on the use of Department of Defense funds and facilities for abortions.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1251, a bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1301

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 to 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in person, and for other purposes.

S. 1354

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1354, a bill to authorize grants to promote media literacy and youth empowerment programs, to authorize research on the role and impact of depictions of girls and women in the media, to provide for the establishment of a National Task Force on Girls and Women in the Media, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1421, a bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 1460

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1460, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

S. 1500

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr.

BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to give Americans access to affordable child-only health insurance coverage.

S. 1508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1508, a bill to extend loan limits for programs of the Federal Housing Administration, the government-sponsored enterprises, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1513

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1513, a bill to amend title XII of the Social Security Act to extend the provision waiving certain interest payments on advances made to States from the Federal unemployment account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1514, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Elouise Pepion Cobell, in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and the Nation through her tireless pursuit of justice.

S. 1538

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to provide for a time-out on certain regulations, and for other purposes.

S. 1540

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1540, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow credits for the purchase of franchises by veterans.

S. 1576

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1576, a bill to measure the progress of relief, recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 1578

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1578, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to consumer confidence reports by community water systems.

S. 1583

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1583, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax deduction for the purchase, construction, and installation of a safe room or storm shelter, and for other purposes.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1619

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1619, a bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1621, a bill to create livable communities through coordinated public investment and streamlined requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1623

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1623, a bill to provide a processing extension for emergency mortgage relief payments, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 232

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 232, a resolution recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 12th anniversary of the campaign by the Chinese Communist Party to suppress the Falun Gong movement, recognizing the Tuidang movement whereby Chinese citizens renounce their ties to the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliates, and calling for an immediate end to the campaign to persecute Falun Gong practitioners.

S. RES. 274

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 274, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that funding for the Federal Pell Grant program should not be cut in any deficit reduction program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1638. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of P.S. 103 in West Baltimore, Maryland and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am proud to introduce the Justice Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act. The elementary school that Justice Marshall attended, known as PS 103, located in my hometown of Baltimore, is a place of national significance because it marks the site where one of our Nation's greatest legal minds began his education.

Thurgood Marshall is well known as one of the most significant historical figures of the American civil rights movement. By the time he was 32, he was appointed the chief legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. He served at the NAACP a total of 25 years and was a key strategist to end racial segregation throughout the United States.

Perhaps the greatest illustration of this effort was his victory before the Supreme Court overturning the Plessy doctrine of 'separate but equal' and ending school segregation with the landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, KS in 1954. Not only did this case open up educational opportunity and sparked the civil rights movement in this nation, it also established Thurgood Marshall, still a young attorney from Baltimore, as one of the greatest legal minds in all the land. This case was just one of the 29 cases he won before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fittingly, Marshall was the first African American confirmed to the Supreme Court. He was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967 and served 24 years, until 1991. On the high court, Marshall continued his fight for the Constitutional protection of individual human rights.

But Thurgood Marshall was not always a legal giant. He was once a young boy growing up in West Baltimore. He received the first 6 years of his public education at PS 103. An apocryphal story goes that a young Thurgood Marshall studied the U.S. Constitution in the basement of the

building while serving detention. Regardless of whether or not this is true, the building powerfully tells the story of racial segregation in America, PS 103 was a ''blacks only'' school when Justice Marshall was a student there, and the rise of one of the country's paramount thinkers and pioneers in the civil rights movement.

The building is located at 1315 Division Street in the Upton Neighborhood of Old West Baltimore. The building is part of the Old West Baltimore National Register Historic District, and is listed as a contributing historic resource for the neighborhood. The Old West Baltimore historic district is one of the largest predominately African American historic districts in the country, and its significance is centered on the African American experience in the area.

In Baltimore, we are fortunate to have the National Park Service operate two historical sites, Fort McHenry and the Hampton Mansion. Adding PS 103 is a unique opportunity for the National Park Service to work in Baltimore's inner-city and to expand its ability to engage people around African American history.

Needless to say, Thurgood Marshall's legacy is one that should be preserved. He was one of our country's greatest legal minds and a prominent historical figure of one chapter of our country's great history—the civil rights movement. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of PS 103 to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the building as a unit of the National Park Service. Preserving the building that was Justice Marshall's elementary school will give Americans insight into Justice Marshall's childhood.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1638

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Thurgood Marshall's Elementary School Study Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term ''study area'' means P.S. 103, the public school located in West Baltimore, Maryland, which Thurgood Marshall attended as a youth.

SEC. 3. SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of the study area.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) evaluate the national significance of the study area;

(2) determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a unit of the National Park System;

(3) consider other alternatives for preservation, protection, and interpretation of the study area by the Federal Government, State or local government entities, or private and nonprofit organizations;

(4) consult with interested Federal agencies, State or local governmental entities, private and nonprofit organizations, or any other interested individuals;

(5) identify cost estimates for any Federal acquisition, development, interpretation, operation, and maintenance associated with the alternatives; and

(6) identify any authorities that would compel or permit the Secretary to influence local land use decisions under the alternatives.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with section 8 of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out the study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 285—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD HABITAT DAY, OCTOBER 3, 2011

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 285

Whereas the United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day, and the theme of 2011 World Habitat Day is Cities and Climate Change;

Whereas World Habitat Day calls on global citizens to reflect on the state of our towns and cities and the importance of adequate shelter and serves as a reminder of our collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat;

Whereas approximately 51 percent of the world's population currently lives in cities of all sizes and produces the majority of the world's economic output;

Whereas projections indicate that ⅔ of the world's population will reside in cities just over a generation from now;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000,000 people currently live in slums, and more than half of this population is under the age of 25;

Whereas it is estimated that, by 2030, the number of people living in slums will double;

Whereas, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 884,000,000 people lack adequate access to safe water, and nearly 50 percent of the developing world's population, over 2,500,000,000 people, lack access to sanitation services;

Whereas the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene contribute to the deaths of more than 1,500,000 children younger than 5 years of age per year;

Whereas, according to the World Bank, more than 1,400,000,000 people still live without electricity, a critical component of economic growth and development;

Whereas insecure lease and real property ownership tenure often subject slum dwellers to arbitrary, supra-market rents, forced evictions, threats, and harassment;

Whereas insecurity of land and property tenure severely inhibits economic development by undermining investment incentives and constraining the growth of credit markets, imperils the ability of families to achieve sustainable livelihoods and assured access to shelter, and often contributes to conflict over property rights;

Whereas women are affected disproportionally by forced evictions and insecure tenure as a result of gender-based discrimination, often including gender-biased laws that define women as legal minors or otherwise prevent them from acquiring and securing land, property, and housing lease or ownership rights, making them more vulnerable to poverty, violence, and sexual abuse;

Whereas many of the world's large cities are located in low-lying coastal areas that are more susceptible to environmental events and face serious threats from the effects of climate change such as storm surges;

Whereas the slum dwellers in low-lying coastal cities are disproportionately affected by disasters;

Whereas, according to the International Organization for Migration, there could be up to 200,000,000 environmentally-induced migrants by 2050, many of whom will be forced from their homes by rising sea levels and the increased frequency of flooding or drought, thereby challenging the security of the United States and United States allies;

Whereas adequate housing and universal access to basic shelter serve as catalysts for economic, social, and democratic development in the United States and elsewhere;

Whereas international organizations, faith-based groups, and nonprofits are working towards providing safe, affordable, and decent shelter for all; and

Whereas the 2006 National Security Strategy states, ''America's national interests and moral values drive us in the same direction: to assist the world's poor citizens and least developed nations and help integrate them into the global economy'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Habitat Day; and

(2) reflects on the state of our cities and towns and the importance of adequate shelter and is reminded of our shared responsibility for the future of the human habitat;

(3) underscores the importance of a sustainable urban development strategy that—

(A) promotes equitable access to—

(i) basic shelter and affordable housing, particularly by residents of slums and informal settlements and similar densely populated, impoverished urban areas; and

(ii) safe water and sanitation;

(B) promotes gender equality and women's empowerment;

(C) supports access to sustainable and renewable sources of energy;

(D) employs innovative approaches to urban development challenges;

(E) leverages United States Government resources through collaborative partnership with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, private sector entities, and nonprofit and community-based organizations;

(F) operates to a scale that ensures sustainability;

(G) addresses current and future effects of climate change on cities; and

(H) improves environmental sustainability in urban areas; and

(4) encourages the leaders and citizens of cities, which are the source of, and solution to, many of the world's development challenges, to build upon their successful experiences and develop more ambitious goals for

urban sustainable development at the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held June 4-6, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 669. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1619, to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 669. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1619, to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ___. MANDATORY DISCLOSURE BY THE UNITED STATES IF MEMBERS OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION FAIL TO DISCLOSE SUBSIDIES UNDER THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Trade Representative shall—

(1) review each notification of subsidies submitted under Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures by a member of the World Trade Organization with which the United States maintains a material and persistent trade deficit;

(2) identify any such member that, for 2 consecutive years—

(A) fails to submit such a notification; or

(B) omits information or includes inaccurate information in such a notification that is material with respect to the totality of the subsidies of the member; and

(3) notify the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures under Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures of the subsidies of a member identified under paragraph (2) not later than 180 days after—

(A) in the case of a member identified under paragraph (2)(A), the date on which the second notification not submitted by the member was required to be submitted; or

(B) in the case of a member identified under paragraph (2)(B), the date of the submission of the second notification in which the information was omitted or the inaccurate information was included, as the case may be.

(b) AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES DEFINED.—The term ''Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures'' means the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 101(d)(12) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(12)).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's Shale Gas Production Subcommittee's 90-day report.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by e-mail to Abigail_Campbell @energy.Senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Allyson Anderson at (202) 224–7143 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–1219.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 2:15 p.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Internet Infrastructure in Native Communities: Equal Access to E-Commerce, Jobs and the Global Marketplace.''

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, ''Excessive Speculation and Compliance with the Dodd-Frank Act.'' The Subcommittee plans to hold a hearing on speculation in the commodities markets and implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act's provisions on speculative position limits for futures, options, and swap contracts for oil and other commodities. Hearing witnesses will include a panel of experts and the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224–9505.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my staff and the committee staff be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 1619: Jane Beard, Sarah Babcock, Danielle Fidler, Sara Harshman, Madeline Forbis, Laura Jaskierski, Stephen Simpson, Jonathan Goldman, Cosimo Thawley, and Miranda Dalpiaz.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM EXTENSION AND REFORM ACT

On Monday, September 26, 2011, the Senate agreed to the motion to concur to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 2608, with an amendment, as follows:

H.R. 2608

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2608) entitled ''An Act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.'', do pass with the following Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment to Senate amendment, insert the following:

That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2011, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2011 (division A of Public Law 112–10).

(2) The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (division B of Public Law 112–10).

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 1.503 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2011 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2011 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or

authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) November 18, 2011.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2012 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2011 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 3(c)(2) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress. Section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to any amount so designated.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to amounts for ''Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses''.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2012 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts made available by this Act for ''Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance—Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'' may be used by the Secretary of Defense for operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq and security assistance teams, including life support, transportation and personal security, and facilities renovation and construction: Provided, That the authority made by this section shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act: Provided further, That section 9014 of division A of Public Law 112–10 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, funds made available in title IX of division A of Public Law 112–10 for ''Overseas Contingency Operations'' shall be available at a rate for operations not to exceed the rate permitted by H.R. 2219 (112th Congress) as passed by the House of Representatives on July 8, 2011.

SEC. 118. The authority provided by section 127b of title 10, United States Code, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 119. The authority provided by section 1202 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2412), as extended by section 1204(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4623), shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 120. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $29,130,000.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading ''District of Columbia Funds'' for such programs and activities under title IV of H.R. 2434 (112th Congress), as reported by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, at the rate set forth under ''District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses'' as included in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request Act of 2011 (D.C. Act 19–92), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for the necessary expenses of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, to carry out its functions under title XV of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), at a rate for operations of $28,350,000.

SEC. 123. (a) Section 9(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(m)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

(b) Notwithstanding section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)), the Small Business Technology Transfer Program shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(c) Notwithstanding section 9(y)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)(6)), the pilot program under section 9(y) of such Act shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 124. Section 8909a(d)(3)(A)(v) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2011'' and inserting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief'' at a rate for operations of $2,650,000,000: Provided, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a full accounting of disaster relief funding requirements for such account for fiscal year 2012 not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and for fiscal year 2013 in conjunction with the submission of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2013.

(b) The accounting described in subsection (a) for each fiscal year shall include estimates of the following amounts:

(1) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that has been (or will be) carried over to such fiscal year from prior fiscal years.

(2) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that will be carried over from such fiscal year to the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) The amount of the rolling average of noncatastrophic disasters, and the specific data used to calculate such rolling average, for such fiscal year.

(4) The amount that will be obligated each month for catastrophic events, delineated by event and State, and the total remaining funding that will be required after such fiscal year for each such catastrophic event for each State.

(5) The amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered each month of such fiscal year.

(6) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for emergencies, as defined in section 102(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)).

(7) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for major disasters, as defined in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).

(8) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for fire management assistance grants, as defined in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187).

SEC. 126. Any funds made available pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated at a rate for operations necessary to sustain essential security activities, such as: staffing levels of operational personnel; immigration enforcement and removal functions, including sustaining not less than necessary detention bed capacity; and United States Secret Service protective activities, including protective activities necessary to secure National Special Security Events. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on each use of the authority provided in this section.

SEC. 127. The authority provided by section 532 of Public Law 109–295 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 128. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 129. Section 550(b) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''October 4, 2011''.

SEC. 130. Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C.

4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 131. Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (42 U.S.C. 1701 note), concerning Service First authorities, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 132. Notwithstanding section 101, section 1807 of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$374,743,000'' for ''$363,843,000'' and ''$10,900,000'' for ''$3,000,000''.

SEC. 133. The second proviso of section 1801(a)(3) of Public Law 112–10 is amended by striking ''appropriation under this subparagraph'' and inserting ''appropriations made available by this Act''.

SEC. 134. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $14,510,000.

SEC. 135. Sections 399AA(e), 399BB(g), and 399CC(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i(e), 280i–1(g), 280i–2(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 136. Notwithstanding section 101, section 2005 of division B of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$0'' for each dollar amount.

SEC. 137. The Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011'' in section 7 of such Act.

SEC. 138. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 139. Commitments to guarantee loans incurred under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), shall not exceed a rate for operations of $25,000,000,000: Provided, That total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, may be apportioned through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act, at $80,000,000 multiplied by the number of days covered in this Act.

SEC. 140. (a) RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) and section 3A (b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall be deemed to be a ''renewal resolution'' for purposes of section 9 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on July 26, 2011.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not be subject to any other provision of this Act.

This Act may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012''.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

On Monday, September 26, 2011, the Senate passed H.R. 2017, as amended, as follows:

H.R. 2017

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2017) entitled ''An Act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.'', do pass with the following amendments:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2011, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2011 (division A of Public Law 112–10).

(2) The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (division B of Public Law 112–10).

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 1.503 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2011 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2011 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) October 4, 2011.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2012 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2011 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 3(c)(2) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress. Section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to any amount so designated.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to amounts for ''Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses''.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2012 that were provided in advance by

appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts made available by this Act for ''Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance—Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'' may be used by the Secretary of Defense for operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq and security assistance teams, including life support, transportation and personal security, and facilities renovation and construction: Provided, That the authority made by this section shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act: Provided further, That section 9014 of division A of Public Law 112–10 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, funds made available in title IX of division A of Public Law 112–10 for ''Overseas Contingency Operations'' shall be available at a rate for operations not to exceed the rate permitted by H.R. 2219 (112th Congress) as passed by the House of Representatives on July 8, 2011.

SEC. 118. The authority provided by section 127b of title 10, United States Code, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 119. The authority provided by section 1202 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2412), as extended by section 1204(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4623), shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 120. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $29,130,000.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading ''District of Columbia Funds'' for such programs and activities under title IV of H.R. 2434 (112th Congress), as reported by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, at the rate set forth under ''District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses'' as included in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request Act of 2011 (D.C. Act 19–92), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for the necessary expenses of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, to carry out its functions under title XV of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), at a rate for operations of $28,350,000.

SEC. 123. (a) Section 9(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(m)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

(b) Notwithstanding section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)), the Small Business Technology Transfer Program shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(c) Notwithstanding section 9(y)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)(6)), the pilot program under section 9(y) of such Act shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 124. Section 8909a(d)(3)(A)(v) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2011'' and inserting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief'' at a rate for operations of $2,650,000,000: Provided, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a full accounting of disaster relief funding requirements for such account for fiscal year 2012 not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and for fiscal year 2013 in conjunction with the submission of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2013.

(b) The accounting described in subsection (a) for each fiscal year shall include estimates of the following amounts:

(1) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that has been (or will be) carried over to such fiscal year from prior fiscal years.

(2) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that will be carried over from such fiscal year to the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) The amount of the rolling average of noncatastrophic disasters, and the specific data used to calculate such rolling average, for such fiscal year.

(4) The amount that will be obligated each month for catastrophic events, delineated by event and State, and the total remaining funding that will be required after such fiscal year for each such catastrophic event for each State.

(5) The amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered each month of such fiscal year.

(6) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for emergencies, as defined in section 102(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)).

(7) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for major disasters, as defined in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).

(8) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for fire management assistance grants, as defined in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187).

SEC. 126. Any funds made available pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated at a rate for operations necessary to sustain essential security activities, such as: staffing levels of operational personnel; immigration enforcement and removal functions, including sustaining not less than necessary detention bed capacity; and United States Secret Service protective activities, including protective activities necessary to secure National Special Security Events. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on each use of the authority provided in this section.

SEC. 127. The authority provided by section 532 of Public Law 109–295 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 128. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 129. Section 550(b) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''October 4, 2011''.

SEC. 130. Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 131. Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (42 U.S.C. 1701 note), concerning Service First authorities, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 132. Notwithstanding section 101, section 1807 of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$374,743,000'' for ''$363,843,000'' and ''$10,900,000'' for ''$3,000,000''.

SEC. 133. The second proviso of section 1801(a)(3) of Public Law 112–10 is amended by striking ''appropriation under this subparagraph'' and inserting ''appropriations made available by this Act''.

SEC. 134. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $14,510,000.

SEC. 135. Sections 399AA(e), 399BB(g), and 399CC(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i(e), 280i–1(g), 280i–2(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 136. Notwithstanding section 101, section 2005 of division B of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$0'' for each dollar amount.

SEC. 137. The Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011'' in section 7 of such Act.

SEC. 138. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 139. Commitments to guarantee loans incurred under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), shall not exceed a rate for operations of $25,000,000,000: Provided, That total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, may be apportioned through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act, at $80,000,000 multiplied by the number of days covered in this Act.

SEC. 140. (a) RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) and section 3A (b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall be deemed to be a ''renewal resolution'' for purposes of section 9 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on July 26, 2011.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not be subject to any other provision of this Act.

This Act may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012''.

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.''.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: No. 359; that the nomination be confirmed the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Robert Stephen Ford, of Vermont, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Syrian Arab Republic.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate returns to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2011; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1619, the Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, postcloture; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that at 2:30 p.m., all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to S. 1619 be yielded back and, following the reporting of the bill, the majority leader be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, we will begin consideration of S. 1619 during Tuesday's session. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MICHAEL T. SCUSE, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FARM AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES, VICE JAMES W. MILLER, RESIGNED.

MICHAEL T. SCUSE, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION, VICE JAMES W. MILLER, RESIGNED.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EARL W. GAST, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE KATHERINE ALMQUIST, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERTA S. JACOBSON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS), VICE ARTURO A. VALENZUELA, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES

JAMES T. RYAN, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2013, VICE JAMES BROADDUS, RESIGNED.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

TIMOTHY M. BASHOR, OF TEXAS
DANIEL C. CALLAHAN, OF VIRGINIA
MIGNON TURNER CARDENTEY, OF NORTH CAROLINA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

HOLLY CASSANDRA ALLEN, OF ARIZONA
HAYWARD M. ALTO, OF CALIFORNIA
D. HEATH BAILEY, OF NEVADA
LYDIA BETH BARRAZA, OF TEXAS
SETH G. BLAYLOCK, OF VIRGINIA
BRANDON LAUT BORKOWICZ, OF CALIFORNIA
MARK J. BOSSE, OF CALIFORNIA
CHRISTOPHER IAN BREDING, OF TEXAS
DONALD A. BROWN, OF LOUISIANA
CHARLES L. BROWN II, OF TEXAS
ROBERTA R. BURNS, OF NEW YORK
MICHAEL J CARNEY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LISA BARANOWSKI CONESA, OF WISCONSIN
THOMAS PATRICK DALTON, OF TEXAS
THOMAS ROBERT DEBOR, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA
HADI K. DEEB, OF INDIANA
JACOB M. DOTY, OF OREGON
MARGARET ANN EHR, OF MICHIGAN
KELLEE ARDEN FARMER, OF KANSAS
KRIS FRESONKE, OF WASHINGTON
KEVIN W. FRILOUX, OF TEXAS
PETER PAUL GALUS, OF CALIFORNIA
JUAN JAIME GAMBOA, OF TEXAS
PAUL ANTHONY GHIOTTO, JR., OF FLORIDA
VALLERA MICHELLE GIBSON, OF GEORGIA
SEAN S. GREENLEY, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SILJE M. GRIMSTAD, OF VIRGINIA
DELLA R. HARELAND, OF NEVADA
THOMAS N. KATEN, OF VIRGINIA
SHAMIM KAZEMI, OF MARYLAND
JAY MARSHALL KIMMEL, OF VIRGINIA
ELIZABETH K. LEE, OF CALIFORNIA
MARY LOFRISCO-MCCLURE, OF FLORIDA
DARRIN WILLIAM STUART MACKINNON, OF VIRGINIA
THERESA J. MANGIONE, OF FLORIDA
KUNDAI VICTORIA MASHINGAIDZE, OF CALIFORNIA
GEORGE D. MATHEWS, OF VIRGINIA
CATHERINE JEAN MCFARLAND, OF FLORIDA
BETHANY MILTON, OF NEW YORK
RICHARD MORRIS, OF COLORADO
MATTHEW ABRAHAM MYERS, SR., OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM RICHARD NELSON, OF WISCONSIN
LAREINA L. OCKERMAN, OF VIRGINIA
RYAN M. REID, OF ALASKA
AMY E. ROTH, OF LOUISIANA
CHRISTOPHER DAVID SCHEFFMAN, OF TEXAS
DAVID RYAN SECKINGER, OF TEXAS
GARY BARTON STOKES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FRANK P. TALLUTO, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ALEXANDER TATSIS, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ESPERANZA MARIE TILGHMAN, OF CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH ANTHONY TORDELLA, OF FLORIDA
RUBANI I. TRIMIEW, OF NEW JERSEY
JOACHIM VAN BRANDT, OF VIRGINIA
STAFFORD ASHLEY WARD, OF GEORGIA
CLINT ALLAN WATTS, OF COLORADO
RICHARD VANCE WHITTEN, OF FLORIDA
WHITNEY SCOTT WIEDEMAN, OF TEXAS
ANDREA JP WIKTOWY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BRYAN G. WOCKLEY, OF VERMONT
DARYN L. YODER, OF VIRGINIA
ADAM ZERBINOPOULOS, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

SUEMAYAH M. ABU-DOULEH, OF ILLINOIS
MICHAEL K. AGNER, JR., OF FLORIDA
MEGAN AHEARN, OF PENNSYLVANIA
TRISTAN J. ALLEN, OF ARKANSAS
JONATHAN R. ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA
PAULINE W. ANDERSON, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL P. ARENA, OF VIRGINIA
BRIAN DAVID ASCHER, OF FLORIDA
OSCAR D. AVILA, OF ILLINOIS
JASON PERRY AZEVEDO, OF MASSACHUSETTS
FRANCESCO CARLO BARBACCI, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW BARWIG, OF COLORADO
JEREMY D. BERTSCH, OF VIRGINIA
TEANCUM T. BEVANS, OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND PAUL BLAKE, OF PENNSYLVANIA
JAKE L. BRANSON, OF VIRGINIA
PAMELA L. BRANSON, OF VIRGINIA
KETURA DEMARIS BROWN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
LASEAN BROWN, OF GEORGIA
MICHELE A. BROWNE-APPIAH, OF VIRGINIA
CAROLINE R. BUDDENHAGEN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LAURA A. BURNS, OF VIRGINIA
KILLASHANDRA CANCEL, OF VIRGINIA
YUNG JYONG CERANA, OF VIRGINIA
HANNAH CHA, OF OHIO
PETER H. CHRISTIANSEN, OF ALASKA
JULIA CLARKE, OF VIRGINIA
TAVON COOKE, OF NEW JERSEY
MERCEDES LAVEL CROSBY, OF MASSACHUSETTS
CHAD SPENCER CRYDER, OF INDIANA
CHANSONETTA C. CUMMINGS, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW D CUSTANCE, OF VIRGINIA
CYNTHIA CHANG-WEN DAVILA, OF MINNESOTA
RAFAEL DIAZ, OF NEVADA
ANDREW H. DOEHLER, OF MARYLAND
CLARE E. DOWDLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STEVEN R. DUKE, OF VIRGINIA
ANNA DUPONT, OF NEW YORK
EDY ZOHAR DURAN, OF TEXAS
TIM EDGE, OF CALIFORNIA
LINDSEY M. ERICKSON, OF MARYLAND
PARVANEH A. FAKHERI, OF VIRGINIA
MARY K. FANOUS, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTOPHER R. FARLOW, OF FLORIDA
DAVID W. FARNHAM, OF MARYLAND
JESSE F. FERRARA, OF VIRGINIA
LAUREN FRANCES FONDREN, OF TEXAS
DAVID FREITAS, OF FLORIDA
EDUARDO GARCIA, OF TEXAS
KAM J. GORDON, OF UTAH
LUKE GREICIUS, OF NEW YORK
RACHEL L. GROSS, OF CALIFORNIA
KAY T. HAIRSTON, OF VIRGINIA
SHARON MONIQUE HAJI MKANGA, OF MASSACHUSETTS
ALEXANDER FERRELL HALL, OF MINNESOTA
KARLENE M. HENNINGER FRELICH, OF MARYLAND
ANDREW M. HAMILTON, OF MARYLAND
HAMMAD B. HAMMAD, OF CALIFORNIA
CHRISTINA E. D. HARDAWAY, OF GEORGIA
JENNIFER ANNE-MARIE HARWOOD, OF MARYLAND
MICHAEL M. HOLLAND, OF MARYLAND
CHRISTIANA M. HOLLIS, OF FLORIDA
AARON THEODORE JACKSON, OF CALIFORNIA
ADAM JAGELSKI, OF WASHINGTON
JESSICA LYNN JARCEV, OF WASHINGTON
SARAH H. JESSUP, OF MARYLAND
KATHLEEN JUDGE-MITCHELL, OF FLORIDA
JAMES J. KANIA, OF PENNSYLVANIA
ASHOK KAUL, OF NEVADA
MIRA J. KIM, OF ILLINOIS
CHELSEA M. KINSMAN, OF NEW YORK
GRETCHEN MARIE KISER, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFER KLARMAN, OF FLORIDA
COURTNEY KLINE, OF PENNSYLVANIA
JOSEPH B. KRINOCK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BORCHIEN LAI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JEFFREY R. LAKSHAS, OF WASHINGTON
RENEE L. LARIVIERE, OF VERMONT
BARBARA LYNN LAWSON, OF VIRGINIA
GABRIELLE LEGEAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BARBARA ELLEN LESTER, OF PENNSYLVANIA
VICTORIA B. LIU, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID K. LORIO, OF VIRGINIA
AZZAM LOSTAN, OF CALIFORNIA
MICHAEL B. LUMMUS, OF VIRGINIA
DEC LY, OF VIRGINIA
CATHERINE MATHES, OF ILLINOIS
JOSHUA MCCAVE, OF MARYLAND
JENNIFER MCGOWAN, OF VIRGINIA
SHANNON MERLO, OF VIRGINIA
SCOTT E. MILGROOM, OF MASSACHUSETTS
KYLE JOHN MISSBACH, OF TEXAS
DANIELLE F. MONAGHAN, OF NEW JERSEY
CHARLEY LUTHER MONTGOMERY, OF CALIFORNIA
SCOTT E. MURPHY, OF VIRGINIA
NINA MURRAY, OF NEBRASKA
JOHNATHAN S. NASH, OF VIRGINIA
JULIANA A. NELSON, OF CALIFORNIA
STEPHANIE D. NISIVOCCIA, OF VIRGINIA
RACHEL OREOLUWA OKUNUBI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AMBER M. OLIVA, OF ALASKA
SEAN P. OLMSTEAD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADAM R. OLSZOWKA, OF ILLINOIS
NATALIE L. PETERSON, OF OHIO
MATTHEW PIERSON, OF VIRGINIA
WALTON C. PORTER, JR., OF VIRGINIA
NATHAN CLYDE POWELL, OF VIRGINIA
LISBETH SANDOY, OF VIRGINIA
DINA L. SCHORR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DAVID CLAYTON SCHWARTZ, OF VIRGINIA
MATTHEW WILLIAM SCRANTON, OF PENNSYLVANIA
D. ROSALIND SEWELL, OF GEORGIA
TAU NKOKHELI SHANKLIN ROBERTS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WESLEY C. SHELTON, OF NEVADA
MARY ANN SHEPHERD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TAMARA RENEE SHIE, OF VIRGINIA
KRISTEN MICHELLE EDIANN SMART, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CARLA ELENA SNYDER, OF FLORIDA
THERESA A. CARPENTER SONDJO, OF MARYLAND
LACHLYN M. SOPER, OF WISCONSIN
CELESTE J. STEWART, OF MONTANA
KARYN M. STOVALL, OF ILLINOIS
AKASH RAJ SURI, OF CALIFORNIA
PAMELA S. TAYLOR, OF VIRGINIA
AARON C. TRUAX, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
KARINA A. VERAS, OF NEW YORK
VANJA VUKOTA, OF FLORIDA
WILLIAM W. WACHTER, OF NEW JERSEY
JEFFREY M. WARNER, OF CALIFORNIA
ALLISON L. WERNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
RICHARD J. WILLIAMS, OF CALIFORNIA
ZAINABU ZAWADI WILLIAMS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

JAMES S. WILSON, OF VIRGINIA
LAUREN E. YOST, OF VIRGINIA
SYLVIE YOUNG, OF CALIFORNIA
RAFAELA ZUIDEMA, OF PENNSYLVANIA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, October 3, 2011:

THE JUDICIARY

HENRY F. FLOYD, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT.

NANNETTE JOLIVETTE BROWN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

NANCY TORRESEN, OF MAINE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE.

WILLIAM FRANCIS KUNTZ, II, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

MARINA GARCIA MARMOLEJO, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

JENNIFER GUERIN ZIPPS, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT STEPHEN FORD, OF VERMONT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, TO WHICH POSITION HE WAS APPOINTED DURING THE RECESS OF THE SENATE FROM DECEMBER 22, 2010, TO JANUARY 5, 2011.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 3, 2011 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

TERRY D. GARCIA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE DENNIS F. HIGHTOWER, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 16, 2011.

JAMES T. RYAN, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 7, 2013, VICE JAMES BROADDUS, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 22, 2011.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN ON ITS CENTENNIAL

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of its Centennial National Day on October 10, 2011, I wish to extend to the Republic of China (Taiwan) my sincerest congratulations and best wishes.

Taiwan has been a staunch ally of the United States and demonstrates that friendship in myriad ways, ranging from the healthy trade relationship we share to education and even popular culture. For example, Taiwan regularly sends its agricultural procurement mission to purchase U.S. products. Taiwan's mission, currently visiting the United States, plans to purchase more than $5.6 billion in wheat, corn, soybean and other agricultural products. For its defense needs, Taiwan seeks to purchase advanced weapons from us, including F–16s fighters and possibly submarines in the future. Further, our Taiwanese friends have long appreciated many facets of U.S. culture, to include our system of education, our democratic values and even our regional culinary traditions. We return that admiration in kind and are proud to share so many cultural and political values with the people of Taiwan.

The Republic of China is a shining example of a democratic, open society in the region. The advancements and development achieved over the last century are laudable and, for these reasons, I offer heartfelt congratulations on this very special occasion.

WEST CHESTER B. REED HENDERSON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1966—VETERANS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor graduates of West Chester B. Reed Henderson High School Class of 1966 whom served in our Armed Forces. These individuals served the United States honorably and proudly and I commend their service. The following are the names of those individuals:

Charles B. Spadoni. 1st Lieutenant. Army
Jon H. Barber. Lieutenant Colonel. Army
Raymond C. Carr. E–4 PFC. National Guard
Stephen C. Cottrel. E–4 Sgt. Air Force
Maria Cottrell. Sergeant. Air Force
Brad Johnson. 2nd Class Quartermaster. Navy
David E. Haring. E–5 Sergeant. Army
S. Kurt Hettel. E–7 Specialist. USA Reserve
Ronald F. Hoopes. E–4 Specialist. Army
Gary V. Jamison. E–4 3rd Class Petty Officer. Navy
Harry C. Jamison III. E–5 Specialist. Army
Ernst W. Jordan, Jr. E–4 Petty Officer 3rd Class. Navy
Walter S. Mitchell. E–4 Specialist. Army
W. Eric Pederson. Lieutenant Colonel. Army
Arnold S. Hughes. Army
Thomas D. Rodgers. E–4 Petty Officer. Navy
David A. Salveson. Lieutenant Commander. Navy
George M. Smith. E–4 Specialist. Army
Frederick W. Waldbuesser. E–4 Specialist
Harry J. Cabot. E–4. Air Force
Joseph R. Skovrinski. E–5 2nd Class Petty Officer. Navy
Nicholas Ranalli. E–5 Sergeant. Army
Robert J. Dehaven. E–5 2nd Class Petty Officer. Navy
Ernst Tallington. Sergeant. Air Force
John J. Higham. E–5 Specialist. Army
Clifford R. Angry. E–5 Sergeant. Air Force
Terry Neilon. Colonel. Army

IN HONOR OF MR. JACOB NASH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Jacob Nash who is being awarded the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Freedom Award at the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats' Freedom Fund Reception on September 26, 2011.

The Cleveland Stonewall Democrats is one of more than ninety chapters of the National Stonewall Democrats throughout the country. They are a grassroots movement devoted to securing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Nash earned a Masters in Psychology, specializing in diversity management, from Cleveland State University. For the past decade, he has worked as an independent trainer and consultant specialist in transgender and diversity issues. He has trained politicians, social workers and medical professionals on caring for and respecting transgender people. Mr. Nash is currently working for the Ohio Department of Children and Family Services and previously worked as the Executive Director for Transfamily of Cleveland.

Mr. Nash became an active activist in 2002, after fighting for and winning the right to marry Erin. Over the past several years, Mr. Nash has traveled across the Midwest speaking with legislators regarding civil rights legislation. He has worked closely with the cities of Cleveland and Akron as they developed their 2009 nondiscrimination policies. Mr. Nash is also active with Equality Ohio, TransOhio, the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland, Human Rights Campaign, the National Center for Transgender Equality and the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Jacob Nash on the occasion of being honored with the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats' Stephanie Tubbs Jones Freedom Award.

TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS OF THE NATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I'm deeply disappointed that once again we're voting on a bill designed to cripple the Environmental Protection Agency—the agency tasked with protecting our environment and our health.

This bill, the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation, TRAIN, Act blocks and indefinitely delays two of the most important clean air regulations of the last few decades—the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.

These rules require decades-old coal-fired power plants with no modern pollution controls to install readily available technology, reducing cancer-causing dioxins, acid gases and mercury.

Mercury pollution from power plants is particularly harmful for children and can adversely affect developing brains and bodies. Nevertheless, the bill before us expands and deregulates mercury pollution.

The American Lung Association has highlighted the importance of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule:

> The rule closes a toxic loophole that has existed for 20 years by updating standards to protect Americans all across the country from hazardous air pollution. Without these standards, toxic pollution will continue filling our lungs and more people will suffer—and even die—unnecessarily.

TRAIN Act will create a Train Wreck that will pollute our air and put lives at risk. Ironically, the bill also creates exactly what the majority says they want to get rid of—a new bureaucratic layer to analyze only the cost of EPA regulations while ignoring critical, life-saving benefits.

This legislation is a waste of taxpayer money and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

HONORING THE JOHN BASILONE MEMORIAL PARADE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the organizers of the John Basilone Memorial Parade which takes place in Somerset County, New Jersey. This year they celebrate 30 years of remembrance for an American hero.

Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valiant efforts at the Battle of Guadalcanal on October 24, 1942. After his 15-man unit was reduced to himself and two others by Japanese forces, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone took command of two sections of machine guns and bravely fought for 48 hours with his two fellow Marines. When ammunition became scarce, he battled through enemy grounds to gather more. And, by the end of the fight, the Japanese troops were nearly destroyed.

Upon his return to his hometown in the Borough of Raritan, New Jersey, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone was welcomed home with a parade held in his honor on September 21, 1943. The first parade was covered by both Life magazine and the Fox Movietone News. The Newsreel was then shown in movie theatres throughout the country.

Tragically, after requesting to return to the fleet, Gunnery Sgt. Basilone lost his life during the invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. For his duty in Iwo Jima, Sgt. Basilone posthumously received the Navy Cross, becoming the only Marine enlisted in World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.

Sgt. Basilone's memory was not forgotten in his hometown, and in 1981, the John Basilone Memorial Parade began and is now in its 30th year. Every September, the Borough of Raritan and neighboring communities come together to not only remember our fallen war hero, but to honor our military and unite as a community. The John Basilone Parade is more than just a parade, it is an opportunity for Americans to come together and celebrate the freedoms we share and those who fight to protect them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing the organizers of the John Basilone Memorial Parade for honoring not only one American hero, but all those who fight for our country.

IN HONOR OF MR. TIMOTHY DOWNING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Timothy Downing who is being awarded the 2011 Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Leadership Award at the Cleveland Stonewall Democrats' Freedom Fund Reception on September 26, 2011.

The Cleveland Stonewall Democrats is one of more than ninety chapters of the National Stonewall Democrats throughout the country. They are a grassroots movement devoted to securing equal rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Mr. Downing graduated with his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College in 1985 and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1988 from Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University. He began his career in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the law firm of Rose, Schmidt, Hasley and Disalle. For the past 23 years Mr. Dowing has been co-chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee of the Cleveland law firm Ulmer & Berne LLP, where he is also a partner. Mr. Downing is an active member of the American, Ohio State, and Cleveland Bar Associations' Labor & Employment Sections/Committees. He has also served as the chair of the Financial Committee for Ohio's Local Government Reform and Collaboration Commission for 18 months under former Governor Strickland. Mr. Downing has been recognized throughout his career; he was named a ''Super Lawyer'' by Cincinnati Law & Politics magazine and a ''Leading Lawyer'' by Inside Business magazine for the past 10 consecutive years.

In addition to his career, Mr. Downing is also an outspoken activist and advocate for the LGBT community. He founded Equality Ohio, an organization dedicated to ''an Ohio where everyone feels home; living in families and communities where equality, diversity and inclusiveness are universally valued; and where government protects all people and responds to their needs, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.'' Mr. Downing is currently the co-chair of the Board of Directors for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT civil rights and education organization.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Timothy Downing on the occasion of being honored with the 2011 Cleveland Stonewall Democrats Leadership Award.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of Women Voters of Oakland, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California state referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Over the years, the League of Women Voters of Oakland, as well as its sister leagues in Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, Piedmont and the surrounding Bay Area, have worked tirelessly to advocate, educate and champion citizens' informed and active participation in government and civic affairs.

An expansive and well-organized network of committed chapters, over 4,000 members in 21 local Leagues comprise the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area (LWVBA), which took shape in 1959. On a national scale, the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) was founded during the 1920 convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, held just 6 months before the 19th amendment was ratified. Thus, after a 72-year struggle, the U.S. Constitution finally reflected what women in the Bay Area and California had fought to achieve a decade earlier.

As members of the League of Women Voters, you are part of a magnificent legacy. Additionally, you have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneers and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging our community toward civic engagement.

Moreover, the League has flexed its power in shaping public policy through the strength of its grassroots organization and by maintaining its important stance of non-partisanship. For example, the Oakland chapter has been a major advocate for ranked choice voting, quality education and accessible housing. Likewise, the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville chapter has worked extensively on advocating for fair housing and the promotion of social resources, including mental health, education, juvenile justice and senior services. And, the Piedmont chapter holds positions in the areas of social policy, diversity and natural resources, to name a few.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the League of Women Voters' local, state and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of protecting the rights of voters, promoting sound policy and creating a more just and peaceful world.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBANY TECHNICAL COLLEGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the administration, faculty, students, alumni and supporters of Albany Technical College, as this institution celebrates 50 years of providing vocational and technical training to thousands of Georgia residents. This learning center commemorates its 50th anniversary on Friday, September 30, 2011, with a gala at the Phoebe Towers North in Albany, Georgia. This widely attended gala will enable local dignitaries, prospective students, past graduates and other individuals from southwest Georgia to pay tribute to an institution that has positively contributed to Albany, Georgia's economic development and mercantile maturation over the last half century.

Founded in 1961, Albany Tech was originally established as the Monroe Area Vocational-Technical School. Shortly thereafter, the Albany Area Vocational-Technical School was built, and in 1972 the two schools merged to form a comprehensive and thriving educational cooperative. In 1988, the school continued its ongoing transformational advancement

through its affiliation with the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) and the Technical College System of Georgia. This worthwhile partnership, allowed Albany Tech to expand its outreach initiatives by providing technical training opportunities to the residents, businesses and industries within a seven-county service delivery area. These counties include Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Dougherty, Lee, Randolph and Terrell.

Today, Albany Tech has adult learning centers in all seven of its service delivery counties. The college has more than 3,000 full-time students and another 2,500 are enrolled part-time in seminars, continuing education courses, teleconferences and customized business training programs.

As a member of the Technical College System of Georgia, Albany Tech provides vocational training support services for the thousands of non-traditional students, employees and industries that make-up southwest Georgia's expansive and ever evolving economic landscape. To accomplish this mission, the college utilizes traditional and distance learning methods. Specifically, the institution offers a wide-range of technical certificates that prepare students for employment opportunities in the fields of information technology, culinary arts, aeronautics, airplane construction, electronics, health care and other leading industrial careers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Albany Tech's current President, Dr. Anthony Parker, for his outstanding leadership in promoting and advancing this training institution's many outstanding vocational services. Southwest Georgians will forever be indebted to Dr. Parker and his well-respected predecessor, Nathaniel Cross, for all they have done to make Albany Tech a more accessible and highly resourceful training facility for the many individuals and industries that rely on the school's key services.

Dr. Parker, his predecessors, and the Board of Directors should all be commended for their contributions in making Albany Tech a vital part of our local communities.

For years, the administration, faculty and alumni of Albany Technical College have been steadfastly dedicated and fully committed to implementing training programs designed to advance the economic development needs of southwest Georgia's workforce, small business community and corporations.

Due to this institution's diligent work and extraordinary efforts, employees, entrepreneurs and business owners throughout southwest Georgia have enjoyed continued success. In addressing the economic needs of hard-working Georgians through the expansive availability of strong vocational training programs, Albany Tech has facilitated our community's abilities to better respond to and meet the civic needs of our local residents.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our collective and profound gratitude to the faculty, staff, alumni and supporters of Albany Technical College for all they have done to improve the quality of life for the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District.

IN HONOR OF SERGEANT LOUIS J. MACHOVEC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sergeant Louis J. Machovec, an iconic police officer from the Cleveland Police Department (CPD), as he celebrates his 100th birthday on September 29, 2011.

Sgt. Machovec was born on September 29, 1911 in Cleveland's North Broadway neighborhood. He was one of three sons born to Jan and Anna Machovec, immigrants from Bohemia, Czechoslovakia. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes school and later graduated from Thomas Edison High School. After high school, during the Great Depression, Louis worked various jobs including working as groundskeeper at Lakeview Cemetery, in a railroad boiler factory and as a Cleveland taxi driver.

In 1937, Sgt. Machovec took the qualifying test to become a Cleveland police officer. After Eliot Ness became the city's Safety Director, the entire police force was given the exam again. Sgt. Machovec scored sixth out of more than 800 applicants and was asked to become a member of the first Cleveland Police Academy Class. After working on accident prevention for a short time, Sgt. Machovec was asked to join in the investigation of the Kingsbury Run murders; the Cleveland Torso Murderer was never caught.

He worked in various departments, ultimately joining the CPD's communications division. He worked as the voice of the Cleveland Police Department for many years, through the 1950 Thanksgiving snowstorm and the Hough Riots in the 1960s. Later, Sgt. Machovec ran the police internal telephone exchange and bank alarm departments until his retirement. He served with the Cleveland Police Department for 39 years.

Following his retirement, Sgt. Machovec moved to Solon, Ohio to be closer to his wife, Margaret, and their daughters, Mary Lou and Margaret. Today, he enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren and still wears his grey CPD shirt.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in wishing Sgt. Louis Machovec a very happy 100th birthday and thanking him for his dedicated service with the Cleveland Police Department.

COMMEMORATING REVEREND WILLIE G. DIXON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his 80th birthday milestone, I rise to commend the inspirational leadership of Reverend Willie G. Dixon. Reverend Dixon is a wonderful example of how a local leader can help shape future generations and make a difference in their community. Reverend Dixon's accomplishments are worthy of recognition by the entire Tampa community.

A native of Tampa, Florida, Reverend Dixon entered the Air Force upon completion of high school. After serving our country, Dixon was honorably discharged and enrolled at Tennessee State University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. He then moved back to the Tampa area, where he was employed by the Hillsborough County School Board as an elementary school music teacher and band director for six years.

Reverend Dixon then went on to pursue a career helping ex-offenders at the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution. As an ex-offender placement specialist, Dixon assisted inmates preparing for release and later served in the same capacity at Pasco-Hernando Community College. While employed in this career, he continued to work in area school systems until his retirement from the Sarasota County School System in 1991.

While teaching in Hillsborough and Sarasota County, Reverend Dixon realized that a large percentage of his students were African American repeat offenders who were unable to gain reentry into society financially and socially. Dixon developed a strong desire to help these youths that experienced difficulty getting back on track after release due to a number of factors such as broken homes, various types of abuse and lack of education.

In response to this calling, Dixon formed COACH Foundation, Inc. and the COACH Faith Based Ministry. COACH Foundation, Inc. has numerous programs that help inmates make a smooth transition into society and become productive citizens. These programs include after-school programs, job training, counseling, affordable home-ownership as well as many other services that benefit the community. Reverend Dixon's individual efforts continue to touch lives with his partnership with the Abe Brown Prison Ministry and weekly bible study with inmates at the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution.

The Tampa Community is proud to recognize Reverend Willie G. Dixon for his efforts and outstanding contributions towards educating and guiding youth in Tampa. Reverend Dixon's determination and commitment to improving the lives of others have made him an inspirational community leader. I ask that you and all Americans recognize such a remarkable citizen for his service to our community.

CELEBRATING GANDHI JAYANTI, INDIA'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to offer my best wishes to the millions of Indian-Americans and to Indians around the globe on this Gandhi Jayanti, India's national holiday celebrating the birth of Mohandas Gandhi.

Political prisoner, freedom fighter, father of a nation—Gandhi shaped modern India and has continued to shape the world we live in by inspiring some the greatest leaders of our time. A champion for the rights of all people, he fought apartheid in South Africa, colonial rule in India, and oppression and injustice in all its guises. In doing so, he has inspired our world's greatest leaders from Nelson Mandela to Cesar Chavez, Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It was Dr. King who once said he owed his inspiration to fight injustice to God and his method—nonviolent resistance—to Gandhi. The American civil rights movement, from lunch counter sit-ins to the Montgomery County bus boycott, was influenced by Gandhi's foundational principle of Satyagraha, or nonviolent civil disobedience.

Today, modern India is a leader as the world's largest democracy, among the world's largest economies, and as our close friend and ally. The U.S.-India friendship remains a growing and essential part of U.S. foreign policy, and working together our two countries are a powerful force for positive change in the region and in the world.

On this day, I join the Indian-American community and friends around the globe to remember and celebrate the life of this fearless man who led a nation to gain independence for his people from the British Empire. Gandhi's life was a testament to invincibility of truth over injustice. As he said, ''When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it, always.''

IN HONOR OF MRS. BARBARA J. DANIEL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Barbara Daniel who is being inducted into the West Tech High School Hall of Fame by the West Tech Alumni Association.

Barbara graduated from West Tech High School in 1962. At the age of 40, Barbara enrolled at Cleveland State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999. Several years later, she earned her Master's Degree in English. Barbara spent 25 years in the financial services industry supporting insurance agents and financial planners. In 2001, she established Insurance Resources, and worked as a financial consultant to insurance agencies. During her career in the financial sector, Barbara served as the President of the National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors. In 2004, Barbara changed careers and became the owner, publisher and editor of The Cleveland Women's Journal—East Edition. The mission of the magazine is ''to empower women through knowledge.''

In addition to her career, Barbara has been an active member of her community. She served as president of the Women's City Club from 2003 until 2006. Barbara is currently a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners, the League of Women Voters, Women in Networking, Working Women Connection, the YWCA, the American Advertising Federation, the American Marketing Association. She is also the secretary of the Dancing Wheels Board of Directors and serves on the Board of Directors for the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce.

Because of her work ethic and dedication to her community, Barbara has received several awards. In 1994, Barbara received Valmark Securities' ''Excellence is the Exceptional Drive to Exceed Expectations'' award. She has also been awarded the Women's City Club Elsa Pavlik award in 2003 and was a finalist for Inside Business magazine's Athena Award in 2005.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Barbara Daniel for being honored by West Tech Alumni Association and being named to the West Tech High School Hall of Fame.

HONORING DAVID MARING

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Principal David Maring. This summer, Mr. Maring retired after 46 years of dedication to education and academic excellence as a teacher and principal of Pilgrim Lutheran School in the 5th Congressional District of Chicago.

Mr. Maring began his long and respected career in education by joining Pilgrim Lutheran School as a teacher in 1965. After six years of excellent service he became principal of Pilgrim Lutheran.

As a principal, Mr. Maring was so dedicated to his profession that he made the extra effort to know every student by name. He inspired his staff to become the best teachers they could be in order to provide an excellent education for their students. He sought to provide a progressive education to nourish the students in both spirit and mind. Mr. Maring never fully left the classroom, and he continued to teach math and physical education and coach sports teams throughout his tenure.

Mr. Maring's dedication to his profession, his exceptional wisdom and leadership ensure his lasting place in the hearts of generations of Pilgrim students, faculty, and the Ravenswood community at large. Mr. Maring is the embodiment of the Pilgrim Lutheran motto: ''Academic Excellence with a Heart.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing David Maring and his extraordinary career, and to thank him for his many contributions to the Pilgrim Lutheran School, his students, and the community.

HONORING STEVENSON-D'ALESSIO AMERICAN LEGION POST 12

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stevenson-D'Alessio American Legion Post 12, located in the Borough of Somerville, Somerset County, New Jersey, on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.

In 1919, Congress chartered the American Legion as a patriotic, mutual help, war-time veterans organization; a group of veterans who established a community-service organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members. Later that same year, a small group of World War I veterans in Somerville, New Jersey decided to establish an American Legion post of their own.

The group decided to name their post in honor of one of Somerville's first residents, United States Army Sergeant John Roland Stevenson, who was killed in action in France in 1918. Stevenson Post 12, American Legion received its charter on April 1, 1921, making it the 12th post in the State of New Jersey.

Until the late 1930s, members met anywhere they could, but soon rallied together to raise money and purchase land to erect their Post home. Construction began in 1939. Through the generosity of friends and neighbors, the building was complete after six years of long volunteer hours.

In 1942, during World War II, another Somerville resident lost his life defending our country. Seaman First Class, James W. D'Alessio, U.S. Navy, paid the ultimate sacrifice when the USS *Juneau* was hit by Japanese torpedoes. To honor his memory, the members of Stevenson Post 12 adopted SC1 D'Alessio's name as part of its official title, becoming Stevenson-D'Alessio Post 12.

Today, the Post home has increased to nearly double its size since the post-WWII era and has become a good neighbor in the community. They have opened their halls to community service clubs and organizations and many non-profits are able to use their hall free of charge. After serving their Nation and protecting our freedom, Legion members and their Auxiliary have gone the extra step in continuing to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stevenson-D'Alessio American Legion Post 12 on its 90th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF OHIO STATE SENATOR THOMAS PATTON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ohio State Senator Thomas Patton who is being inducted into the West Tech High School Hall of Fame by the West Tech Alumni Association.

Born and raised in Cleveland's near Westside, Senator Patton is one of nine children. He attended St. Colman's School before enrolling at West Tech High School. While attending West Tech, Senator Patton was a member of the basketball team. Upon graduating in 1971, he married his high school sweetheart, Evelyn Hawkins, and started classes at Cleveland State University on an athletic scholarship.

In 1974, Senator Patton and his brother, Terry, opened Cleveland Business Systems. In 2002, he decided to run for a seat in the Ohio House of Representatives. He won the election and represented the 18th District from 2003 until 2008. In November 2008, Senator Patton was elected to the Ohio Senate's 24th District. As an Ohio State Senator he serves as chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee, the Energy and Public Utilities Committee and the Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee. Senator Patton also serves as co-chair of the Ohio Senate Autism Caucus and as a member of the Ohio Turnpike Commission, the Ohio Athletic Commission, the Ohio Rail Development

Commission, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact and the ODOT Transportation Futures Steering Committee.

Throughout his career, Senator Patton has been recognized with a number of awards and accolades. He has been named Legislator of the Year by the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), an Honorary D.A.R.E. Officer by the D.A.R.E. Association of Ohio, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council Legislator of the Year for Protecting Consumer Choice Award and the Legislator of the Year by the Ohio Professional Society of Engineers. He has also received the Moms for Ohio Public Service Award, the FOP Distinguished Public Servant Award, Ohio Public Images Award, Ohio Alpaca Breeders Association Legislator Award and has been recognized by the Autism Society of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Thomas Patton for being honored by the West Tech Alumni Association and being named to the West Tech High School Hall of Fame.

HONORING MATHEW A. BRUNO

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Modesto community, Mathew A. Bruno. Matt was born in Akron, Ohio, on December 25, 1943, and passed away surrounded by his family on September 19, 2011, in Modesto, California.

In 1946, at the age of 3, he and his family moved to Ripon, California. Growing up in Ripon he farmed peaches, almonds, and grapes with his father Tony and his two brothers Joe and Ed. Matt graduated from Ripon High School in 1961. In 1966, he left the family farming operation, and bought La Loma Liquors in Modesto.

Matt married Barbara Claypool in 1967, and together they owned and operated La Loma Liquors until they sold the business in 1972. Matt then purchased Turlock Appliance Center, and one year later purchased Miller Dairy Supply. In 1974, he merged the two companies to form Turlock Dairy & Refrigeration, Inc., a 65-employee company on South Walnut Road that played a key role in the expansion of dairy farming in the area. With Turlock Dairy & Refrigeration, Matt focused the business on dairy construction, dairy equipment, and dairy refrigeration. Matt loved all things agriculture and owned several other agriculture-related businesses through the years.

''He always put his customers and employees first,'' said son Tony Bruno. ''He always told my brother and me that the only thing we could offer as a company is to have good service.''

Throughout their 44 years of marriage, Matt and Barbara enjoyed traveling together and entertaining their many friends at their home. Matt loved tending his garden at home and sharing the bounty with anyone and everyone. He was very generous in every aspect of life; always ready to give to someone in need, whether they be in need of money, food, time, or a drink. ''You can't walk on one leg!'' is what Matt would say if you tried to leave after having only one glass of wine. He was the most gracious host and loved being surrounded by people. In fact, Matt's greatest joy was spending time with his family and friends, especially his three grandchildren.

Mr. Bruno and his wife, Barbara, often held a fund-raising dinner for the Education Foundation of Stanislaus County. He also was involved with the Center for Human Services, the Memorial Hospital Foundation and other causes.

Matt is preceeded in death by his parents Tony and Martha Bruno and his brother Joe Bruno. He is survived by his wife Barbara Bruno, his son Tony (Gretta) Bruno, his son Mathew (Natalie) Bruno, and his three grandchildren Francesca, Matteo, and Rocco.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Matt Bruno for his unwavering leadership, and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. The life of Matt Bruno serves as an example of excellence to those in our community, and his legacy will not be soon forgotten.

HONORING NATIONAL WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Women's Political Caucus of California, NWPC CA, who are celebrating 100 years of women voting in California, starting with the historic and narrowly won California state referendum and the first California Civic League, Berkeley Forum led by Miss Blanche Morse in 1911. It is an immense honor to represent Bay Area communities who have truly been at the forefront of a century's worth of major achievements in social justice.

Furthermore, NWPC is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its founding in 1971, when 320 women from 26 states met under the leadership of women's movement stalwarts like my mentor, former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, and Betty Friedan. Four decades later, their work to empower women elected leaders and to champion citizens' informed participation in civic affairs has changed America as we know it.

Within NWPC's first three years of recruitment and leadership programming, the number of female state officeholders increased by 36 percent. Now, as a multi-partisan organization supporting an unprecedented era of women's leadership, NWPC and its California Chapter are making strides to achieve equality for all women, to ensure their reproductive freedom, and to eradicate all forms of discrimination.

As members of the National Women's Political Caucus of California, you are part of a magnificent legacy. By broadening women's participation in the political process and honing feminist women for election and appointment to public office, you are championing the vision, hopes and sacrifices of our forebears. You have pledged to continue to be the kind of bold pioneer and astute advocates who led us to this point. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your dedicated service in guiding and encouraging women toward civic engagement.

On behalf of the residents of California's 9th Congressional District, I would like to congratulate you on this milestone and thank you for the invaluable service you provide to our community. I wish the National Women's Political Caucus' local, state and national members all the best as you forge ahead toward another 100 years of bolstering women's leadership, promoting equitable policies and creating a more just and peaceful world.

IN HONOR OF MR. KENNETH SWADE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Kenneth Swade who is being inducted into the West Tech High School Hall of Fame by the West Tech Alumni Association.

While attending West Tech High School, Kenneth was a member of the 1956 and 1957 cross country state championship teams. He graduated from West Tech in 1958 and attended Bowling Green University on an athletic scholarship, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1962. Upon graduating, he began teaching and coaching at Kennard Junior High. In 1964, Kenneth returned to West Tech High School as a teacher and coach. While teaching, Kenneth studied at John Carroll University, where he earned a Master of Arts in Education, focusing on psychology and counseling. After finishing his graduate program in 1968, Kenneth began working as a counselor at A.B. Hart Junior High School. In 1980 he was named School-to-Work Apprenticeship Coordinator. Kenneth enrolled at Kent State University to further his education again and in 1983 graduated with a Master of Arts in Education, focusing on Administration and Supervision. Before retiring in 2001, he spent his career as vocational coordinator at Max. S. Hayes, West Tech, Jane Addams Business Careers and East Technical high schools.

Throughout his career, Kenneth was recognized with a number of awards and accolades. He has been named ''Outstanding Educator,'' ''Outstanding Vocational Coordinator'' twice, ''Man of the Year Award'' by the Rotary Club of Cleveland, and ''Most Outstanding Senior High School Teacher.'' In 1996, the Ohio Department of Education named him to the Ohio Vocational Educational Leadership Institute.

In addition to his career as an educator Kenneth has been an active member of his community. For several years, he was the Teacher/Coordinator for the Action for Children and Youth in Transition. After retiring in 2001 to Florida with his wife, Dr. Vera Swade, he is serving as President of the Central Citrus Rotary and was also the Council President of his church.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Kenneth Swade for being honored by West Tech Alumni Association and being named to the West Tech High School Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND EUGENE L. NEVILLE OF FOXBORO, MA

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Eugene L. Neville, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the State of Massachusetts and the religious community, and to commend him for over 30 years of his dedicated service.

Reverend Neville was born in Roxbury, MA and was educated in the Boston public school system, graduating from Roxbury Memorial High School in 1960. He later attended Barrington College in Rhode Island, where he graduated with a B.A. in Bible and Theology in 1969. He continued his theological education at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA in 1972, graduating with honors. Reverend Neville also participated in post theological studies at Andover Newton Theological School, Boston University School of Theology, and Harvard Divinity School.

It was at the historic Peoples Baptist Church, under the pastorate of the late Reverend Dr. Richard M. Owens, where Reverend Neville was first called to prepare for his Christian Ministry. Subsequently, he served under the mentorship of Reverend Dr. Michael E. Hayes, Pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church in Boston, MA, where Reverend Neville was formally ordained as a Baptist Minister. In 1975, he assumed his first pastorate at Messiah Baptist Church in Brockton, MA, where he served for 6 years. In 1981, Reverend Neville founded and became the pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church; under his leadership, Mount Moriah has established over 30 ministries and has become one of the most influential churches in the City of Brockton.

Reverend Neville has also been dedicated to helping the greater community. He served for 4 years at The Hymn Foundation in Boston as the first Project Director for the Black Church Capacity Building Program. This program connected Black churches with local philanthropic foundations, and provided grants up to $8000 for their social outreach ministries. Reverend Neville has been instrumental in establishing several non-profit organizations within the church for the benefit of the greater community, such as the Amara Community Center, which has provided over 2500 children, youth, and adults with computer training and their own personal computer. Additional projects include the Higher Education Resource Center, which has assisted hundreds of first generation youth to achieve acceptance to, and remain in, college, and the Emergency Food Ministry, which is comprised of a large food pantry serving hundreds of families twice a month as well as a soup kitchen ministry serving numerous homeless individuals every Tuesday afternoon. Reverend Neville is a man of God with a vision to help individuals, families, churches, and community organizations address and overcome the challenges of this generation.

Reverend Neville is married to Ruth and they have 2 adult daughters and 5 grandchildren; he and his wife presently reside in Foxboro, MA.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with the family, friends, and contemporaries of the Reverend Eugene L. Neville to thank him for his remarkable service and dedication to the religious community in the State of Massachusetts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on September 23, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting with the President of the United States, and so I was not present several of the rollcall votes on amendments to H.R. 2401 held that day. Had I been present I would have voted:

''Aye'' on rollcall 728, the Welch Amendment to add the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the interagency committee that the bill would create, and to direct that committee to look at important health impacts on the most vulnerable populations (such as children and the elderly) that would be affected by EPA's proposed rules.

''Aye'' on rollcall 729, the McNerney Amendment to direct the interagency committee to examine the effect on clean energy jobs and clean energy companies, including those that export clean energy technology, to the items to be considered in the analyses required by the bill.

''Aye'' on rollcall 730, the Moore Amendment to ensure that the interagency committee will analyze the impact a rule or action could have on low-income communities and public health.

''Aye'' on rollcall 731, the Capps Amendment to require the interagency committee to include in its analyses an estimate of the incidence of birth and developmental defects and infant mortality that would result from a delay to covered rules and covered actions under the bill.

''No'' on rollcall 732, the Kinzinger Amendment, which seeks to add regulations that have not even been proposed to the list to be analyzed by the interagency committee.

''No'' on rollcall 733, the Dent Amendment, which would further undermine environmental protections by adding EPA's National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Portland Cement Manufacturing Industry and Standards of Performance for Portland Cement Plants to the rules the must be examined by the interagency committee created by the bill.

''Aye'' on rollcall 734, the Hastings (FL) Amendment to exclude from the interagency committee's review all rules and regulations that already undergo a cost-benefit analysis.

''Aye'' on rollcall 735, Connolly Amendment No. 8 to require the interagency committee to study policies which will lead to creation of American jobs in the pollution control and clean energy sector.

IN HONOR OF MR. EDWARD ZAJAC

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Edward Zajac, who is being posthumously inducted into the West Tech High School Hall of Fame by the West Tech Alumni Association.

Edward was born in Cleveland, Ohio in January 1926 to his parents, who were Polish immigrants. He graduated Valedictorian from West Tech High School in 1944 and was drafted by the U.S. Army to serve during World War II. He was a radioman in a tank division in Europe and was stationed with the U.S. Army Intelligence in southern Germany until being discharged. He married Brooky Mary Calhoun in 1954. They were married for 54 years. Following his stint with the U.S. Army, Edward graduated from Cornell University as Valedictorian with a degree in engineering, a Masters degree from Princeton University and a doctoral degree from Stanford University.

For 30 years Edward worked at AT&T's Bell Telephone Laboratories in the mathematics research unit and later as head of economics research. In 1963, as an engineer, he created the world's first computer animation. His animated films became internationally known and garnered him awards from the U.S. and abroad.

Following his career with AT&T, in 1983, Edward moved from New Jersey to Arizona and became chairman of the University of Arizona's Eller School of Managers' economics department. As a professor and later, professor emeritus, Edward published numerous articles and two texts for graduate level courses. His former colleagues have since established a prize for doctoral students at Arizona University in his honor.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Edward Zajac as he is named to the West Tech High School Hall of Fame.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARLEM ARTS ALLIANCE, INC. AND IN CELEBRATION OF HARLEM ARTS ADVOCACY WEEK 2011 ''HARLEM ARTS & CULTURE: RESURGENCE AND RENEWAL''

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great Harlem and cultural pride to recognize the 10th Anniversary of the HARLEM Arts Alliance, Inc. as they kick off their Fifth Annual Arts Advocacy Week 2011 at the Riverside Theatre at Harlem's New York City Landmark—The Riverside Church. The Riverside Church is the tallest Church in the United States known for its elaborate Neo-Gothic architecture, which includes the world's largest tuned carillon bell.

The HARLEM Arts Alliance, HAA, is a not-for-profit arts service organization committed

to nurturing the artistic growth, capacity and development of artists and arts organizations based primarily in Harlem and the greater Harlem communities. With a membership of over 750 individual artists and arts organizations, HAA plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network, and capacity of its richly diverse association. HAA also maintains strong partnerships with numerous arts organization and institutions throughout New York State, the region and the nation to maintain vital collaborative efforts to promote the arts in communities.

Harlem Arts Advocacy Week events will take place from Sunday. October 2, 2011 through Sunday, October 9, 2011 to highlight the importance of the artists, arts, and cultural institutions that have consistently contributed to the cultural and economic fabric and vitality of Harlem and beyond. This year's theme, ''Harlem Arts & Culture: Resurgence and Renewal'' will focus on the revitalization of selected Harlem cultural institutions during the challenges of the economic downturn and the shifting dynamics of Harlem.

On Monday October 3, 2011, at The Riverside Church Theatre, the HAA will present the first Humanitarian Award to legendary Actor, artist and international human rights activist Harry Belafonte to kick off its Fifth Annual Arts Advocacy Week. The Alliance will also pay special tribute to award winning Actress and civil rights pioneer Ruby Dee with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout its 75-year history, The Riverside Church has been an influential stronghold of activism and political debate on the nation's religious and political landscapes. Thus, it is very symbolic and appropriate that the Alliance honor these two giants, Harry Belafonte and Ruby Dee within this great Cathedral. Danny Simmons, a visual artist, philanthropist, and former Chair of the New York State Council on the Arts will receive the Alliance's Arts Leadership Award.

The Harlem Arts Advocacy Week begins on Sunday October 2, where the New Heritage Theatre Group, Riverside Theatre and the City College of New York will present ''Through the Night'' a one-man play starring Obie, NAACP and Audelco award winner, Daniel Beaty.

On Monday October 3, the HARLEM Arts Alliance and Hue-Man Book Store & Café present Harlem Arts Advocacy Week's opening reception and panel discussion with noted black female playwrights entitled, ''Black Women Playwrights: They Speak. Who Listens?'' featuring Esther Armah, Radha Blank, Kirsten Greenidge and Kymberle Joseph.

On Tuesday October 4, the HARLEM Arts Alliance and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce will hold their business membership meeting and present a discussion forum entitled ''Public Art: Advancing Diverse Perspectives.'' The forum will feature a presentation on the design and development of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Circle with visual artist and landscape architect Algernon Miller followed by a panel discussion moderated by Curtis Archer, President of Harlem Community Development Corporation.

On Wednesday October 5, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in collaboration with the HARLEM Arts Alliance will host ''The Schomburg's Kick-Off to a Season on the Cutting Edge!'' The evening will include guided tours of two exhibitions: ''Malcolm X: A Search for Truth'' and ''Romare Bearden: The Soul of Blackness/A Centennial Tribute,'' a book signing by Center Director, Dr. Khalil Muhammad along with a performance showcase of Harlem Arts and Cultural organizations.

On Thursday October 6, HARLEM Arts Alliance will host a panel discussion, ''Basic Legal Issues in Managing Human Resources,'' presented by Lawyers Alliance for New York, at The Dwyer Cultural Center.

On Friday October 7, HARLEM Arts Alliance will host the opening reception for the Strivers Art Circuit Tour, a self-guided walking tour of Harlem Art Venues and Artist Studios. A reception will take place at The Strivers Garden Gallery. The New Heritage Theatre Group will also present a new play entitled ''SAVIOUR?'' by Esther Armah, directed by Passion and featuring Michael Green and Jimmy Aquino, at the Dwyer Cultural Center.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of our Harlem Arts Advocacy Week community sponsors, supporters and collaborators as we celebrate ''Harlem Arts & Culture: Resurgence and Renewal'' during the Fifth Annual Harlem Arts Advocacy Week 2011. Mr. Speaker, the HARLEM Arts Alliance under the tremendous leadership of Chairman Voza Rivers and Executive Director Michael Unthink has contributed daily to the survival and enhancement of Harlem's beloved cultural artist and arts organizations.

During these tough and economically challenging times, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the HARLEM Arts Alliance as they continue their advocacy for the arts on behalf of a very grateful nation.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the designation of October 22, 2011, as National Archaeology Day. Throughout the month of October, but particularly on the 22nd, archaeological societies across the country will celebrate the thousands of years of history that have been unlocked through artifacts and discoveries.

The American Institute of Archaeology (AIA), headquartered at Boston University and comprised of over 235,000 members, will lead 108 of its local societies in a host of public educational activities to demonstrate the value of archaeological pursuits. AIA will also join with the American Anthropological Association, Society for American Archaeology, Society for Historical Archaeology, and American Schools of Oriental Research in collaborative efforts to reach out to over 100 cities across the United States through online events.

America is rich with history, and many exciting artifacts have been discovered over the years that have helped to illuminate that history. However, archaeology is about so much more than one country. Every archeological discovery opens a door into the past that can reveal important details about how our ancestors lived and what the world around them looked like so many years ago. Archeology also shows us we are united with the global community through shared past and common customs. It affords us a window into our development as a society and provides an opportunity for people of all ages to actively engage in learning about the history of their communities.

Archaeological contributions are key to encouraging greater appreciation of our shared history and cultural heritage. Congress should do all we can to support these efforts. I am proud to join with communities across the country in recognizing October 22nd as National Archaeology Day.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ANN FRANGOS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Ann Frangos, who is being inducted into the West Tech High School Hall of Fame by the West Tech Alumni Association.

Ann is the daughter of Greek immigrants Spiros and Helen Drapos. While attending West Tech High School, she was a busy and active student. She was captain of the Warriorettes, editor of the yearbook, member of the Gym Leaders, All City Chorus, A-Chorus, and French Club. Ann graduated from West Tech in 1968 as the class valedictorian. She attended Baldwin Wallace College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. She went on to earn a Master of Science degree in mathematics while teaching high school mathematics in Parma Heights.

After finishing her graduate program at Cleveland State University in 1977, she began working at AT&T as an operations research analyst. Throughout her long career Ann has held a number of positions with AT&T in the finance, accounting operations, budgeting, long-range planning, and human resources departments. In 2007, Ann was named Executive Director. She is responsible for accounts receivable management for Global Business Services division, which consists of AT&T's largest international and domestic business customers.

In addition to her career, Ann is also an active member of the Greater Cleveland community. She serves on the Board of Directors of In Counsel with Women and is a board member and assistant treasurer of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Rocky River. Ann and her husband, Louis, currently live in Westlake.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Ann Frangos for being honored by West Tech Alumni Association and being named to the West Tech High School Hall of Fame.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, we're voting on a Continuing Resolution that will fund the government through November 18th and provide

disaster assistance to many who desperately need it.

While I strongly support providing immediate federal support to those affected by the recent natural disasters, I'm dismayed and disappointed that the GOP leadership would pay for it at the expense of the successful Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) Loan Program.

The ATVM program, created and funded with bipartisan support and signed into law by President George W. Bush, has created or saved 41,000 jobs from California to Michigan to Kentucky. The program is on-track to create another 35,000 to 40,000 by year's end.

There is no question that this program has and can continue to help ensure that our nation has a robust domestic auto manufacturing industry to build the next generation of fuel efficient cars.

Cutting funding for this program is shortsighted and will hurt our nation's rise as a global leader in advance vehicle technology and strip away good-paying jobs that Americans are so in need of. The $1.5 billion cut to the program will likely cost 10,000 jobs.

House Republicans are pitting two great needs against each other—the need to create jobs and the need to support those harmed by natural disasters. Unfortunately, we are harming our entire nation by putting these two important goals in conflict with one another.

It is for these reasons that I must urge my colleagues to vote against the GOP Fiscal Year 2012 Continuing Resolution.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,790,340,328,557.15.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $4,151,914,582,263.35 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CLEVELAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Cleveland, a group of business, professional and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build good will and peace in the world.

Rotary International was founded in 1905 and today there are more than 34,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. Each chapter is dedicated to supporting education and job training, providing clean water, combating hunger, improving health and sanitation, and eradicating polio and other childhood diseases.

The Rotary Club of Cleveland was founded in 1910 and was the 18th chartered Rotary Club in the United States. The motto for Cleveland's Rotary Club is ''Service Above Self.'' The Rotary Club of Cleveland has a number of ongoing programs and projects that aid communities in the Greater Cleveland area and abroad.

Internationally, the Rotary Club of Cleveland has been involved in humanitarian projects in Laos, Mexico, Pakistan, Uganda, Lithuania, Indonesia, India and Kenya. Additionally, every charter of Rotary International is involved in the PolioPlus program. PolioPlus focuses on global immunization in hopes of eradicating the world of polio.

The Rotary Club of Cleveland is dedicated to serving the Greater Cleveland area and has a number of programs designed to improve, support and recognize excellence within the community. Cleveland's Rotary Club has maintained the West 25th Street Rapid Station, which services Cleveland's West Market, for more than 35 years. For more than 40 years the Club has been awarding area police, fire and EMS heroes with the Medal of Valor. The Cleveland Rotary Club's largest impact programs are those dedicated to Greater Cleveland's youth. Their program, College Now!, has provided scholarship support for hundreds of students throughout the area. Other successful projects include Achievement Centers for Children, Thesmacher High School Recognition Day, Project YESS, and support of the Old Stone Education Center.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Rotary Club of Cleveland as they celebrate 100 years of service to the Cleveland community.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADINGAGE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor LeadingAge as it celebrates 50 years of advancing policies, practices and research that empower people to live fully as they age. Founded in 1961, and formerly known as the American Association of Homes and Services (AAHSA), LeadingAge currently comprises a vast network of 5,600 not-for-profit organizations dedicated to expanding the world of possibilities for aging.

LeadingAge members touch the lives of millions of individuals and families each day through a continuum of housing and community based services, including adult day services, home health, hospice, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes. With five decades of experience, over 40 state partners, as well as businesses, research partners, consumer organizations, foundations and a broad international network of aging service organizations, LeadingAge's mission and core values have taken on a global scope.

Furthermore, I would like to recognize the outgoing chair of LeadingAge and an outstanding leader in the field of aging and long-term services, Mr. Winthrop Marshall. Under Mr. Marshall's leadership, LeadingAge completed the transition to its new moniker, and reinvigorated its mission to expand the possibilities for aging. ''LeadingAge'' truly reflects the organization's leadership position in aging and its members' commitment to championing quality and dignity for America's elders. Known for his decades-long advocacy for affordable senior housing, Mr. Marshall is committed to combining housing with supportive services that help seniors remain independent and in their communities. From leading the association's fight to pass the Affordable Care Act and CLASS Act, to the passage of the landmark Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act, Mr. Marshall's tenure as Chair has been marked by strength, solidarity and success.

Mr. Marshall has overseen LeadingAge member task forces on workforce, affordable housing, nursing home quality, home- and community-based services, and issues specific to rural members. Additionally, he spent nearly 30 years with an invaluable organization located in my district, Christian Church Homes of Northern California, which also celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Therefore, as we recognize LeadingAge's long legacy and its excellent leadership under Mr. Winthrop Marshall, we look forward to a bright future of affordable long-term services and support for our Nation's older adults. As LeadingAge forges ahead with its five main tenets of aging services: quality, transitions, talent, finance, and technology, I have every confidence that they will fulfill their commitment to ensure that all seniors have a place to call home.

On behalf of California's 9th Congressional District, I want to extend my congratulations on this important milestone. Thank you, LeadingAge members, for all that you do. I wish you continued success in providing our older adults with vital services and opportunities as you advance leadership in aging through innovation.

HONORING MARK ALLEE

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the bravery and selfless action demonstrated by California Conservation Corps trail camp supervisor Mark Allee.

On the morning of June 29, 2011, Mark Allee, a California Conservation Corps trail camp supervisor, patrolled from the O'Shaughnessy Dam to the Wapama Falls Bridge along the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in order to assess the trail conditions after an unseasonal storm dumped over two inches of rain in 14 hours. Wapama Falls is arguably the most powerful waterfall in Yosemite National Park and flows almost year-round. During peak flows, it has been known to inundate the trail bridge crossing it.

On the day Mr. Allee arrived at the Wapama Falls Bridge, he saw nature's unbridled power in full display. Falling over 1,000 feet, the waterfall created a venturi effect which generated

super intense winds that swirled and buffeted Mr. Allee, requiring that he take shelter behind nearby trees. Typically, spring flows over the waterfall are approximately 700 cubic feet per second; however, Mr. Allee witnessed a much more furious flow that day which was approximately twice the normal amount.

At first, Mr. Allee heard only the indistinguishable and powerful noise of intense winds, waterfall spray and heavy rain. Continuously, yet chaotically, huge bursts of water would plunge from the falls and flood the entire bridge deck. Because of this, the access trail and steps leading to the bridge were submerged in a foot of water at times as it poured onto the boulders below. The volume was described as the equivalent of five 4-foot diameter culverts disgorging their full contents simultaneously. Mr. Allee, who also works as a river guide and is a certified Swiftwater Rescue Technician, knew immediately that accessing the bridge was hazardous and that crossing it was extremely dangerous.

While radioing these conditions into park dispatch, Mr. Allee saw four (in actuality, there were five) backpackers access the bridge from the other side (east to west). Mr. Allee thought that they would recognize the severe hazard and stop; however, they did not and began an attempted crossing. Mr. Alice frantically signaled to the party to not cross. He gave multiple arm signals and shouts, but because of the intense noise, verbal communication was impossible. Despite Mr. Allee's warnings, the hikers continued to attempt a bridge crossing which set in motion the emergency.

Shocked and horrified, Mr. Allee witnessed as the first two backpackers were immediately knocked to their knees by the force of the current. He recognized the extreme threat, and in an attempt to rescue them as they would be swept downstream from the bridge, Mr. Allee jumped to position himself on a boulder just below the bridge in order to help anyone that might possibly be swept by. As Mr. Allee moved onto a large boulder immediately downstream of the bridge, the first hiker (Mr. Fox) was quickly pushed by the torrent underneath the lower rail and off of the bridge. It happened so rapidly that Mr. Allee didn't even realize that Mr. Fox had fatally disappeared into the flow. While accessing the bridge's upper handrail from the large downstream boulder, Mr. Allee saw the second backpacker (Mr. Meyer) get pushed underneath the lower rail and into the current. This time, however, Mr. Meyer was able to grab the lower handrail while his wife leaned over and held his head out of the swiftwater.

Mr. Allee leapt into action from the west side of the bridge and instinctively wrapped his legs and left arm around the top rail and extended his right arm to help Mr. Meyer. Mr. Allee looked directly into the eyes of Mr. Meyer who was clutching to the rail for his life. Exposed to full fury of the torrent, Mr. Allee screamed to Meyer's wife to "Get back!" While doing so, Mr. Allee reached down and tore Mr. Meyer's rain poncho off in order to decrease the drag on his body. Only reluctantly was Mr. Meyer's wife pulled to safety by one of the other party members. Reaching further into the violent flow and full force of the swiftwater, Mr. Allee was then able to disconnect the waistbuckle on Meyer's backpack, which was immediately swept away by the current. Having freed Mr. Meyer from that additional drag, Mr. Allee screamed to Mr. Meyer to "Grab the truss!" Most unfortunately however, an exhausted Mr. Meyer was peeled from the lower rail and disappeared into the maelstrom below the bridge.

In shock, Mr. Allee retreated from the immense threat and returned to his pack to report the situation to the park dispatch. Subsequently, the three survivors retreated to a secure location on the east end of the bridge and awaited rescue.

With instinctive skill, tenacious strength and great courage, Mr. Allee heroically attempted to save the lives of others he did not know. The risk and threat in doing so was immense, yet Mr. Allee's actions exhibited tremendous bravery and valor. The survivors described Mr. Allee's actions as heroic.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Mark Allee on his quick thinking and risk of personal safety on June 29, 2011, in Yosemite National Park.

HONORING JERSEY BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICES

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jersey Battered Women's Services, JBWS, located in Morris County, New Jersey, as it celebrates its 35th Anniversary.

JBWS was originally founded in 1976 by a small group of women who began a hotline to aid victims of domestic violence. The need for a confidential center became urgent and apparent when two callers were murdered by their husbands. In December of 1978, JBWS opened its shelter doors to those in need of a safe house away from an abusive family member.

With more than 75 paid staff and 120 volunteers, JBWS is a full-service, private, nonprofit domestic violence agency with a mission to prevent domestic violence through the protection and empowerment of the victim, the rehabilitation of family members, the advocacy of social reform to prevent partner violence and the education of the public about domestic violence and its consequences. Victims of domestic violence, no matter their age, race, gender, religious affiliation or ethnic background need solace and support at a time when the one they often turn to is the one they are running from.

JBWS provides fully confidential services to victims to allow for their privacy and protection. They offer numerous programs including legal services, transitional living and counseling. Their counseling services are not only for victims and their children, but also for the batterer. JBWS understands that while protecting victims is important, it is also important to educate the batterer on alternative ways to address their anger.

In addition to their 24 hour hotline and safe house, education for the prevention of domestic violence is JBWS's overarching mission. As domestic abuse is a largely unreported crime, JBWS hopes to abolish the view that family violence is a private matter through the education of victims, teens and community members.

No one should be afraid to go home. JBWS gives victims of domestic violence the opportunity to create a new safe place to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jersey Battered Women's Services, its board, dedicated staff and volunteers on its 35th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF SLAVIC VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 30th anniversary of Slavic Village Development, SVD, an organization committed to "revitalizing the Broadway neighborhood through rehabilitation of existing housing, storefronts and buildings; construction of new homes; retention of existing buildings and recruitment of new ones; and provision of housing services and community organizing programs to improve the quality of life."

SVD is a non-profit community development organization dedicated to the North and South Broadway neighborhoods of Cleveland, OH. Throughout the past 30 years, SVD has invested more the $160 million into Slavic Village, one of Cleveland's oldest ethnic communities.

This year's 30th anniversary celebration, "Digging in the Past, Growing the Future," focuses on the past accomplishments that SVD has achieved as well as the goals of the organization's future. Throughout the past 30 years, SVD has developed more than 300,000 square feet of new office and retail space, built or rehabilitated 1000 homes, renovated 100 storefronts, hosted 33 Harvest Festivals, led 14 neighborhood summits, installed eight public art projects and reconstructed Broadway and Bessemer Avenues, among other projects. Some of the projects SVD looks forward to in the future include building more new homes at the Trailside development site and, in Hyacinth, reconstructing Fleet Avenue and re-imagining Broadway Slavic Village.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the 30th anniversary of SVD. SVD will continue to work on behalf of the residents of Cleveland's Slavic Village, dedicated to their mission; "To preserve, empower, and advance Slavic Village as a thriving diverse neighborhood. Essential to our neighborhood is its unique identity with quality housing anchored by excellent recreational, educational, cultural, religious, and institutional anchors supported by a vibrant retail, commercial, and industrial base."

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF THE UPPER PENINSULA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, on the morning of September 22, the inaugural flight of the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight departed for Washington, DC. On this flight were more than 80 World War II Veterans bound for the memorial that was built in their honor. Surrounded by the giant, granite pillars and spraying fountains, there was a renewed sense of

shared sacrifice among the Veterans, and the honor of having been one of the 16 million men and women who served during World War II. This ''Greatest Generation'' is responsible for so much of America's prosperity, and on behalf of the citizens of Michigan's First District, I would like to recognize these heroes for their service, sacrifice, and continued patriotism. The motto of the Honor Flight Program reads ''We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by.'' It was my pleasure to do so on September 22, 2011, and honor these heroes who are responsible for the greatest victory of the 20th Century.

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China on its 100th Anniversary, which will take place on October 10th of this year.

I am proud to celebrate this tremendous milestone for Taiwan, not only because of the state's strong relationship with the United States, but as an example worldwide of the power of democracy to improve the quality of life for all citizens and create a healthy and diverse economy.

Indeed Taiwan was established to reflect the principles of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a man who had a vision for a democratic Chinese state inspired by American ideals of freedom of expression, representative government, and an independent judiciary. The promotion of these ideals is never easy, and the promotion of democracy in Taiwan has been a long process to be sure, yet the principles established by Dr. Sun remain a hallmark of Taiwan today.

And just as Taiwan was an early Asian backer of democratic principles and ideals, the ROC government—on Taiwan since 1949—was also an early adapter and proponent of market reforms and economic liberalization that define the modern global economy. Taiwan has seen a meteoric rise ever since, is a force in the global technology sector, and the island's economy is one of the largest in Asia and in the top tier of the developed world.

I want to again congratulate Taiwan on this most auspicious anniversary, and I look forward to continuing the strong and deep relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Matthew Christopher Salazar for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Matthew has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING MAURICE SPIEGEL

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my constituent, Maurice Spiegel, who will turn 100 years old on October 27, 2011. Maurie, as he is known, is the son of Max Spiegel and Ida Kaplan, and has an older sister, Tillie, and five brothers, Lou, Irv, Frank, Hy, and Bill.

Growing up near Roosevelt Road and Halsted Street in the City of Chicago, Maurie encountered great difficulties as a young boy. His family struggled to make ends meet, and his mother had to raise the children on her own. To help his family, Maurie began selling newspapers, putting whatever he earned under his mother's pillow. When his family could no longer afford school supplies, Maurie dropped out of high school and started working in order to contribute even more.

According to his family, Maurie was very athletic as a child. He was well known for his skills in soft ball and hitting home runs. He was also a great swimmer, once saving a child from drowning. Living in a tough neighborhood, Maurie learned to defend himself and his younger brothers, though he always maintained that he never started a fight, just finished them! Today, Maurie is now known for his outstanding ability in the game of checkers.

During World War II, Maurie served in the U.S. Army from 1941 to 1945 and was stationed in Attu, which is the westernmost island of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. Maurie obtained his high school G.E.D. and took several college courses under the G.I. Bill after his military service. He worked various positions for the United States Postal Service in Chicago for 27 years until his retirement. Despite being retired, Maurie worked as a messenger for Continental Bank for another 15 years. Since high school, Maurie has worked full time until he was almost 80 years old.

Maurie married the love of his life, Lucille, and had one son, Harvey. Lucille and Maurie moved into North Park Village Apartments in 1984. Lucille passed away in 1987. Harvey says of his parents, ''My dad was the most loyal and reliable husband to my mom. They were a couple who truly loved each other.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maurice ''Maurie'' Spiegel on his 100th birthday. His life is a wonderful testament of his immense love for his family and of his outstanding dedication and service to his community and the United States of America.

HONORING MR. NORMAN W. GREEN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the death of United States Army veteran Mr. Norman W. Green.

Mr. Green served in the Army during the Korean War with the 187th Air-borne Regimental Combat Team. He participated in the regimental parachute assault on Sukchon, North Korea, during the 1950 Battle of Pakchon. Mr. Green was later wounded and received a Purple Heart.

Mr. Green was devoted to his local communities, first in Cleveland, OH, as a union painter and later in Dunkirk, NY, as a local business owner and entrepreneur.

Mr. Green was also a family man. He leaves behind a widow, Mrs. Ruth Gestwicki Green, two children, a daughter Nancy and a son Norman. Also surviving are three grandchildren.

It is with great pride that I rise today to remember Mr. Norman W. Green, a veteran of our Nation's armed forces and a proud member of this wonderful community.

FAIRFAX KIWANIS CLUB

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Fairfax Kiwanis Club which will recognize the 65th Anniversary of the club on October 4th, 2011. A special ceremony will take place to honor the history and tradition of the Fairfax Kiwanis Club that has existed since 1946.

The Fairfax Kiwanis Club is involved with numerous service projects each year. When a community need arises, the Kiwanis club is ready to respond. Such was the case when the local library needed a sidewalk replaced. The club responded by raising $25,000 for the project. The Fairfax Kiwanis club is very active with youth activities, including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The club participates in international efforts in addition to their service in the local community.

Kiwanis is a worldwide service organization of men and women who share the challenge of community and world improvement. Since its founding in Detroit, Michigan, in 1915, Kiwanis has grown to more than 8,400 clubs in 96 nations. There are about 606,600 active members in the Kiwanis family, representing nearly every culture on every continent, all seeking to improve people's lives. Kiwanians give their time to make their communities and world better places in which to live and work.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the Fairfax Kiwanis Club. The Fairfax Kiwanis Club is a tremendous service organization that serves its community well.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND TEAM WHO WON THE SOLAR DECATHLON 2011

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a talented team of students from my alma mater, the University of Maryland, who this weekend won first place at the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon 2011 here in Washington.

The U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon is a competition among collegiate teams to design and build solar-powered houses that combine affordability and appeal to consumers with energy-efficiency and design excellence. The University of Maryland team's house, WaterShed, was awarded first place in recognition of its innovative use of solar energy and water conservation, excellent design, and strong performance in daily competitions. In addition to winning the overall competition, the Maryland team also proved victorious in the Architecture Contest and tied for first with perfect scores in both the Hot Water and Energy Balance contests.

Over 200 students, representing a wide variety of disciplines including architecture, engineering, environmental science and plant sciences, contributed to WaterShed, making Maryland's victory a truly collaborative effort. By blending innovation and technology with sustainability and conservation, these students demonstrated the creativity, teamwork, technical knowledge, and determination that are essential as we work to revive our economy and regain our nation's place as a leader in high tech and sustainable manufacturing.

The hard work of the Maryland team, and the work of the 19 other teams involved in the competition, illustrate the goals of the Make It In America plan that my Democratic colleagues and I are pursuing. The Make It In America plan emphasizes support for American firms developing new clean energy technologies, creating jobs while investing in a more sustainable future. This competition, with its focus on both cost-effectiveness and energy-efficiency, is an excellent example of the approach we need to pursue to achieve our economic and sustainability goals.

I would like to recognize the work of student leaders Jay Chmilewski, David Daily, Leah Davies, Steve Emling, Isabel Enerson, Tamir Ezzat, Michael Feldman, David Gavin, Jeff Gipson, Newton Gorrell, Joseph Ijjas, Moshe Katz, Yehuda Katz, Lynn Khuu, Zachary Klipstein, Parlin Meyer, Jeff Rappaport, Matt Sickle, Evan Smith, Scott Tjaden, Kevin Vandeman, Nick Weadock, Allison Wilson, and Veronika Zhiteneva and faculty team members Mike Binder, Patricia Kosco Cossard, Amy Gardner, Brian Grieb, Dr. Keith Herold, Madlen Simon, Dr. David Tilley and Brittany Williams.

The University of Maryland team—including students, faculty, and professional mentors—should be congratulated for their impressive accomplishments, and I am proud to honor these exceptional individuals. I urge my colleagues to join with me in applauding this impressive feat, and I ask unanimous consent that the names of the team members, the extended team and the mentors be included in the RECORD following my statement.

Team Members: Ali Alaswadi, Benjamin Bates, Amy Chen, Brennan Clark, Linda Clark Michael Craton, Natalya Dikhanov, Eric Gellman, James Han, Justin Heil, Justin Huang, Erik Kornfeld, John Kucia, Allen Meizlish, Jeffrey Sze and Andrew Taverner.

Extended Team: Sahin Arikoglu, Alex Atahua, Rishi Banerjee, Justin Bare, Katherine Beisler, Jacob Bialek, Paul Bilger, Christoper Binkley, Ian Black, Andrew Bruno, Victoria Chang, Wen-Hui Chen, Ethan Cowan, Justin Cullen, Diana Daisey, Adam Davies, Aleron Dsilva, Mariam Eshete, Eric Faughnan, Ryan Fitch, Meredith Friedman, Holman Gao, Louis Gbone, Philip Geilman, Phil Geiman, Marisa Gomez; Karen Hillis, Ananya Hiremath, Vanessa Hoffman, Amy Hudson, Phil Jacks, Peter James, Eric Joerdens, Christine Kandigian, Jacob Kunken, Christopher Leung, Arik Lubkin, Christopher Luther, Ryan Maisel, Bracha Mandel, Maria Martello, Zachary Martinez, Abe Massad, Mark Matovich, Shakira Mccall, Kenneth Morgan, Christopher Myers, Zachary Nerenberg, Matthew Newman, Yuchen Nie, Albert Palmer, Daniel Perdomo, Robert Pettit, Chau Pham, Georgina Pinnock, Kaitlin Pless, Olga Pushkareva, James Ramil, Mark Reese, Raheena Rehman, Nicolas Roldos, Boateng Rosemond, Michele Rubenstein, Michael Satoh, Charles Schupler, Juliet Serem, Valerie Smith, Jacob Steinberg, Michael Taylor, Alexander Tonetti, Marcela Trice, Katherine Vocke, Nader Wallerich, Luxi Wang, Amy Weber, Sofia Weller, Christine Wertz, Kiley Wilfong, Christine Wirth, Fawna Xiao, Diane Ye, and Jesse Yurow.

Mentors: Deborah Bauer, Grant Baxter, Charlie Berliner, Dan Blankfeld, Joe Bolewski, Brian Borak, Erin Carlisle, John Cartagirone, Chris Cobb, John Coventry, Adam Eurich, Taz Ezzat, George Fritz, Julie Gabrielli, Aditya Gaddam, Jennifer Gilmer, Anne Hicks Harney, Maggie Haslam, Ray Hayleck, Joan Honeyman, Ming Hu, Adam Keith, Peter Kelley, Benson Kwong, Mike Lawrence, Dale Leidich, John Love, Kristen Markham, Evan Merkel, John Morris, Frank Plummer, Don Posson, Kristin Potterton, Tyler Sines, Niklas Vigener, Dan Vlacich, Fred Werth, Bill Wiley, Jay Williams, and Dan Zimmerman.

TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO QUALIFY HOMELESS YOUTH WHO ARE STUDENTS FOR PURPOSES OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, at any given time more than 1 million youth are homeless in America. In the midst of a recession where Federal, State, and local government budgets are being cut, needed services for these youth have all but disappeared.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits have helped fill this void and create private-public partnerships to build affordable low income housing. This housing has been invaluable in providing much needed shelter for those hit hardest by the recession. Unfortunately, a quirk in the law prohibits full time students, who were previously homeless from living in these units. A homeless youth, who wishes to pursue full time education, must choose between education and remaining homeless. This is not a choice our youth should make, nor is this a policy America has ever supported.

Education has always been the cornerstone of American excellence and ingenuity. Even more, an education remains the best hope for homeless youth to escape poverty as adults. It is critical that we fix this defect in the law, and ensure that our youth are given every opportunity to reach their educational goals.

PALESTINIANS AT THE UN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, while the Palestinians engage in political theater at the United Nations, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict gets no closer to resolution and the Palestinians get no closer to a real state. A Palestinian state can only come about through direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Instead of working toward peace, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is engaging in political theater that will leave the Palestinian people even more frustrated with the lack of tangible results.

I am pleased that President Barack Obama stood up at the United Nations General Assembly and told the world that "Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the U.N." It was a brave speech that will make him less popular in many quarters, but it was the right thing to do.

America believes in a two state solution. Israel believes in a two state solution. The Quartet believes in a two state solution. But there is a big difference between a theoretical ideal and the nuts and bolts of defining a new country's borders, ensuring the security of its neighbors, and resolving open issues regarding refugees and water rights. And while Israel has conceded the right of the Palestinians to have their own state, the Palestinians have never acknowledged the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state.

The fig leaf of an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority cannot hide the fact that the two factions remain at war with one another for control and that Hamas remains determined to erase Israel from the globe. They have managed to maintain an uneasy truce in order to secure international approbation, but it is unlikely to last. If Hamas wins the struggle or remains a significant element of the government without renouncing terrorism and its determination to destroy Israel, then the fledgling Palestinian state would be established with the intent of waging war on Israel. That is an unacceptable outcome, particularly if the UN, which was founded to promote peace, serves as the midwife to the new state.

What we are witnessing at the United Nations is nothing more than a popularity contest. And when it comes to a popularity contest, the Palestinians win. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has 57 states. There is only one Jewish state.

UN recognition of a Palestinian State will yield few changes in the lives of most Palestinians. The most significant tangible result

would be an ability to bring cases against Israel in international legal bodies that are often hostile to the Jewish state. But ordinary Palestinians will soon realize that their lives are little changed. Their disappointment will further destabilize the region and leave us farther from a resolution to the conflict.

At the end of the day, the Palestinians' gambit will bring them no closer to peace, no closer to established borders and no closer to economic stability. It will, however, leave Israel more isolated, more vulnerable and less secure. I applaud President Obama and both the Democratic and Republican leadership of Congress for taking a principled stand against an unprincipled effort. Peace can only come from the bargaining table.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN ON ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I join with many others to congratulate our good friends, The Republic of China (commonly known as Taiwan), on their 100th anniversary, which will take place on October 10, 2011.

Relatively speaking, America is not much older than Taiwan. The United States has only been around for 235 years, and like Taiwan, is young in comparison to many of the countries of the world. To the people of Taiwan, October 10th is revered as much as July 4th in the United States. As many remember, we had a huge celebration for our bicentennial in 1976.

Just to put in perspective how long ago the United States celebrated our 100th anniversary in 1876, our president was Ulysses S. Grant, Alexander Graham Bell made his famous first phone call to Watson, and the United States only had 37 states at the beginning of that year.

Just as we have progressed in our second 100 years, Taiwan has greatly changed in its first 100 years, as well. One of the most exciting changes is that Taiwan has become a full-blown democracy over the last 15 years having its first actual direct elections for president in 1996. Since then, Taiwan has had three successful transfers of power from one party to another, showing the fairness and legitimacy of its elections.

Taiwan is a beacon of democracy in Southeast Asia, and we look forward to our continued friendship for many years to come. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we offer our congratulations to Taiwan on its centennial celebration.

CONGRATULATING TAKEYSHA SHEPPARD CHENEY

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate TaKeysha Sheppard Cheney on being named the 2011 Empowered Woman of the Year by the Women Presidents' Organization. Her dedication to empowering women and helping girls reach their full potential is inspiring.

From her work in the State Legislature to her time as the Executive Director of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, Ms. Sheppard Cheney has been an active participant in public service and making Ohio a better place for families. Her efforts with the LEADER Institute, a leadership development program for girls, is to be commended.

She has further made a difference in Columbus by serving on the boards of the Salvation Army of Central Ohio; the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium; the Ohio Commodores; and ROX, which is an empowerment program for girls.

Today, Cheney is the founder, CEO and publisher of The Women's Book, a magazine that shares information and resources for women in Central Ohio. The publication focuses on the latest happenings for women and girls in Columbus, and she has successfully expanded her publication to Cincinnati and Cleveland.

I would again like to congratulate TaKeysha Sheppard Cheney for being the 2011 Empowered Woman of the Year. She has truly made a difference in the lives of women and girls in the Central Ohio area.

REVEREND DOCTOR STEVEN D. RILEY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my dear friend, the Reverend Doctor Steven D. Riley, who was honored this past weekend for his 30th Anniversary as Pastor of Christ Temple Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, Michigan and his 40 years of teaching the gospel. A large and enthusiastic group of friends from all walks of life, leaders from the community, and people he touched throughout his life all gathered for a service to pay tribute to this wonderful local leader. The greatest message given that evening was seen on the faces of the audience whose love, gratitude, affection and respect for Reverend Riley's service to the church and his community radiated throughout the service.

He has led Ypsilanti and Southeast Michigan by his ministerial example and being steadfast in his mission to shape and mold the present into a better future. He has worked hard to ensure that residents in Southeast Michigan have a friend in faith, are cared for, and have a roof overhead. For that, I would like to say on behalf of the people of Michigan's 15th Congressional District, thank you.

Reverend Doctor Riley has dedicated his career to spreading the gospel in Southeast Michigan. His commitment to serving others has helped my constituents lead healthier, more fulfilled lives. He has been a leader among the church-affiliated groups in Southeast Michigan. I want to thank him for his love of all people and for his tremendous friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that Reverend Doctor Riley chose his career early in life. At the age of 11, he began ministering to his neighbors in Detroit, and stayed focused growing in the faith by earning a bachelor's degree in theology and philosophy. He felt called to continue learning more, going on to get a master's degree in theology and religious studies, and a doctorate of divinity degree along with a doctorate of humane letters.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Doctor Riley is an honorable man who has done many great things for the citizens of Southeastern Michigan. I am honored to have him as friend. I ask that you and all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Doctor Riley for his tireless support, kindness and leadership to his community and to give him our best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SSI EXTENSION FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED REFUGEES ACT OF 2011

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 3, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the SSI Extension for Elderly and Disabled Refugees Act of 2011. I introduced a similar bill on August 1. This modified version would grant a one-year extension of current law, which passed unanimously in both chambers of Congress in 2008 and was signed into law by President Bush (P.L. 110–328). Under this law, elderly and disabled refugees and certain humanitarian immigrants who are very low income may receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for up to 9 years before becoming citizens, to allow time for naturalization. The Senate unanimously passed this bill today.

Unfortunately, the current law expired on September 30, 2011. Without immediate passage of this bill, thousands of refugees will face serious hardship. This legislation will be completely paid for by collecting a $30 fee on diversity visas through October 1, 2013. Excess funds would go to the Department of Treasury. Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill would result in $24 million in deficit reduction.

Mr. Speaker, this is a common sense bill that continues an existing law. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2011 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 5

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Economic Policy Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine perspectives on the economic implications of the Federal budget deficit.

SD–538

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Denise Page, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Adrienne S. O'Neal, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde, Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, and Mark Francis Brzezinski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Sweden, all of the Department of State.

SD–419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ernest Mitchell, Jr., of California, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

SD–342

2 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Contracting Oversight Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine food service management contracts, focusing on if contractors are overcharging the government.

SD–342

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine considering the role of judges under the Constitution of the United States.

SH–216

OCTOBER 6

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine speculation and compliance with the ''Dodd-Frank Act''.

SD–342

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, Alan B. Krueger, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President, David A. Montoya, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Patricia M. Loui, of Hawaii, and Larry W. Walther, of Arkansas, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress.

SD–538

Environment and Public Works

Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal actions to clean up contamination from legacy uranium mining and milling operations.

SD–406

Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax reform options, focusing on incentives for homeownership.

SD–215

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1301, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 to 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in person, H.R. 368, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, an original bill entitled, ''Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act of 2011, H.R. 394, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, an original bill entitled, ''Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011'', H.R. 2633, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the time limits for appeals in civil cases to which United States officers or employees are parties, S. 1014, to provide for additional Federal district judgeships, and the nominations of Evan Jonathan Wallach, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Dana L. Christensen, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Cathy Ann Bencivengo, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Gina Marie Groh, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Margo Kitsy Brodie, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Adalberto Jose Jordan, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, John M. Gerrard, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, Mary Elizabeth Phillips, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Thomas Owen Rice, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, David Nuffer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Steven R. Frank, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Martin J. Pane, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and David Blake Webb, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, all of the Department of Justice.

SD–226

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Peace Corps, focusing on the next fifty years.

SD–419

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine internet infrastructure in native communities, focusing on equal access to e-commerce, jobs and the global marketplace.

SD–628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

OCTOBER 11

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine labor-management forums in the Federal government.

SD–342

OCTOBER 13

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Carcieri crisis, focusing on the ripple effect on jobs, economic development and public safety in native communities.

SD–628

OCTOBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, ''Elementary and Secondary Education Act'', and any pending nominations.

SD–106

OCTOBER 20

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 134, to authorize the Mescalero Apache Tribe to lease adjudicated water rights, S. 399, to modify the purposes and operation of certain facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation to implement the water rights compact among the State of Montana, the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, and the United States, S. 1298, to provide for the conveyance of certain property located in Anchorage, Alaska, from the United States to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, S. 1327, to amend the Act of March 1, 1933, to transfer certain authority and resources to the Utah Dineh Corporation, and S. 1345, to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.

SD–628

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6013–S6058

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1636–1643, and S. Res. 285. **Page S6049**

Measures Considered:

Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1619, to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment.

Pages S6020–27, S6034–39

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 79 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 155), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Pages S6034–35**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, and that at 2:30 p.m., all post-cloture time on the motion to proceed to the bill be yielded back and following the reporting of the bill, the Majority Leader be recognized. **Page S6057**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–24)

Pages S6047–48

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–25)

Page S6048

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–26)

Pages S6048–49

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the letters exchanged between the United States and Korea that contain those commitments, which further enhance the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–27) **Page S6049**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the District of Columbia's Budget Request Act for fiscal year 2012; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (PM–28)

Page S6049

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Marina Garcia Marmolejo, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Nannette Jolivette Brown, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Nancy Torresen, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

William Francis Kuntz II, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Jennifer Guerin Zipps, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Pages S6027–34, S6058

By a unanimous vote of 96 yeas (Vote No. EX. 154), Henry F. Floyd, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Pages S6034, S6058

Robert Stephen Ford, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic (Recess Appointment). **Pages S6056, S6058**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Michael T. Scuse, of Delaware, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services.

Michael T. Scuse, of Delaware, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Earl W. Gast, of California, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Roberta S. Jacobson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs).

James T. Ryan, of Utah, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2013.

A routine list in the Foreign Service. **Page S6057**

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

James T. Ryan, of Utah, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Building Sciences for a term expiring September 7, 2013, which was sent to the Senate on July 22, 2011.

Terry D. Garcia, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, which was sent to the Senate on May 16, 2011. **Page S6058**

Messages from the House: **Page S6049**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S6049–51**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S6051–53**

Additional Statements: **Pages S6043–47**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S6053**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S6053**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S6053**

Text of H.R. 2608 as Previously Passed: **Pages S6053–55**

Text of H.R. 2017 as Previously Passed: **Pages S6055–56**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—155) **Pages S6034–35**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6057.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 3074–3084; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 83 were introduced. **Page H6505**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6505–06**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2838, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–229);

H. Res. 418, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2832) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–230); and

H. Res. 419, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2681) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for cement manufacturing facilities, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–231). **Page H6505**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H6470**

Order of Business: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order to take from the Speaker's table H.R. 2608, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention

of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment; that the Senate amendment be considered as read; that the motion be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. **Page H6470**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Utah National Guard Readiness Act: H.R. 686, amended, to require the conveyance of certain public land within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, to support the training and readiness of the Utah National Guard, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 742; **Pages H6470–71, H6485–86**

Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011: H.R. 765, to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 394 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 743; **Pages H6471–73, H6486–87**

Clarifying the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir: H.R. 489, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir; **Pages H6473–75**

Help to Access Land for the Education of Scouts: H.R. 473, amended, to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America; **Pages H6475–76**

Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011: H.R. 470, amended, to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam; **Pages H6476–80**

Conveying certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: H.R. 670, to convey certain submerged lands to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in order to give that territory the same benefits in its submerged lands as Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa have in their submerged lands, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 397 yeas with none voting ''nay'', Roll No. 744; and **Pages H6480–81, H6487**

Authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal: S. Con. Res. 29, to authorize the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society. **Pages H6481–83**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:15 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H6485**

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a further correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2608: Agreed by unanimous consent to H. Con. Res. 83, to direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a further correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2608. **Page H6485**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–58). **Pages H6483–84**

Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–59). **Page H6484**

Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–60). **Pages H6484–85**

Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted letters exchanged between the United States and Korea relating to the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–61). **Page H6485**

Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the District of Columbia's 2012 Budget Request Act—referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 112–62). **Page H6495**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6485–86, H6486–87, H6487. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Committee Meetings

EPA REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2011; AND CEMENT SECTOR REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2011

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on the following: H.R. 2250, the "EPA Regulatory Relief Act of 2011"; and H.R. 2681, the "Cement Sector Regulatory Relief Act of 2011". The Committee granted, by record vote of 8 to 2, a modified open rule for H.R. 2681. The rule provides one hour of general debate on H.R. 2681 equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 2681. The rule makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2681 recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill as original text for purpose of amendment, and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2681. The rule makes in order only those amendments to H.R. 2681 that are submitted for printing in the Congressional Record not later than the legislative day of Tuesday, October 4, 2011, or pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee, and each amendment shall be considered as read if printed. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 2681 with or without instructions.

The resolution further provides for a modified open rule for H.R. 2250. The rule provides one hour of general debate on H.R. 2250 equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 2250. The rule makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2250 recommended by the Committee on Energy and Commerce now printed in the bill as original text for purpose of amendment, and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2250. The rule makes in order only those amendments to H.R. 2250 that are submitted for printing in the Congressional Record not later than the legislative day of Tuesday, October 4, 2011, or pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or a designee, and each amendment shall be considered as read if printed. Finally the rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 2250 with or without instructions.

Testimony was heard from the following on H.R. 2250: Rep. Whitfield; Rep. Waxman; and Rep. Griffith of Virginia. Testimony was heard from the following on H.R. 2681: Rep. Whitfield; and Rep. Waxman.

TO EXTEND THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2832, to Extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a rule providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2832. The rule makes in order a motion by the chair on the Committee on Ways and Means or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment shall be considered as read. Finally, the rule provides one hour of debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. Testimony was heard from Chairman Brady of Texas; and Rep. McDermott.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1025)*

H.R. 2005, to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006. Signed on September 30, 2011. (Public Law 112–32)

H.R. 2017, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012. Signed on September 30, 2011. (Public Law 112–33)

H.R. 2883, to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016. Signed on September 30, 2011. (Public Law 112–34)

H.R. 2943, to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through December 31, 2011. Signed on September 30, 2011. (Public Law 112–35)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine consumer protection and middle class wealth building in an age of growing household debt, 3 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine improving the budget process, focusing on strategies for more effective congressional budgeting, 9:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's Shale Gas Production Subcommittee's 90-day report, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine nutrient pollution, focusing on an overview of nutrient reduction approaches, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine costs of prescription drug abuse in the Medicare Part D program, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security, to hold hearings to examine America's agricultural labor crisis, focusing on enacting a practical solution, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephanie Dawn Thacker, of West Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Michael Walter Fitzgerald, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Ronnie Abrams, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Miranda Du, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, 3 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the economic outlook, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 4 through October 8, 2011

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday,* at approximately 11 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1619, Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act. At 2:30 p.m., all post-cloture time on the motion to proceed will be yielded back, and following the reporting of the bill, the Majority Leader will be recognized.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: October 4, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection, to hold hearings to examine consumer protection and middle class wealth building in an age of growing household debt, 3 p.m., SD–538.

October 5, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine perspectives on the economic implications of the Federal budget deficit, 10 a.m., SD–538.

October 6, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, Alan B. Krueger, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President, David A. Montoya, of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Cyrus Amir-Mokri, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and Patricia M. Loui, of Hawaii, and Larry W. Walther, of Arkansas, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the Financial Stability Oversight Council annual report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: October 4, to hold hearings to examine improving the budget process, focusing on strategies for more effective congressional budgeting, 9:30 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board's Shale Gas Production Subcommittee's 90-day report, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 4, Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife, to hold hearings to examine nutrient pollution, focusing on an overview of nutrient reduction approaches, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

October 6, Subcommittee on Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Federal actions to clean up contamination from legacy uranium mining and milling operations, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: October 6, to hold hearings to examine tax reform options, focusing on incentives for homeownership, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 5, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Susan Denise Page, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, Adrienne S. O'Neal, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cape Verde, Mary Beth Leonard, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, and Mark Francis Brzezinski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Sweden, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

October 6, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Global Narcotics Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the Peace Corps, focusing on the next fifty years, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 4, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine costs of prescription drug abuse in the Medicare Part D program, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ernest Mitchell, Jr., of California, to be Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.

October 5, Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight, to hold hearings to examine food service management contracts, focusing on if contractors are overcharging the government, 2 p.m., SD–342.

October 6, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine speculation and compliance with the ''Dodd-Frank Act'', 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: October 6, to hold an oversight hearing to examine internet infrastructure in native communities, focusing on equal access to e-commerce, jobs and the global marketplace, 2:15 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 4, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security, to hold hearings to examine America's agricultural labor crisis, focusing on enacting a practical solution, 10 a.m., SD–226.

October 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephanie Dawn Thacker, of West Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Michael Walter Fitzgerald, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Ronnie Abrams, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Rudolph Contreras, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Miranda Du, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada, 3 p.m., SD–226.

October 5, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine considering the role of judges under the Constitution of the United States, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

October 6, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1301, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 to 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in person, H.R. 368, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, an original bill entitled, ''Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act of 2011, H.R. 394, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, an original bill entitled, ''Appeal Time Clarification Act of 2011'', H.R. 2633, to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the time limits for appeals in civil cases to which United States officers or employees are parties, S. 1014, to provide for additional Federal district judgeships, and the nominations of Evan Jonathan Wallach, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Dana L. Christensen, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, Cathy Ann Bencivengo, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Gina Marie Groh, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Margo Kitsy Brodie, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Adalberto Jose Jordan, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, John M. Gerrard, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska, Mary Elizabeth Phillips, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, Thomas Owen Rice, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, David Nuffer, to be United States District Judge for the District of Utah, and Steven R. Frank, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Martin J. Pane, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and David Blake Webb, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 4, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

October 6, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, October 4, full Committee, hearing on the future of National Defense and the U.S. Military Ten Years After 9/11: Perspectives from Former Service Chiefs and Vice Chiefs, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

October 5, Panel on Defense Financial Management and Auditability Reform, hearing entitled ''Is the Financial Management Workforce Positioned to Achieve DOD's Financial Improvement Goals?'' 8 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, October 4, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, hearing entitled ''Modernizing the Workforce Investment Act: Developing an Effective Job Training System for Workers and Employers.'' 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Workplace Safety: Ensuring a Responsible Regulatory Environment.'' 10 a.m., 2261 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, October 5, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled ''Protecting Children's Privacy in an Electronic World.'' 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Administration Efforts on Line-by-Line Budget Review.'' 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

October 6, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''Chemical Risk Assessment: What Works for Jobs and the Economy?'' 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, October 4, Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology,

hearing entitled ''Audit the Fed: Dodd-Frank, QE3, and Federal Reserve Transparency.'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 4, Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, hearing entitled ''The World Bank and Multi Lateral Development Banks' Authorization.'' 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, markup of the following: H.R. 1965, to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes; H.R. 2167, the ''Private Company Flexibility and Growth Act''; H.R. 2930, the ''Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act''; H.R. 2940, the ''Access to Capital for Job Creators Act''; and legislation regarding the ''Small Company Job Growth and Regulatory Relief Act of 2011.'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 6, full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Annual Report of the Financial Stability Oversight Council.'' 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 6, Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing entitled ''The Obama Administration's Response to the Housing Crisis.'' 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 4, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Why Taiwan Matters, Part II.'' 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 4, Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere; and the Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Management, joint hearing entitled ''Mérida Part Two: Insurgency and Terrorism in Mexico.'' 2 p.m. in 2172 Rayburn.

October 4, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights, hearing entitled ''A Comprehensive Assessment of U.S. Policy Toward Sudan.'' 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

October 5, full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 2830, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; and H.R. 2059, to prohibit funding to the United Nations Population Fund; and legislation to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes. 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, October 4, Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Does Administrative Amnesty Harm our Efforts to Gain and Maintain Operational Control of the Border?'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

October 5, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence, hearing entitled ''Intelligence Sharing and Terrorist Travel: How DHS Addresses the Mission of Providing Security, Facilitating Commerce and Protecting Privacy for Passengers Engaged in International Travel.'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

October 6, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies, hearing entitled ''Cloud Computing: What are the Security Implications?'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, October 4, full Committee, hearing entitled ''A Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.'' 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled ''The Implementation of Certain International Nuclear and Maritime Terrorism Agreements.'' 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, markup to request a Department of Homeland Security Departmental Report on the Beneficiary of H.R. 1857, for the relief of Bartosz Kumor; followed by a hearing entitled ''STEM the Tide: Should America Try to Prevent an Exodus of Foreign Graduates of U.S. Universities with Advanced Science Degrees?'' 1:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 6, full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 313, the ''Drug Trafficking Safe Harbor Elimination Act of 2011''; H.R. 1254, the ''Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011''; H.R. 2471, to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet; and H.R. 2870, the ''Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act of 2011''. 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, October 4, full Committee, hearing entitled ''The President's New National Ocean Policy—A Plan for Further Restrictions on Ocean, Coastal and Inland Activities.'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

October 4, Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Affairs, hearing on H.R. 2938, the ''Gila Bend Indian Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act.'' 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

October 4, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 2563, to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance; H.R. 1335, to revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station, and for other purposes; and H.R. 854, to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes. 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

October 5, full Committee, markup of the following: H.R. 306, the ''Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act''; H.R. 443, to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska; H.R. 588, to redesignate the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge as the Sam D. Hamilton Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 850, to facilitate a proposed project in the Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River, and for other purposes; H.R. 991, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to allow importation of polar bear trophies taken in sport hunts in Canada before the date the polar bear was determined to be a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; H.R. 1162, to provide the Quileute Indian Tribe Tsunami and Flood Protection, and for other purposes; H.R. 1461, the ''Mescalero Apache Tribe Leasing Authorization Act''; H.R. 1466, to resolve the status of certain persons legally residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under the immigration

laws of the United States; H.R. 1505, the ''National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act''; H.R. 1556, to amend the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act to allow certain land to be used to generate income to provide funding for academic programs, and for other purposes; H.R. 1740, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; H.R. 2060, the ''Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act''; H.R. 2351, the ''North Cascades National Park Service Complex Fish Stocking Act''; H.R. 2352, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness and the North Cascades National Park in order to allow the rebuilding of a road outside of the floodplain while ensuring that there is no net loss of acreage to the Park or the Wilderness, and for other purposes; H.R. 2360, the ''Providing for Our Workforce and Energy Resources (POWER) Act''; H.R. 2578, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act related to a segment of the Lower Merced River in California, and for other purposes; H.R. 2752, the ''BLM Live Internet Auctions Act''; H.R. 2803, to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States; H.R. 2842, the ''Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2011''; H.R. 2915, the ''American Taxpayer and Western Area Power Administration Customer Protection Act of 2011''; and H.R. 3069, the ''Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act''. 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

October 6, full Committee, hearing entitled ''BOEMRE/U.S. Coast Guard Joint Investigation Team Report.'' 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, October 4, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Where is the Peace Dividend? Examining the Final Report to Congress of the Commission on Wartime Contracting.'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

October 6, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census and the National Archives, hearing entitled ''Obamacare's Employer Penalty and its Impact on Temporary Workers.'' 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

October 6, Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, and Intergovernmental Relations and Procurement Reform, hearing entitled ''Protecting Taxpayer Dollars: Are Federal Agencies Making Full Use of Suspension and Debarment Sanctions?'' 9:30 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, October 4, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing entitled ''Quality Science for Quality Air.'' 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, October 5, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Adding to Uncertainty: The Impact of DOL/NLRB Decisions and Proposed Rules on Small Businesses.'' 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

October 6, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, hearing entitled ''Subpar Subcontracting: Challenges for Small Businesses Contractors.'' 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 4, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''What Will It Cost: Protecting the Taxpayer from an Unachievable Coast Guard Acquisition Program.'' 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

October 5, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''A Comprehensive Review of FAA's NextGen Program: Costs, Benefits, Progress, and Management.'' 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, October 5, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the Progress of the Partnership between the United States Paralympics and the Department of Veterans Affairs to Promote Adaptive Sports.'' 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

October 6, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''The Federal Recovery Coordination Program: Assessing Progress Toward Improvement.'' 8:30 a.m., 340 Cannon.

October 6, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''Arlington National Cemetery: An Update on Reform and Progress.'' 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, October 6, Subcommittee on Human Resources, hearing reviewing unemployment benefit proposals in the President's latest jobs plan and assessing whether they will help the long-term unemployed return to work, 9 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, October 4, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Cyber Threats and Ongoing Efforts to Protect the Nation.'' 10 a.m., HVC 210.

October 6, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Domestic Threat Intelligence.'' 10 a.m., HVC 210.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: October 4, to hold hearings to examine the economic outlook, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

EXECUTIVE DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 5 through September 30, 2011

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	123	125	..
Time in session	799 hrs., 21′	739 hrs., 17′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	6,011	6,467	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	1,733	..
Public bills enacted into law	12	23	35
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	2	2	..
Measures passed, total	265	247	512
Senate bills	26	10	..
House bills	26	103	..
Senate joint resolutions	4	3	..
House joint resolutions	3	5	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	15	4	..
House concurrent resolutions	13	17	..
Simple resolutions	178	105	..
Measures reported, total	*137	*200	337
Senate bills	100	2	..
House bills	9	129	..
Senate joint resolutions	1	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	2	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	25	65	..
Special reports	12	29	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	145	65	..
Measures introduced, total	1,974	3,651	5,625
Bills	1,635	3,073	..
Joint resolutions	27	79	..
Concurrent resolutions	29	82	..
Simple resolutions	283	417	..
Quorum calls	5	3	..
Yea-and-nay votes	153	194	..
Recorded votes	..	543**	..
Bills vetoed	..	..	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 86 written reports have been filed in the Senate, a total of 229 reports have been filed in the House.

** Proceedings on Roll Call No. 484 were vacated by unanimous consent.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 5 through September 30, 2011

Civilian nominations, totaling 419, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	196
Unconfirmed	214
Withdrawn	9

Other Civilian nominations, totaling 2,376, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	2,072
Unconfirmed	299
Withdrawn	5

Air Force nominations, totaling 5,475, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	1,703
Unconfirmed	3,772

Army nominations, totaling 5,127, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	5,052
Unconfirmed	75

Navy nominations, totaling 3,346, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	3,325
Unconfirmed	21

Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,249, disposed of as follows:

Confirmed	1,249

Summary

Total nominations carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominations received this Session	17,992
Total confirmed	13,597
Total unconfirmed	4,381
Total withdrawn	14
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 4

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond one hour), Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1619, Currency Exchange Rate Oversight Reform Act, and at 2:30 p.m., all post-cloture time on the motion to proceed to the bill be yielded back and following the reporting of the bill, the Majority Leader be recognized.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 4

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608—Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012.

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