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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 25, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN M. PALAZZO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 12:50 p.m.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago President Obama promised Congress that the American people would have 6 percent unemployment in exchange for trillions of taxpayer dollars to pump into the economy. Today we know that the stimulus program was mismanaged, ill-conceived, and failed to create the jobs promised by the President. For 38 straight months and counting, the unemployment rate has remained above 8 percent.

The American people realize something that my Democrat friends don't seem to understand: that government cannot create jobs and shouldn't be in the business of handing out jobs. In 2010, the American people sent me and many of my colleagues to Washington to cut government spending and offer real solutions to job creation. We have been aggressively fighting to achieve that challenge.

Our country needs commonsense, pro-growth policies that will help small business regain their confidence. When business owners have faith that the government will not raise their taxes, impose new, unnecessary regulations, and pick winners and losers in the marketplace, they'll invest more. When they invest more, the company grows, and the opportunity for American jobs grows with it.

Just last week, we saw a very clear picture of the different visions for job creation held by folks in Washington. My friends in the Senate voted on but thankfully failed to pass the Buffett rule. The act would impose a tax hike on one class of Americans and would pay for approximately 11 hours of government functioning. Talk about a cynical ruse serving only to divide our country for political purposes.

But while my Democrat colleagues in the Senate are working to raise taxes on Americans and America's job creators, the House is trying to lower them. Last week we passed a small business tax cut, which will give businesses with fewer than 500 employees a 20 percent tax reduction off their active business income and encourage the creation of more jobs for our citizens.

Data shows that 7 out of every 10 jobs in this country are created by companies with fewer than 500 employees. My Republican colleagues and I truly believe that small businesses are the backbone of our country's economy and their success is vital to our economic recovery. We continue to act proactively and, as reflected in the 27 job-creating measures passed by the House this Congress alone, to ensure job providers are able to create, innovate, and lead.

We hope our friends in the Senate and White House will decide to join us as we say ''yes'' to American jobs for American people.

AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, a shadowy collection of wealthy businesses and conservative Tea Party Republican State lawmakers is undermining our democracy.

Last week I discussed the connection between the American Legislative Exchange Council, known as ALEC, and the proliferation of shoot first and ask questions later legislation that supported the Trayvon Martin case that we all know about, and other draconian criminal justice laws.

According to the New York Times:

> ALEC lawmakers typically introduced more than 1,000 bills based on model legislation each year and passed about 17 percent of them. A members-only newsletter from 1995, found in an online archive of tobacco company documents, bluntly characterized that success ratio as a ''good investment.''

I agree. ALEC's corporate members have gotten an outstanding return on their investments, but it's been at yours and my expense. Due to ALEC, the NRA, and the private for-profit prison industry, we are all less safe and more likely to be put in jail.

The for-profit prison industry, on the other hand, has reaped huge financial rewards from ALEC-sponsored efforts to incarcerate more Americans and put them, as well as illegal immigrants, into this private prison system. For

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the private prison industry, where some of the inmates are paid as low as 2 cents an hour to produce goods that are later sold for profit, business is booming.

But ALEC does not stop there. ALEC's corporate members are some of the world's biggest polluters and most profitable oil companies. ALEC's corporate bill factory has ghost-written legislation on their behalf to combat efforts to address climate change and oppose national renewable energy standards, among others.

In 1998, according to the Center for Media and Democracy, ALEC belched a resolution out of its smokestack calling on the U.S. to reject the Kyoto Protocol and banning States from regulating greenhouse gases. ALEC's Energy, Environment, and Agriculture Task Force has since turned out model bills criticizing the Environmental Protection Agency.

Recently, ALEC has focused on what it calls the ''EPA's regulatory train wreck,'' seeking to frame the EPA's enforcement of the Clean Air Act as ''higher prices, fewer jobs, and less energy.'' ALEC's dirty supporters, like the Koch brothers—named one of the United States' top 10 air polluters in a University of Massachusetts study—began attacking every effort to clean up the mess that they themselves have made. Why? Because they want to continue to make more money.

ALEC is dumping its waste right here in Congress. After the Tennessee coal ash disaster, ALEC began pushing a model resolution called Resolution to Retain State Authority over Coal Ash as Non-Hazardous Waste. Can you believe that? This resolution was approved by ALEC on June 3, 2010. Just over a year later, October 14, 2011, this House passed a bill that authorizes States to adopt and implement coal combustion residuals permit programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is only the tip of the melting iceberg. Yes, global warming is at work, and it is melting this iceberg that ALEC represents.

I encourage the American people to visit the alecexposed.org Web site, where you can view leaked ALEC documents, including model bills, as well as a list of ALEC members. About 60 percent of the State legislators in this country are members of ALEC.

Mr. Speaker, I'll return tomorrow with more on how corporations are using ALEC to install their agenda in the States and in Congress, undermining our basic rights and freedoms.

□ 1010

ISRAEL AND AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMPEO. I rise today in my role as Representative and with the perspective of both a Christian and a former soldier. I urge this body and our President to do all within our collective power to defeat Iran's efforts to build a nuclear weapon and delivery system, the combination of which presents a world-changing threat to every American, to every Israeli, and to citizens everywhere in our world.

I've had the privilege to travel twice to the Holy Land. One cannot walk the Golan Heights or travel the hills around Jerusalem and fail to appreciate the momentous nature of these places. Even a quick survey of history reveals that this is among the most geopolitically and strategically important patches of land on Earth, and it is also the focal point of the world's three Abrahamic religions.

Our Declaration of Independence speaks of a humanity endowed with rights by its Creator. The land we speak of here is the land where He walked, the land where He taught, and the land where my faith teaches me that He gave His life for each of us. And now this land is menaced by a dangerous and inimical enemy. One cannot stare long at a map without plotting the strategic course open to this enemy. In doing so, one is struck by the miniscule flight time for a missile departing from Iran for this land loaded with a weapon of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, it's election season and our President appears to be more interested in dissuading Israel from defending its people than deterring President Ahmadinejad from achieving nuclear weaponry. Unfortunately, danger—this danger, particularly—knows no timetable, and political calculation amid such peril is an abdication of a Commander in Chief's responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, we hear the President's team has said that an Israeli attack would destabilize the region. It is hard to doubt that, to a degree at least, this is possible. But more destabilizing by an order of magnitude would be the permanent threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. It is a folly to trade temporary peace for a permanent menace to world security.

Mr. Speaker, our President's intelligence chief has said that the Iranians have not yet decided to build a bomb. To me, these words are reminiscent to those of Neville Chamberlain, who doubted that the Nazi command had finalized its decision to invade all of Europe, both east and west. The threat was either ignored or considered too irrational to be possible by a timorous and distracted world bent on avoiding conflict.

Mr. Speaker, this body must unambiguously oppose the weakness our President has spoken of on this issue. Our Commander in Chief has fought against every Iranian sanctions measure that we have presented to him; he has casually mused about returning to pre-1967 borders, as if road-testing an idea; and he has consistently sided with the Palestinians on key issues surrounding American national security. It should be no wonder then that President Ahmadinejad feels emboldened, for weakness always breeds and invites aggression. In such situations, perceptions will influence outcomes—and possibly determine them.

With this in mind, we must emphatically, and in no uncertain terms, display unwavering American commitment to the defense and support of Israel. The perception that we mean it, and that we mean it without reserve, will serve to inhibit Iran's nuclear ambitions as surely as a policy of American doubt, hesitation, and vacillation will serve to strengthen it.

We are mindful, too, that our President has said, when he believed himself to be out of the reach of microphones, that he was tired of President Netanyahu. He said, ''I have to deal with him every day.'' This was an all-too-rare and certainly valuable glimpse into the heart of the President. It seems to confirm to me what many of us suspect and what gives President Ahmadinejad courage: that despite the careful language suggesting alignment between America and Israel, the President will crumble when Israel needs him most.

Mr. Speaker, I will say in front of this microphone and on the record this morning that I'm tired. I'm tired of creating risks for America's democratic foothold in the Middle East; I'm tired of a badly mistaken notion that Israel is some way or another the aggressor; and I'm tired of the President speaking of a moral equivalence between Iran and Israel.

There are but a few moments in history that have set the course for a relationship among nations, and I believe this is one of them. We must make a powerful and unequivocal commitment to the nation of Israel, and we must make an equally powerful and unequivocal commitment to prevent Iran from achieving nuclear weaponry. Iran must not be allowed for even one moment to doubt our will, and it must not be allowed to think twice about our willingness to act. The fate of the Jewish people and the American people—one and inseparable—depends on it.

HONORING DUNCAN CAMPBELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Tonight, in Portland, Oregon, there's a special ceremony as Duncan Campbell is honored at the 84th Annual Portland First Citizen Award Banquet. I'm sorry that duties require me to be here in Washington, DC, instead of with hundreds of Duncan's friends and admirers back home in Portland.

This is a very special award for a unique human being. Duncan has a very compelling personal story, working his way through a childhood marred by neglect and alcoholism. He put himself through college at Portland State University and eventually did the same at law school, earning his

degree at the University of Oregon. He founded the Campbell Group, a very successful firm, pioneering work establishing timber investment funds. He soon became recognized as an innovator and an industry leader, but his real story is his lifelong commitment to children.

Shaped by his own difficult early experiences, Duncan has focused on ways that he can use his success financially and intellectually to advance the cause of disadvantaged children. He's done this in numerous ways, but I think his greatest achievement is the establishment of an organization known as Friends of the Children. He put part of the proceeds of the sale of his company to establish the program in 1993. Starting small, it was built around the principle that troubled young people need a constant adult presence supporting, guiding, and not just mentoring but really becoming a part of their lives. Over the years, it has proven to be spectacularly successful.

Currently, there are 90 friends who are paid, full-time mentors, each serving as a caring adult—a constant presence for a handful of children. These friends are not just in Portland, Oregon, but in rural Oregon, in Sisters and Klamath Falls, and now in projects in Boston, New York, and Seattle.

Duncan's vision is to focus on the children with the very highest risk factors. These children statistically would undoubtedly fail to complete school. Most would have problems with drugs or alcohol, early unplanned out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and almost all would fall into the criminal justice system.

The results of his handiwork are overwhelming and compelling:

Eighty-five percent of these children, who most experts agree would otherwise fall through the cracks or worse, graduate from high school;

Ninety percent avoid involvement with the criminal justice system, even though 60 percent of these at-risk children are part of a program that have a parent who's been incarcerated;

Despite the fact that 60 percent of these children were born to a teen parent, 95 percent avoid early parenting themselves;

According to a report by the Harvard Business School Association of Oregon, every dollar invested in the organization results in more than $7 in reduced social costs for the community and untold richness for the children involved.

This is an amazing program with compelling results. It was willed into existence by my friend, Duncan Campbell. Portland honors him this evening, but all Americans should honor not just the example but the specifics.

Friends of the Children is a program that works and should be replicated. I will do all I can to help the Federal Government find a way for it to be a partner in this unparalleled success story. This is the best way to honor Duncan, his vision, and his commitment.

□ 1020

HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, last night I had the privilege of sitting with University of Tennessee Coach Pat Head Summitt as she received the top award presented by the National Alzheimer's Association. This is the Sargent and Eunice Shriver Profiles in Dignity Award, and it was presented by their well-known daughter, Maria.

No one could have been more deserving of this award than Coach Summitt. As the Nation knows, she was diagnosed with early onset dementia, or Alzheimer's, almost a year ago. She made the decision to both go public with this diagnosis and continue coaching her beloved Lady Vols. Now she has decided to give up her coaching job after 38 years to help lead the fight against Alzheimer's. She and her son, Tyler, have established the Pat Head Summitt Foundation to carry on this battle that is and will be so very, very important to millions of people.

Pat Head Summitt is certainly the most admired and respected woman in Tennessee. She is my most famous constituent and a longtime friend. I have been honored on two occasions to be her honorary assistant coach. The first time was on her 25th anniversary as a coach, and the second time was a few years later against Vanderbilt on the last home game of the season. Before that game, we were given a scouting report, and Tennessee had beaten Vanderbilt in Nashville by 30 points. So it was accurate to say that the team was fairly confident about this game. However, at halftime, the game was almost tied, and the Lady Vols came into the locker room with their heads hanging down.

That is when I saw Coach Summitt go into action. She got into each young woman's face like a baseball manager arguing with an umpire. She started with Lady Vol Teresa Geter, and told her in a drill sergeant's voice that she was going through a pity party out there and Coach Summitt was having no part of it and was giving her 2 minutes to make her presence known on that court or she was going to yank her out of there so fast it would make her head swim. When we went back out for the second half, the first thing that happened was that Teresa Geter stole the ball, took it down court, and scored her first 2 points of the game. The Lady Vols went on a 20–0 run, and Vanderbilt called a timeout.

A spectator in the stands, whom I had not seen because there were 20,000 people there, sent his card down to me on the bench, and it said, ''Jimmy, great halftime coaching, come again.'' But it was not me; it was Coach Summitt. In fact, when she was staring each one of her players in the face at halftime in an intensely angry, very loud voice, I was just glad I was not one of those players.

Coach Summitt is the winningest coach in basketball history with 1,098 victories. Her teams have won 16 Southeastern Conference Championships and eight national championships. She has coached in 18 Final Fours. She has an 84 percentage winning record as a head coach. But to me, her most impressive statistic is a 100 percent graduation rate, and she did not allow her players to take easy courses. Let me repeat that. Every player who has ever played for Coach Summitt in her 38 years has graduated. She made sure they were prepared for life after basketball, and almost all of her players have been successful after leaving the University of Tennessee. On top of all this, she has never had a question raised about her recruiting or any NCAA violation. She has shown through the years that you do not have to cheat in sports to win and be very successful.

She has succeeded at her most important job—being a mother and raising her fine son, Tyler, who is following in his mother's footsteps and will soon start his first job as an assistant coach for the Marquette women's basketball team.

Coach Summitt is a member of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and was NCAA Coach of the Year an unprecedented seven times. In 2008 she was named the Naismith Coach of the Year. Pat Head Summitt is a woman of honor and integrity. She has been a great, great success because of her very hard work, dedication, determination, and discipline. Most of her success she credits to hardworking parents and lessons learned on her family's Tennessee farm. This Nation is a better place today because of her work with young people and the inspiring example that she has set for all of us.

Coach Pat Head Summitt is truly a great American, and I'm proud to call her one of my constituents and, as I said, one of my very, very close friends.

THE STUDENT LOAN AFFORDABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, the higher education system in the United States has for many years been the envy of the world. The universities here are a part of America's backbone, providing young people with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in today's changing global economy.

However, Mr. Speaker, right now, the cost of tuition at universities has risen so dramatically all across this country that attendance is tough to achieve. Nowhere is this truer than in public universities in the State of California that I represent, where budget cuts, furlough days, and tuition increases have become a new normal—at the expense of higher learning. Average in-

State tuition and fees at public 4-year institutions have risen 8.3 percent in 2010 and now in the classes in 2011.

As a result of these increases, tuition at public and private universities now has caused student loan debt to exceed credit card debt, totaling $870 billion, and it's expected to reach $1 trillion this year. Students graduating from college between 2006 and 2010 had a median student loan debt of over $20,000. Not only are young adults in debt, but recent graduates are also facing one of the toughest job markets in recent memory.

In 2007, when I started here in Congress, we worked to pass the College Cost Reduction and Access Act which, among many other things, lowered the interest rate of subsidized Stafford loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. As a result of these lower interest rates on federally subsidized student loans, more students were able to afford to go to college. In order to keep college affordable, Democrats in Congress and President Obama are urging the House GOP leadership to bring forward the legislation that would prevent these interest rates on student loans from doubling this July.

I'm a proud cosponsor of H.R. 3826, the Student Loan Affordability Act, which will prevent the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans from doubling in July. By extending the current interest rate, we are making an investment in our country's future. Our economy depends upon the educated workforce to out-compete and to out-innovate the rest of the world, which is something we've been known to do for quite some time.

Statistics tell us that it also makes a difference if you're able to go to college. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for those 25 years and older who've got their bachelor's degree is only 4.2 percent, but for those, unfortunately, who were not able to attend and graduate, the unemployment rate exceeds over 10 percent.

Unlike Pell grants, which provide a vital benefit to low-income families and students, Stafford student loans also benefit middle-income families who need financial assistance as well. Congress should not wait and allow this increase to take place. It would, for all intents and purposes, be a tax increase on middle- and low-income families and students during this very fragile economic recovery.

I urge the Republican majority and Speaker BOEHNER to take action now to prevent this increase. We are seeing right now the impact on the American economy when Congress waits too long to act on issues of national importance such as our Nation's debt. Students and families cannot wait any longer to know how much they will have to pay and owe coming out of college. Why? Because that might impact whether they can even go at all.

HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FINCHER. Today, I rise in order to honor Coach Pat Summitt. Pat Summitt is most well known for her coaching career with the Lady Volunteers at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, but her basketball legacy at UT began long before she won her first national championship as a coach.

I am proud to represent Weakly County, which is home to the University of Tennessee at Martin where Coach Summitt played on the women's basketball team from 1970 to 1974. While there, Coach Summitt was named an All-American player, led her team to the first women's national championship basketball tournament in 1972, and graduated as UT-Martin's all-time leading scorer with 1,045 points. Today, UT-Martin's basketball court is named the ''Pat Head Summitt Court,'' honoring Coach Summit's leadership and achievements on the university's women's basketball team.

Her love of basketball, enthusiasm, and competitive spirit have defined her career and inspired young women across the State of Tennessee and throughout our Nation.

It's no secret that Coach Summitt has an incredible record as the head coach for the Lady Volunteers and has been a driving force behind the development of women's college basketball over the last 38 years. Her legacy as one of the greatest basketball coaches ever is solidified by her achievements, but more importantly, because she has been a friend and mentor to her players and staff. During her tenure as head coach, every Lady Vol that completed her eligibility at UT earned a college degree or is in the process of completing her degree requirements.

□ 1030

I saw a video recently about how former players and managers presented Coach Summitt with a book of personal letters, sharing their memories and putting down in writing what Coach Summitt has meant to them. This video mentions that the letters not only speak of her influence as a coach, but how she has helped players, past and present, through some of the most difficult times they faced in life. The effort to organize this book is incredible, and it speaks volumes about who Coach Summitt is to her players and her passion for helping student athletes discover what they want in life.

I am confident that Coach Summitt will continue to approach each of life's new opportunities and challenges with as much intensity, determination, and integrity as she did during her career as head coach of the Lady Vols. In fact, Coach Summitt is in D.C. this week to receive an award recognizing her efforts to promote greater understanding of Alzheimer's disease and its effects on diagnosed individuals, families, and caregivers. She is already proving she's a force to reckon with as she faces this disease head-on.

I'm proud to call her a fellow Tennesseean and wish her the best as she transitions into a new role with the Lady Vols. God bless you, Coach Summitt. And thank you for all you've done and will continue to do for the great State of Tennessee, women's basketball, and for the fight to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

REMEMBERING LEVON HELM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievement of my dear friend, Levon Helm, who passed away last week surrounded by close friends and family members.

Levon will be remembered by many as the acclaimed vocalist and drummer for the Levon Helm Sextet, which then became Levon and the Hawks, and later what we all know now simply as The Band, which gained international critical acclaim.

The Band was given its name by Bob Dylan in 1967 when he lived with the band members in a house known as ''Big Pink'' near where I grew up in West Saugerties. That's where the famed ''Basement Tapes,'' which featured Dylan, were recorded. When the album was later released in 1975, it rose to be number seven on the Billboard 200 list.

We all remember Levon's unique drumming style and soulful country voice from songs like ''The Weight'' and ''Up on Cripple Creek.'' These songs and others have stood the test of time and will be remembered for how they helped shape a generation of rock music and everything that came thereafter.

Without a doubt, Levon's contributions to American music cannot be overstated. But beyond the music, we cannot forget Levon, the man. I knew him well. He was a beacon of our Hudson Valley community. He was always willing to open his doors to help raise money for important local causes. He was a tremendous supporter of local agriculture. He worked to bring music into our schools and communities. He was a great person and a great friend.

After the release of his ''Dirt Farmer'' album, Levon put on free concerts for the community at Gill's Farm in Ulster County, New York. Once, he attracted so many fans that State Route 209 was effectively closed down.

He would host Midnight Rambles at his barn in Woodstock, inviting some of the world's premier musicians and artists to perform well into the night. Also, his amazing dog named Bear, everyone loved that dog. People traveled from hundreds of miles away to attend. I lived just a few miles down the road and had the privilege of attending many of those events, and they were really something else—wonderful and amazing.

Watching Levon perform over the years, you got the sense that despite all the fame, awards, and notoriety, at his core he was a man who felt music deeply in his bones. It's what made him one of the world's great performing artists.

His passing is a loss for all of us. But when I think of the sadness we all feel, I am reminded by some of his lyrics in a recent song, entitled, ''When I Go Away'':

Don't want no sorrow,
For this old orphan boy;
I don't want no crying,
Only tears of joy.

I'm gonna see my mother,
Gonna see my father;
And I'll be bound for glory,
In the morning,
When I go away

I'll be lifted up to the clouds,
On the wings of angels;
There's only flesh and bones,
In the ground,
Where my troubles will stay.

All my kin who love me,
All my friends who care,
Look beyond the dark clouds;
We're gonna meet up there.

When they lay me in the cold ground,
Bow your heads and pray;
And I'll be bound for glory,
In the morning,
When I go away.

Levon will forever be remembered in our community and throughout the world and in our hearts. He was our neighbor and my good friend. I miss him dearly. Levon has gone home, but his music will live on for all of us forever.

HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, in today's society, we throw around terms like ''legendary'' or ''iconic'' to describe individuals or events that quite often are not worthy of such praise. But in talking about Pat Summitt, even lofty words like these fail to fully do justice to the extraordinary career that Coach Summitt has had at the University of Tennessee.

Throughout her 38 years of coaching the Lady Volunteers, she has built a list of achievements both on and off the court that would rival those of any other coach in the history of college basketball. These include 1,098 wins—more than anyone in NCAA basketball history—16 Southern Conference Championships, 16 SEC Tournament Championships, 18 Final Four appearances, eight national championships, and two Olympic medals.

Without a doubt, Coach Summitt is a monumental figure in the world of college sports. Her leadership and sportsmanship, along with her sheer talent as a coach, are universally admired by her competitors, colleagues, and fellow coaches.

She brought an unmatched level of pride and notoriety to both the sport of basketball and the University of Tennessee. But most importantly, she has been a guiding force in the lives of so many young people. Time and time again, she has led her players to victory both on the court and in the classroom. Under her guidance, every Lady Volunteer player who has finished her eligibility at Tennessee has graduated.

Coach Summitt's life should serve as a model for anyone to strive toward. She is a fierce competitor, a selfless mentor, and a dedicated advocate of women's athletics. I was glad to hear that she will still remain an important part of the program, and I know that all Lady Vol fans will look forward to her continued presence. I think we would all agree that if a Mount Rushmore of college coaches existed, her image would be etched upon it. There will never be another Pat Summitt.

Now, as she moves towards a new chapter in her life, I wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman who is a living legend in my home State of Tennessee. A star basketball player, Pat Summitt played at the University of Tennessee at Martin and served as co-captain on the 1976 U.S. Olympic women's basketball team.

Pat Summitt began coaching Lady Vols basketball at the University of Tennessee just before the start of the 1974–1975 season. Starting as a graduate assistant, she was quickly promoted to head coach, where she earned $250 a month and drove the team van. Thirty-eight years and 1,098 wins later, Pat Summitt is now the winningest coach in NCAA basketball history for either a men's or a women's team. She is the only NCAA coach with over 1,000 wins, and she still has never had a losing season as head coach.

□ 1040

This is a pretty impressive record in its own right, but the legacy of Pat Summitt does not end there. Indeed, I could speak about her accomplishments through the entire morning-hour. I could mention her eight NCAA championships, 16 Southeastern Conference seasons, 16 SEC tournament championship titles, or her unmatched career .840 winning percentage. It is clearly evident that Pat Summitt is an unmatched coach on the field.

Her off-the-field accomplishments are even more impressive. In an era rife with collegiate sports scandals, Pat Summitt has upheld the track record of uncompromised integrity, while encouraging and maintaining a 100 percent graduation rate for her team.

Coach Summitt produces more than just great athletes. She produces young women of character whose academic success prepares them to be good citizens in the world, as well as great basketball players. Eleven of her former players were on the WNBA roster last year, and she has coached two WNBA MVPs. Sixteen collegiate head coaches have either played or coached under her. The success of her players, both on and off the court, is a testament to the dedication she has given to the well-rounded development of her players.

When I return back to the University of Tennessee—my alma mater—the legacy of Coach Pat can be found everywhere, from the students in Lady Vols attire, to Pat Head Summitt Street in Knoxville, and the Summitt basketball court in the Thompson-Boling arena.

Throughout Tennessee, her legacy is strong as well. She has a gym named after her at UT-Martin and at her high school. Pat Summitt's true legacy, however, is the alumni who have succeeded due to her hard work and the thousands of young women who have pursued excellence in sports and have been successful due to her example.

Pat Summitt retired from coaching April 18 and will continue to serve the Lady Vols as head coach emeritus. She now faces a battle against early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Like her coaching career, I know she will face this battle with courage and determination. We will be praying and thinking of her throughout this battle, and I know we will miss her input on the landscape of Tennessee.

THE CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Government Accountability Office says that cyberattacks have grown by 650 percent in 5 years and that the annual cost of these attacks is estimated to be $388 billion. Allowing these trends to proliferate is bad for job creation, consumer protection, and the future of the Internet, whose future success will greatly depend on improving user trust and security online.

The U.S.-driven digital revolution has created countless opportunities, freedoms, and economies of scale. We're the envy of the world in that regard. This revolution is continuing to be driven by information and data. Data is really the natural resource that will power our Nation's future, but only if we safeguard it appropriately.

Your online presence and digital diaries are what I like to refer to as the ''virtual you.'' It's consistently growing and expanding as individuals and businesses operate online. We need to have the certainty that we can freely continue our business online without virtual Peeping Toms and digital thieves enjoying total, uncontrolled access on the online ecosystem. That's why I was troubled to read an article in

Politico yesterday titled ''White House Avoids Specific Positions on Cybersecurity Bills.''

We're being attacked by cybersnoopers and state sponsors of cyberespionage like China, Russia, and Iran. But the White House is throwing its hands up in the air, unwilling to lead. The President refused to take a position because advisers in the White House wanted to go farther in ceding authority to the Department of Homeland Security, which can't even manage the dysfunctional Transportation Security Administration. Washington always wants more power and more control.

My colleagues, Congressmen ROGERS and RUPPERSBERGER, have worked together in a very diligent and bipartisan manner to educate and articulate the need for cyberintelligence sharing and protections. The Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act will help us defend against advanced cyberattackers and hackers that want to steal our private or our government information. It also maintains protections for individuals' privacy. The bill's language is specific. It doesn't allow the government to use shared information for non-cybersecurity purposes. It requires an independent inspector general to audit voluntary information shared with the government, and it legally enforces restrictions on government uses of this information.

The voluntary information-sharing framework is preferable because incentive-based security works better than heavy-handed mandates, but the White House and the Senate Democrats disagree with the technology experts. They think there's a cookie-cutter way to address evolving cybersecurity challenges. But we shouldn't pretend to have all of the answers, and we shouldn't let DHS play Whac-A-Mole. We should not and cannot allow the government's massive bureaucracy to expand. It's constantly suffocating innovation and entrepreneurship in this country.

This legislation presents a framework that is flexible and dynamic, not one that is static and top-down. This approach is narrow, not presumptive. The tech industry wants to focus its energy resources and attention on real-time, dynamic threats, and responses.

Moreover, government shouldn't be telling anyone how to regulate critical infrastructure when it hasn't been able to get its own networks and systems secure. The Office of Budget and Management reported almost 42,000 attacks on Federal networks in 2010, an increase of almost 40 percent over the previous year. That's why I'm happy to see Congressman DARRELL ISSA's bill coming to the floor. Without a doubt, we need better oversight on our Federal information-technology systems.

Each day brings new challenges in the fight to protect our Nation's virtual space and technology innovation, but the cybersecurity bills before the floor this week are unlike the pro-regulatory frameworks that typically characterize Washington's policymaking. Let's move forward with the commonsense voluntary tools we need to strengthen our cyberdefenses, the Internet economy, and the ''virtual you.'' Let's show some leadership.

EARL SCRUGGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, the Master from Flint Hill, the Innovator of the Three-Finger Banjo Style—these are the names given to one of North Carolina and my congressional district's favorite sons.

Mr. Speaker, the welcome sign for the city of Shelby in my district says: ''Welcome to Shelby, city of pleasant living, home of Earl Scruggs.''

Indeed, Shelby, Cleveland County, and all of North Carolina, and indeed the Nation, are mourning the loss of musical icon Earl Scruggs, who passed away last month at the age of 88. When you think of the word ''bluegrass,'' a few names come to mind: Bill Monroe, Doc Watson, and, of course, Earl Scruggs.

Earl grew up on a farm in the Flint Hill community in Shelby and worked in the Lily cotton mill. That's until he was given the chance to play in Bill Monroe's band. That led him to quickly strike off on his legendary career with Lester Flatt. Together, Flatt and Scruggs defined bluegrass music in the 1950s and the 1960s, recording such classics as ''The Ballad of Jed Clampitt'' and ''Foggy Mountain Breakdown.''

Earl received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2003, was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1985, and received numerous Grammys, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. He also recorded with musicians as diverse as Johnny Cash, Sting, and even Elton John.

Most importantly for his beloved hometown of Shelby, his legend will live on locally.

□ 1050

Thanks to an overwhelming community effort for the past several years, work is now under way to turn the historic 105-year-old Cleveland County Courthouse into the Earl Scruggs Center. This effort will focus on music and stories and preserve the legacy of Earl Scruggs.

Drawing on the region's rich history and music, the Scruggs Center will enlighten, educate, and celebrate the people, traditions, and values of Cleveland County and the region, for that matter, all the while honoring Earl Scruggs.

Legendary comedian and accomplished banjo player Steve Martin summed up Earl's legacy best when he said, ''Before him, no one had ever played the banjo like he did. After him, everybody played the banjo like he did, or at least tried.''

Imitation is the kindest form of flattery, and, indeed, Earl Scruggs has many folks that try to emulate what he created. He will be missed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 1 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1300

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 1 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Matthew Barnes, Capital Commission Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for civil government and the power that You invest in each of the Members in the people's House. With that power comes tremendous responsibility and sacrifice.

We know that Your son Jesus had all power in Heaven and in Earth, yet He condescended to our low estate in a grand act of service to mankind.

Truly, ''Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.''

We ask that such noble acts of courage, commitment, and compassion be evident in the men and women leading the United States.

Help them to remember that they serve their fellow citizens and are accountable to You, the Almighty God.

In the midst of this sacrificial service, may they make time to spend with their families and with You. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.

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 Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUTZMAN 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND MATTHEW BARNES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, today's opening prayer was given by my good friend and mentor, Matthew Barnes, who serves as chaplain at the Indiana State House and also serves as State director for Capital Commission in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I am only a freshman in this body, but it doesn't take a seasoned veteran to know that our government is made up of human beings who need wisdom, discernment, and grounding in the truth of God's word.

A true servant-leader, Matt has made it his mission to serve, teach, and pray for those who are in positions of authority. In 2004, he was called to serve Indiana's elected officials. Matt ministers in love, knowing that he serves a God whose will is good and gracious and whose law is truth.

In my time in the State legislature, I saw Matt give comfort and counsel to so many of my colleagues. His heart for the members of that body is inescapably clear.

Matt and his wife, Miriam, have three wonderful children: Sarah, Micah, and Emma. Their work and sacrifice have made Indiana a better place.

I'm honored that my friend has been able to join us today.

HONORING COACH PAT SUMMITT

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

Mrs. BLACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman of incredible strength and courage, one who has inspired and personally pushed numerous young ladies to achieve beyond their wildest dreams. I am of course talking about the record-setting leader of the Lady Vols basketball team, Pat Head Summitt.

Now, I could stand here and read off a list of her stats and accomplishments on the court—and they are many and quite impressive—but, Madam Speaker, I believe that would miss the true scope of Pat Summitt's impact not only on the sport, but on the lives of her players and so many who have watched her career.

While the world saw her impact on the sport, her focus was always on teaching young women about life and using their shared passion of basketball as the tool. Her student athletes were always students first. They left the University of Tennessee equipped for a successful life.

She instilled in her players the work ethic she learned on a dairy farm in Henrietta, Tennessee. It was her father's values of determination and hard work and her years of holding her own among the boys in her family that inspired the toughness, the drive to achieve, and the winning attitude.

Now the legendary Pat Summitt will inspire countless Americans off the court as she raises awareness in her personal fight against Alzheimer's. One item from her well-known list of the definite dozen is to be a competitor. Those of us that have admired her for years know that she is a true competitor and is ready for the fight.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children who were massacred under the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th century.

Each year, Armenians throughout the world mark April 24 as Genocide Remembrance Day by honoring those who perished from 1915 to 1923, and I join my friends and colleagues in remembering the victims today.

It's important to raise awareness about the Armenian genocide not only because it is an undeniable chapter in world history, but also because learning more about this horrific tragedy underscores the importance of eliminating intolerance and bigotry wherever it occurs.

Armenian Americans living in my home State of Rhode Island have made significant contributions through their leadership in business, law, academia, government, and the arts.

As a cosponsor of House Resolution 304, I strongly believe that the time has come for the United States Government to recognize this atrocity for what it was—genocide. I join my colleagues today in recognizing the victims of the Armenian genocide.

PRESIDENT'S POLICIES ENDANGERING SOCIAL SECURITY

(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. Madam Speaker, our Nation's Social Security system is sadly approaching bankruptcy. The Secretary of the Treasury spoke on Monday, revealing that Social Security benefits are expected to become insolvent in only 21 years—3 years sooner than was projected just last year.

In a recent article in the Washington Post, Emily Miller wrote:

> Thanks in large part to Mr. Obama's insistence, the program's 2011 deficit of $148 billion was the second largest single-year deterioration since 1983. If Washington doesn't do anything to address the program's imbalance, the trustees say it will take raising the payroll tax to 16.7 percent to cover the gap.

This administration continues to take money out of the Social Security fund, shifting it for programs we cannot afford. It is past the time for Congress to act and stop Washington's out-of-control spending, which will ultimately result in higher taxes and more debt, destroying jobs and putting senior citizens at risk.

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

Welcome, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, to Washington for Supreme Court oral arguments.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Madam Speaker, you had to look at their faces and right into their eyes to see the worry that these young people had.

Just yesterday, I convened a roundtable of students at Daemen College in my district and we talked about the biggest concern on their mind. It wasn't their final exams; it was the knowledge that in 3 short months, if this body does not act, these young people will face a doubling of the interest rate on their student loans from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. These young people are afraid; they're concerned.

I asked them what it would mean to them. One man who already has $120,000 in debt now said he would probably have to leave in order to start paying back his debt. One woman said she would probably have to take a fourth job on top of her third job. Another junior said he probably would not be back next year. Heartbreaking stories, ladies and gentlemen, but we can stop it from happening.

You've got to ask: What's wrong with this picture? Banks are lending to each other at about zero percent. You can get a home mortgage loan for 3.9 percent. Why are our young people, who are doing nothing other than having a shot at the American Dream that each one of us had by getting a good education, why are they going to be strapped with this debt?

I ask all of us to join in asking the House of Representatives leadership to allow us to vote on this bill.

□ 1310

MORE EPA REDTAPE MEANS FEWER ILLINOIS JOBS

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, once again, to express my concern about the EPA, their redtape, and its effect on jobs and the economy in my home State of Illinois.

In fact, a recent study found that the rules proposed by the EPA could destroy more jobs in Illinois than in any other State. According to this study, more than 38,000 Illinois jobs are at

risk. These new layers of redtape would especially be harmful in their impact on the price of electricity, raising costs for small businesses and forcing them to lay off employees.

In Illinois we could see electricity prices rise as much as 18 percent, a huge burden on small businesses already struggling to keep their doors open. Time and again, I've heard from small businesses in my district who are concerned about this regulatory onslaught.

But House Republicans are not standing idly by. With bipartisan support, we've passed a half-dozen pieces of legislation that would rein in the EPA and help protect American jobs.

Unfortunately, as with so many of the bills that we've passed to create jobs and spur economic growth, the Senate has refused to act. Perhaps another reminder of what is at stake will finally spur them to action.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, let me get this straight. My good friends on the Republican side are really interested in cutting taxes for the wealthy, but when it comes to maybe cutting the taxes that students would be paying on the student loans that they have by $1,000 more a year, they're not nearly so interested.

Well, let me read to you a posting to my Facebook from a young woman that really hits home. She wrote:

> Going to college was the worst decision of my life. I hate to say it, but it's true. I did everything right. I graduated high school early, at the top of my class. I got all my core courses out of the way at community college, then transferred to a 4-year college, but I couldn't afford it and had to stop just before my last year. It's the biggest regret of my life that I couldn't afford college. I'm not lazy, I'm not stupid, but I had the misfortune of being born poor.

Madam Speaker, it's time for us to make sure that the poor students in our country have the right to go to college and to see it as a good decision, not a wrong decision.

CONGRATULATING TWO PLANO HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the recent victories of two Plano high school teams: the 2012 Plano West girls soccer State champions and the 2012 Plano Senior High School WorldQuest National Champions.

Last weekend, the Plano West girls soccer team defeated Katy Seven Lakes, earning the school its fifth State title. Under first-year Coach Carley Phillips, who won the school a state title in 2002, the soccer program has excelled and continued in its success.

And last month, the Plano Senior High School's WorldQuest team successfully defended its national championship title. For the second year in a row, this team placed first in the national academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture.

Congratulations to these two stellar teams. That's the way to represent the great State of Texas. God bless you, and I salute you.

EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, in these tough economic times, it's critical that Congress work to make quality higher education available to all Americans. We know that investing in education is an investment in our future, an investment in the strength of America.

By the year 2018, 63 percent of all American jobs will require some level of higher education. Sadly, if Congress does not act soon, the interest rate for student loans will double from 3.4 to 6.8, higher than home loans. This will cause thousands of dollars in new debt for more than 7.4 million American students.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in Congress have refused to go forward with legislation that would prevent this crisis. And some Republican leaders have openly criticized students who graduate with college debt.

It's time that Congress worked together to help middle class families, not just the wealthiest few. We must pass legislation that strengthens the Pell program and prevents an increase in student loan rates.

Thank you, President Obama, for taking the lead in helping our future generations and leaders of tomorrow.

ANNUAL AUDITS FOR THE GSA

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

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to talk about the corruption, the fraud, the waste within GSA, an agency that has nearly a $10 billion slush fund that they hide from the American taxpayers every single year.

Today I'm going to be introducing a bill that will request transparency on an annual basis, show an annual audit so the American taxpayers can see exactly where this waste is going and hold this agency accountable.

We're going to hold another hearing on the issue to make sure that the waste stops, and that we actually start selling off some of the buildings that are sitting vacant right now today, an opportunity for Republicans and Democrats to actually come together, just getting rid of waste, and at the same time that we sell the properties and redevelop the things that we aren't using, put people back to work.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, which was observed last week on April 19. The theme of this year's Holocaust Remembrance Day was ''Choosing to Act,'' offering an important reminder of the sacredness of human life and the need for all of us to stand against evil.

The Holocaust represents one of the darkest periods in human history and illustrates the worst of human behavior, yet some still deny the events of the Holocaust ever occurred. It is no wonder that Israel is extremely concerned with the development of nuclear weapons in Iran, putting these arms in the hands of radicals who have shown no respect for human life or basic human rights.

We must support and stand by Israel during these dangerous times. We must always keep in the back of our minds the history of the Jewish people. Understanding their history helps us understand their concerns and feelings about what is currently going on in the world.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day we are reminded that the Jewish people have had firsthand experience with true evil, and we must work to ensure that such atrocities do not happen again.

KEEP THEM ON THE FARM

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the regulators are going after America's farms. Now they are considering prohibiting kids from working on farms. Growing up on a farm teaches kids valuable lessons and a strong work ethic.

Now the Federal Government is contemplating prohibiting kids from doing chores on their uncle's farm, including ''the storing, marketing, and transporting of farm product raw materials.''

According to the Department of Labor, ''prohibited places of employment would include county grain elevators, grain bins, feedlots, stockyards, and livestock exchanges.''

Anyone under 16 would not be allowed to drive any type of power equipment, including tractors. So if the farmer wants to hire a young boy to help him move some hay, it'd be a crime?

People who know nothing about farms are trying to stop educating our future farmers, because a lot of these

farm kids grow up to be farmers. Now we're faced with the problem that the average farmer in the United States is over 50.

If the regulators have their way, and young people are shut out, there will be a lost generation of American farmers. This ought not to be, but that's just the way it is.

KEEPING OUR FLYING PUBLIC SAFE

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, just over 3 years ago, Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed in my western New York community and that of Congresswoman CATHY HOCHUL. Sadly, all aboard were killed.

In the wake of this tragic crash, the families of the passengers on board Flight 3407 joined together and successfully fought for the inclusion of strong airline safety provisions in the Federal Aviation Administration's reauthorization, which was signed into law in August of 2010.

Crewmember screening and qualifications, in addition to pilot certification requirements, were factors that, if properly monitored, could have prevented the crash. We must see to it that the FAA follows through on the implementation of the reforms passed by this Congress.

Madam Speaker, keeping our flying public safe should be a top priority. I am committed to continuing the fight on behalf of the memory of those we lost on that day, and I urge my colleagues to join our efforts to achieve safer skies for all Americans.

□ 1320

BRIAN TERRY

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

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take note of something that occurred in this body, the other body, and on June 16 will occur in Arizona.

Brian Terry died more than a year ago as a border patrol agent serving his country on the Arizona border. He was shot and killed by smugglers with weapons that ultimately came from the United States and went across the border under the Operation Fast and Furious program. That's controversial.

But there is no controversy that Brian Terry lived and exemplified the American spirit in serving his country in the military and then as a border patrol agent.

On June 16, that border patrol station will open. On June 16, thanks to action here in the House weeks ago and in the Senate today, we will in fact name it after Brian Terry.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, 97 years ago, the Ottoman Empire orchestrated a murderous campaign that resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children and forced hundreds of thousands into exile.

Growing up in Fresno, California, the place William Saroyan, a great American author of Armenian descent, called home, I heard the stories of this tragic time between 1915 and 1923. The sons and daughters of survivors, time and time again, told the stories of their families.

The facts are clear. What happened 97 years ago can only be called by one name: genocide—the first genocide of the 20th century. Yet after nearly a century, the House of Representatives and current and past American Presidents have refused to recognize the Armenian genocide as such.

We cannot wait for a convenient moment, for it's not a convenient truth. Man's inhumanity to mankind never is. Now is the time to pass House Resolution 304 that I am a cosponsor of and formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

STAFFORD LOANS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. This past Friday, I spoke to the graduates of Pepperdine University School of Public Policy. I gave the commencement address.

Like many other students who will be graduating this year, they are determined and eager to take on the difficult challenges of this world. Unfortunately, many of them are leaving college with a mountain of student debt—debt that can keep them from pursuing opportunities which may not yield short-term financial rewards but could make our world a better place to live. You don't have to look far to find these amazing young people. Our offices are filled with them.

Others have said it today, but I'm going to say it again. We must pass legislation to prevent the interest rate on Stafford loans from doubling this July 1.

It's also why I've introduced H.R. 4286, which would allow students to begin paying back their Federal loans 12 months after they graduate instead of 6, and I hope I have support on that. This is commonsense legislation that will allow new grads the chance to start their careers without the burden of monthly student loan payments.

THE BLACKLISTING OF STATES

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, despite the fact that President Obama took swift action to punish those responsible for the outrageous abuse at the GSA, some in Washington, like the junior Senator from Kentucky, are looking to score cheap political points by attacking Las Vegas and Nevada's tourism industry.

These Republicans are trying to bring back the last administration's so-called blacklist of resort cities like Las Vegas and Reno, prohibiting Federal agencies from traveling to Nevada to hold conferences and seminars. This policy has damaged the reputation of my State, hurt our economy, and killed jobs. Thanks to President Obama, this blacklist was lifted and discrimination against Las Vegas and Reno was ended.

It's time that we make this policy permanent. That's why I'm going to introduce legislation to prohibit the blacklisting of any city in America. This means discrimination against cities like Las Vegas and Reno will be illegal.

Las Vegas wasn't the problem; the irresponsible behavior of the GSA was.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for jobs and join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

STAFFORD LOANS

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Madam Speaker, I represent Hawaii, the youngest State in this Union. Many of our people immigrated to our wonderful State within the last hundred-plus years. When they immigrated, they came to work on plantations for the most part, and they knew one thing: for their children to be better, to get ahead, they needed an education. And there has always been a very strong belief that education was the answer.

This July, we will see the most popular student loan increase in its interest rate from 3.4 to 6.8 percent. It will affect 7.4 million students and will mean $1,000 a month more for each and every one of them.

Think about it, Madam Speaker. We say the students are our future. We need them to be in college so that we will be the great Nation that we once were. Then I ask you: Why is it that we haven't taken up the legislation to again freeze the loan rates?

Keep it at 3.4 percent so we can have our future, and we can show these students that we really believe in them and invest in them.

MARQUIS ALEXANDER

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a

milestone reached by Marquis Alexander. He is the first African American to become commander of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

Currently, Marquis is a corporal in the U.S. Marine Reserves and a rising senior majoring in international studies. Congratulations.

The history of African Americans at A&M University dates back to the founding of the institution. African Americans in the Texas Legislature advocated for and supported the passage of the Moral Land Grant Act in 1866, which established A&M College of Texas between 1876 and 1963. African Americans worked at Texas A&M as laborers, maids, custodians, and various other support staff; however, they were prohibited from attending as students and faculty until 1963.

It's been a long time, but here we are today to congratulate this young man, a graduate of Barbara Jordan High School in the 18th Congressional District, my district, in Houston, Texas. He is the oldest of 10 children, and the first in his family to go to college. He is said to be an admirable and mature young man. Alexander is currently a corporal in the Marine Reserves. He has become the first person with military experience to head the corps.

Texas A&M University has the proud distinction of having the most graduates to enlist in our Nation's Armed Forces when compared to other nonmilitary academies.

Mr. Alexander grew up in my home city of Houston. Our city is proud of his achievements. He has always wanted to attend Texas A&M. He was so gung ho for the military that he participated in the Texas A&M Junior Cadet Accessions Program while still in high school. A week after enlisting in the Marine Corps, he received a letter of acceptance from Texas A&M. Yet true to his word and commitment, Alexander attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Depot in San Diego.

He is the kind of young American that we can be proud of. I am so proud of him. Congratulations to you and your family. This is a glory hallelujah day, and congratulations to Texas A&M for opening it up to being a student body president and yell leader.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, over the years, it's become harder to find the ''Made in America'' label even though we know that a robust manufacturing industry is essential for our economy and it creates jobs.

Thankfully, we've got a great opportunity to help manufacturing, the Export-Import Bank, the entity that helps American companies export American goods. The U.S. Chamber has urged the bank's reauthorization because it supports American job creation.

Since 2007, companies in my home State of Virginia have supported almost a billion dollars in export sales because of the bank, with those in my district alone supporting $130 million in exports.

Last week, House Republicans brought up a bill to help small businesses, allegedly, that will cost taxpayers $46 billion. Eighty-five percent of the Export-Import Bank's transactions aid those very same small businesses, and the bank provides a net benefit to taxpayers—more than $4 billion over the last 6 years.

The Export-Import Bank is good business, Madam Speaker. It creates jobs. It supports American companies, and it returns a profit to the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support its reauthorization.

□ 1330

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). 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 later.

DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2146) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2146

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 ''Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2012'' or the ''DATA Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING

Sec. 101. General requirements for accountability and transparency in Federal spending.
Sec. 102. Data standardization for accountability and transparency in Federal spending.
Sec. 103. Amendments to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.
Sec. 104. Effective date and deadlines for accountability and transparency in Federal spending.

TITLE II—FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION

Sec. 201. Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.
Sec. 202. Conforming amendment relating to compensation of Chairman.
Sec. 203. Conforming amendments related to Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board.

TITLE III—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Classified information.
Sec. 302. Paperwork Reduction Act exemption.
Sec. 303. Matching program exception for inspectors general.
Sec. 304. Transfer of Consolidated Federal Funds Report.
Sec. 305. Transfer of authority over Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance to Commission.
Sec. 306. Government Accountability Office Improvement.
Sec. 307. Amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 and the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008.
Sec. 308. Limits and transparency for travel and conference spending.
Sec. 309. Effective date.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission established under subchapter III of chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(2) The term ''Executive agency'' has the meaning provided by section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

TITLE I—ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING

SEC. 101. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 35 the following new chapter:

''CHAPTER 36—ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING

''SUBCHAPTER I—REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

''3601. Definitions.
''3602. Recipient reporting requirement.
''3603. Agency reporting requirement.
''3604. Treasury reporting requirement.
''3605. Exemptions from recipient reporting requirement.

''SUBCHAPTER II—DATA STANDARDIZATION

''3611. Data standardization for reporting information.
''3612. Full disclosure of information.
''3613. Federal accountability portal.
''3614. Agency responsibilities.
''3615. Consolidated financial reporting.
''3616. Office of Management and Budget responsibilities.
''3617. Treasury responsibilities.
''3618. General Services Administration responsibilities.

''SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION

''3621. Establishment.
''3622. Composition of the Commission.
''3623. Functions.
''3624. Powers.
''3625. Employment, personnel, and related authorities.
''3626. Transfer of certain personnel.
''3627. Advisory committee to Commission.
''3628. Authorization and availability of appropriations.
''3629. Sunset.

''SUBCHAPTER IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''3641. Independence of inspectors general.
''3642. Effective date.

''SUBCHAPTER I—REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

''§ 3601. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) RECIPIENT.—The term 'recipient' means—

''(A) any person that receives Federal funds pursuant to a Federal award, either directly or through a subgrant or subcontract at any tier; and

''(B) any State, local, or tribal government, or any government corporation, that receives Federal funds pursuant to a Federal award, either directly or through a subgrant or subcontract at any tier.

''(2) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term 'Federal award' means Federal financial assistance and expenditures that—

''(A) include grants, subgrants, loans, awards, cooperative agreements, agreements entered into under other transactional authority, and other forms of financial assistance; and

''(B) include contracts, subcontracts, purchase orders, task orders, and delivery orders.

''(3) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission established under subchapter III of this chapter, or any successor entity to the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.

''(4) CHAIRMAN.—The term 'Chairman' means the Chairman of the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.

''(5) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term 'Executive agency' has the meaning provided by section 105 of title 5, except the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

''(6) FOREIGN CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1977.—The term 'Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977' means—

''(A) section 30A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78dd–1); and

''(B) sections 104 and 104A of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 78dd–2).

''§ 3602. Recipient reporting requirement

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each recipient shall report to the Commission each receipt and use of Federal funds pursuant to a Federal award.

''(b) CHARACTERISTICS OF REPORTS.—

''(1) FREQUENCY OF REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall designate, by rule, the frequency of reports to be submitted by recipients under subsection (a), but the frequency shall not be less than once each quarter.

''(B) DEADLINES.—The Commission shall, by rule, specify deadlines by which a particular receipt or use of Federal funds must be reported by a recipient under subsection (a). In specifying deadlines under this subparagraph, the Commission shall take into account the capabilities of the management and accounting systems and processes of recipients. The Commission shall, by rule, provide for extensions of the deadlines specified under this subparagraph in cases of hardship or emergency.

''(C) CONTINUOUS OR AUTOMATIC REPORTING.—To the extent practicable, the Commission shall require continuous or automatic reporting for compliance with this section.

''(2) CONTENT OF REPORTS.—Each report submitted by a recipient under subsection (a) shall contain the following information:

''(A) An identification of the recipient, including the recipient's name and location (including city, county, State, congressional district, and country), with location information provided in proper United States Postal Service standardized format, including ZIP+4, or proper international postal service standardized format where applicable.

''(B) An identification of the recipient and the parent entity of the recipient, if the recipient is owned by another entity.

''(C) An identification of the Executive agency.

''(D) An identification of the Federal award.

''(E) If applicable, an identification of the program pursuant to which the Federal award was awarded.

''(F) The total amount of Federal funds received from that Executive agency for the Federal award, during the period covered by the report.

''(G) The amount of Federal funds from the Federal award that were expended or obligated by the recipient to projects or activities during the period covered by the report.

''(H) A list of all projects or activities for which Federal funds were expended or obligated.

''(I) If the Federal award is a prime award, an identification of its immediate subawards.

''(J) If the Federal award is a subaward, an identification of its immediate prime award.

''(K) Such additional information reasonably related to the receipt and use of Federal funds as the Commission shall, by rule, require.

''(3) USE OF DATA STANDARDS.—The reports submitted under this section shall use the common data elements and data reporting standards designated by the Commission under section 3611 of this title.

''(c) FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS BY PRIME AWARDEES.—The Commission shall, by rule, permit prime awardees to fulfill the requirements of this section on behalf of subawardees, so long as all subaward tiers are reported.

''(d) GUIDANCE BY COMMISSION.—The Commission shall issue guidance to recipients on compliance with this section.

''(e) PREPOPULATION.—To the extent practicable, the Commission shall prepopulate its electronic systems for the submission of reports required by this section with data submitted to it by agencies under section 3603 of this title, and shall permit recipients either to confirm that prepopulated data is correct or, if it is incorrect, to make corrections.

''(f) REGISTRATION.—Recipients required to report information under subsection (a) shall register with the Central Contractor Registration database or complete such other registration requirements as the Commission shall, by rule, require.

''§ 3603. Agency reporting requirement

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each Executive agency shall report to the Commission all obligations and expenditures of Federal funds.

''(b) CHARACTERISTICS OF REPORTS.—

''(1) FREQUENCY OF REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall designate, by rule, and after consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, the frequency of reports to be submitted by agencies under subsection (a), but the frequency shall not be less than once each quarter.

''(B) DEADLINES.—The Commission shall, by rule, and after consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, specify the deadline by which an obligation or expenditure must be reported by an agency under subsection (a).

''(C) CONTINUOUS OR AUTOMATIC REPORTING.—To the extent practicable, the Commission shall require continuous or automatic reporting for compliance with this section.

''(2) CONTENT OF REPORT.—

''(A) INFORMATION RELATING TO FEDERAL AWARDS.—Each report submitted by an Executive agency under subsection (a) that relates to a Federal award shall contain the following information for that Federal award:

''(i) An identification of the recipient, including the recipient's name and location (including city, State, congressional district, and country), with location information provided in proper United States Postal Service standardized format, including ZIP+4, or proper international postal service standardized format where applicable.

''(ii) An identification of the recipient and the parent entity of the recipient, should the entity be owned by another entity.

''(iii) An identification of the Executive agency.

''(iv) An identification of the Federal award.

''(v) If applicable, an identification of the program pursuant to which the Federal award was awarded.

''(vi) If necessary, the total amount of the award.

''(vii) The total amount of Federal funds received by the recipient from the Executive agency for the Federal award, during the period covered by the report.

''(viii) Information on the award, including transaction type, funding agency, the North American Industry Classification System code or Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number (if applicable), the program source, and an award title descriptive of the purpose of each funding action.

''(ix) Such additional information reasonably related to the Federal award as the Commission shall, by rule, require.

''(B) INFORMATION NOT RELATING TO FEDERAL AWARDS.—The content of each report submitted by an Executive agency under subsection (a) that does not relate to a Federal award shall be designated by the Commission, by rule, and after consultation with the Office of Management and Budget.

''(C) IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—To the extent practicable, reports submitted by agencies under subsection (a) shall identify the programs, budget functions, Treasury accounts, and appropriations categories pursuant to which Federal funds are obligated or expended.

''(D) USE OF OTHER REPORTING INFORMATION.—To the extent practicable, the Commission shall permit agencies to comply with subsection (a) by submitting the same information that they submit or contribute for other governmentwide reporting requirements, including the following:

''(i) For information about Federal awards—

''(I) the Federal assistance awards data system established pursuant to section 6102a of title 31, United States Code;

''(II) the Federal procurement data system established pursuant to section 1122(a)(4) of title 41, United States Code;

''(III) the common application and reporting system established pursuant to section 6 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note); or

''(IV) such systems as may be established to replace or supplement the systems identified in this clause.

''(ii) For information about internal expenditures and accounting, the Federal Agencies' Centralized Trial-Balance Systems (FACTS I and FACTS II), the Governmentwide Financial Report System (GFRS), the Intragovernmental Fiduciary Confirmation System (IFCS), or such systems as may be established to replace or supplement such systems.

''(3) USE OF DATA STANDARDS.—The reports submitted under this section shall use the common data elements and data reporting

standards designated by the Commission under section 3611 of this title.

''(4) INFORMATION ALSO SUBJECT TO RECIPIENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—In complying with this section, each Executive agency shall identify, to the extent practicable, Federal awards made by the agency that are subject to the recipient reporting requirement of section 3602 of this title so that information reported by recipients and information reported by the agency can be directly compared.

''(c) GUIDANCE BY COMMISSION.—The Commission shall issue guidance to Executive agencies on compliance with this section.

''(d) COMMISSION TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE.—The Commission shall regularly report to Congress on each Executive agency's compliance with this section, including the timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and interoperability of the data submitted by each Executive agency. The Commission shall make these reports publicly available contemporaneously online.

''§ 3604. Treasury reporting requirement

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Department of the Treasury shall report to the Commission disbursements of Federal funds.

''(b) CHARACTERISTICS OF REPORTS.—

''(1) FREQUENCY OF REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission and the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the frequency of reports submitted by the Department of the Treasury under subsection (a), but the frequency shall not be less than once each quarter.

''(B) CONTINUOUS OR AUTOMATIC REPORTING.—To the extent practicable, the Commission and the Department of the Treasury shall establish continuous or automatic reporting for compliance with this section.

''(2) CONTENT OF REPORT.—

''(A) The Commission and the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine the content of reports submitted by the Department of the Treasury under subsection (a).

''(B) To the extent practicable, reports submitted by the Department of the Treasury under subsection (a) shall identify the programs, budget functions, Treasury accounts, and appropriations categories pursuant to which Federal funds are disbursed.

''(3) USE OF DATA STANDARDS.—The reports submitted under this section shall use the common data elements and data reporting standards designated by the Commission under section 3611 of this title.

''(c) COMMISSION TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE.—The Commission shall regularly submit to Congress reports on compliance by the Department of the Treasury with this section, including the timeliness, completeness, accuracy, and interoperability of the data submitted. The Commission shall make all reports submitted under this subsection publicly available contemporaneously online.

''§ 3605. Exemptions from recipient reporting requirement

''(a) EXEMPTION.—A recipient is exempt from the reporting requirement of section 3602 of this title with respect to funds received pursuant to a Federal award if—

''(1) the recipient is an individual; and

''(2) either—

''(A) the total amount of Federal funds received by the recipient does not exceed $100,000 in the current calendar year or fiscal year; or

''(B) no transaction in which the recipient has received Federal funds during the current calendar year or fiscal year has exceeded $24,999.

''(b) AUTHORITY TO GRANT ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS.—The Commission may, by rule, grant additional exemptions under this section for classes or categories of recipients.

''(c) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—The Commission shall, by rule, provide for an adjustment of the dollar thresholds specified in subsection (a)(2) to maintain the constant dollar value of the threshold.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle III of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 35 the following new item:

''36. Accountability and Transparency in Federal Spending ..... 3601''.

SEC. 102. DATA STANDARDIZATION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING.

Chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 101, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

''SUBCHAPTER II—DATA STANDARDIZATION

''§ 3611. Data standardization for reporting information

''(a) COMMON DATA ELEMENTS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, designate common data elements, such as codes, identifiers, and fields, for information required to be reported by recipients and agencies under this chapter, including identifiers for recipients, awards, and agencies.

''(2) CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMON DATA ELEMENTS.—The common data elements designated under this subsection shall, to the extent practicable, be nonproprietary.

''(3) EXISTING COMMON DATA ELEMENTS.—In designating common data elements under this subsection, the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, ensure interoperability and incorporate the following:

''(A) Common data elements developed and maintained by an international voluntary consensus standards body, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, such as the International Organization for Standardization.

''(B) Common data elements developed and maintained by intragovernmental partnerships, such as the National Information Exchange Model.

''(C) Common data elements developed and maintained by Federal entities with authority over contracting and financial assistance, such as the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council.

''(D) Common data elements developed and maintained by accounting standards organizations.

''(b) DATA REPORTING STANDARDS.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, designate data reporting standards to govern the reporting required to be performed by recipients and agencies under this title.

''(2) CHARACTERISTICS OF DATA REPORTING STANDARDS.—The data reporting standards designated under this subsection shall, to the extent practicable—

''(A) incorporate a widely accepted, nonproprietary, searchable, platform-independent computer-readable format;

''(B) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting principles; and

''(C) be capable of being continually upgraded as necessary.

''(3) EXISTING DATA REPORTING STANDARDS.—In designating reporting standards under this subsection, the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, incorporate existing nonproprietary standards, such as the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL).

''§ 3612. Full disclosure of information

''The Commission shall publish online all information submitted by recipients and agencies pursuant to sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of this title in accordance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).

''§ 3613. Federal accountability portal

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall establish and maintain a government-wide Internet-based data access system, to be known as a 'Federal accountability portal', to carry out the functions described in subsection (b).

''(b) FUNCTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal accountability portal shall incorporate—

''(A) information submitted by recipients and agencies under sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of this title;

''(B) other information maintained by Federal, State, local, and foreign government agencies; and

''(C) other commercially and publicly available information.

''(2) SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.—The Federal accountability portal shall be designed and operated to carry out the following functions:

''(A) Combine information submitted by recipients and agencies under sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of this title with other compilations of information, including those listed in paragraph (1).

''(B) Permit Executive agencies, in accordance with applicable law, to verify the eligibility and responsibility of recipients and potential recipients with respect to the receipt and use of Federal funds.

''(C) Permit Executive agencies, inspectors general, law enforcement agencies, and appropriate State authorities, in accordance with applicable law, to track Federal awards and recipients to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

''(D) Serve as the primary accountability portal for the entire Federal Government.

''(c) GUIDANCE BY COMMISSION.—The Commission shall issue guidance on the use of and access to the Federal accountability portal.

''§ 3614. Agency responsibilities

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—As a condition of receipt of Federal funds of an Executive agency pursuant to any Federal award, the Executive agency shall require any recipient of such funds to provide the information required under section 3602 of this title.

''(b) PENALTIES FOR RECIPIENT NONCOMPLIANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an Executive agency may impose a civil penalty in an amount not more than $250,000 on a recipient of Federal funds from that Executive agency that does not provide the information required under section 3602 of this title or provides information that contains a material omission or misstatement.

''(2) NONPRECLUSION.—The imposition of a civil penalty under this subsection does not preclude any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy that is available by law to the United States or any other person. Any amounts received from a civil penalty under this subsection shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of the appropriation or appropriations from which the award is made.

''(3) NOTIFICATION.—The head of an Executive agency shall provide a written notification to a recipient that fails to provide the information required under section 3602 of this title or provides information that contains a material omission or misstatement. Such notification shall provide the recipient with information on how to comply with the requirements of such section 3602 and notice of the penalties for failing to do so. The head of the Executive agency may not impose a civil penalty under paragraph (1) until 60 days after the date of the notification.

''(c) COMPLIANCE WITH COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—Executive agencies shall comply with the instructions and guidance issued by the Commission under this Act.

''(d) INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of the Commission for information or assistance from any Executive agency or other entity of the Federal Government, the head of such entity shall, insofar as is practicable and not in contravention of any existing law, furnish such information or assistance to the Commission, or an authorized designee.

''(2) REPORT OF REFUSALS.—Whenever information or assistance requested by the Commission is, in the judgment of the Commission, unreasonably refused or not provided, the Commission shall report the circumstances to Congress.

''(e) REQUIREMENT TO USE COMMON DATA ELEMENTS AND DATA REPORTING STANDARDS.—After the Commission designates any common data element or data reporting standard under section 3611 of this title, each Executive agency shall issue guidance that requires every recipient of Federal funds under any of its Federal awards to use that common data element or data reporting standard for any information reported to that Executive agency to which the common data element or data reporting standard is applicable.

''(f) PREPOPULATION.—To the extent practicable, each Executive agency shall use data from the website maintained by the Commission under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) to prepopulate any electronic systems maintained by that agency for the submission of reports on the receipt and use of Federal funds distributed by that agency.

''§ 3615. Consolidated financial reporting

''(a) REPORT IDENTIFYING RECIPIENT FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO BE CONSOLIDATED.—In consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, each Executive agency shall, not later than two years after the effective date of this chapter, submit to the President, Congress, and the Commission a report that—

''(1) describes any agency-specific financial reporting requirements for recipients of Federal funds pursuant to a Federal award from the agency;

''(2) identifies every element of information that such recipients must regularly submit to the agency pursuant to such requirements; and

''(3) for each element so identified, identifies whether that element or a similar element is already being reported to the Commission by such recipients under this title.

''(b) DATE CERTAIN THAT RECIPIENTS MAY USE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL REPORTING.—Beginning on the date that is three years after the effective date of this chapter, recipients of Federal funds are deemed to have satisfied the agency-specific financial reporting requirements identified in the reports required by subsection (a) by transmitting the same information to the Commission, in a manner prescribed by the Commission.

''(c) RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION.—After an Executive agency has submitted its report under subsection (a), the Executive agency shall issue guidance notifying recipients of Federal funds under its awards that they may, as of the date that is three years after the effective date of this chapter, satisfy those agency-specific financial reporting requirements identified by the agency in its report required under subsection (a) by reporting the same information to the Commission only.

''(d) COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(1) After an Executive agency submits its report under subsection (a), the Commission shall promulgate rules describing the manner in which the agency-specific financial reporting requirements identified in the report may be met by recipients of Federal funds from that agency through reporting to the Commission only.

''(2) Upon receipt of agency-specific financial reporting information as described under this section, the Commission shall immediately make such information available to the Executive agency to which the information had previously been required to be submitted.

''§ 3616. Office of Management and Budget responsibilities

''After the Commission designates any common data element or data reporting standard under section 3611 of this title, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance that requires Executive agencies to use that common data element or data reporting standard for any information reported by Executive agencies to the Office of Management and Budget to which the common data element or data reporting standard is applicable.

''§ 3617. Treasury responsibilities

''After the Commission designates any common data element or data reporting standard under section 3611 of this title, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue guidance that requires Executive agencies to use that common data element or data reporting standard for any information reported by Executive agencies to the Department of the Treasury to which the common data element or data reporting standard is applicable.

''§ 3618. General Services Administration responsibilities

''After the Commission designates any common data element or data reporting standard under section 3611 of this title, the Administrator of General Services shall apply that common data element or data reporting standard for any information contained in acquisition-related databases maintained by the General Services Administration to which the common data element or data reporting standard is applicable.''.

SEC. 103. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2006.

(a) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR USASPENDING.GOV.—Section 2(c) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2);

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

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(4) shall, to the extent practicable, publish data under this section in a manner that complies with applicable principles and best practices in the private sector for the publication of open government data;

''(5) shall serve as a public portal for Federal financial information, including information concerning all Federal awards and information concerning the expenditure of all Federal funds;

''(6) shall—

''(A) make available all information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d) in a reasonably timely manner;

''(B) make available all information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d), using the common data elements and data reporting standards designated by the Commission under section 3611 of title 31, United States Code;

''(C) make available all information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d) without charge, license, or registration requirement;

''(D) permit all information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d) to be searched and aggregated;

''(E) permit all information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d) to be downloaded, including downloaded in bulk;

''(F) to the extent practicable, disseminate information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d) via automatic electronic means;

''(G) to the extent practicable, permit information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d) to be freely shared by the public, such as by social media; and

''(H) to the extent practicable, use permanent uniform resource locators for information published under subsections (b), (c), and (d).''.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT ALL DATA SUBMITTED UNDER DATA ACT AND CHAPTER 61 OF TITLE 31 ON USASPENDING.GOV.—Section 2 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

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

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsections (c) and (d):

''(c) FULL DISCLOSURE OF DATA SUBMITTED UNDER THE DIGITAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall publish on the website established under this section all information submitted by recipients and agencies pursuant to sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of title 31, United States Code, as added by the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2012.

''(2) AGGREGATION OF INFORMATION THAT IS EXEMPT FROM RECIPIENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall publish, online and in the aggregate, information that is exempt from recipient reporting under section 3605 of such title but that is reported by an Executive agency under section 3603 of such title in the aggregate.

''(d) FULL DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 61 OF TITLE 31.—The Commission shall publish on the website established under this section all information contained in the information system required under section 6103 of title 31, United States Code.''.

(c) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—Subsection 2(a) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) RECIPIENT.—The term 'recipient' means—

''(A) any person that receives Federal funds pursuant to a Federal award, either directly or through a subgrant or subcontract at any tier; and

''(B) any State, local, or tribal government, or any government corporation, that receives Federal funds pursuant to a Federal award, either directly or through a subgrant or subcontract at any tier.

''(5) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission established under subchapter III of chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code, or any successor entity to the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.''.

(d) NEW TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 2(f) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 is amended—

(1) by striking ''Nothing'' and inserting the following:

''(1) ACCESS TO OTHER DATA.—Nothing''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) NEW TECHNOLOGIES.—Nothing in this Act shall prohibit the Commission from complying with the requirements of this section using such new technologies as may replace websites for data publication and dissemination.''.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO REPLACE OMB WITH COMMISSION FOR MANAGEMENT OF USASPENDING.GOV.—Section 2 of such Act (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ''Office of Management and Budget'' and inserting ''Commission'' both places it appears in paragraph (1); and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking ''Director of the Office of Management and Budget'' and inserting ''Commission'' in paragraph (1) and in paragraph (3).

(f) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISIONS.—Section 2(b) of such Act (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is further amended by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(g) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is further amended—

(1) in section 2(b), by striking ''Not later than January 1, 2008, the'' and inserting ''The''; and

(2) in section 2(g)—

(A) by striking ''Committee on Government Reform'' and inserting ''Committee on Oversight and Government Reform''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by inserting ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(ii) by striking ''; and'' at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (C).

SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE DATE AND DEADLINES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN FEDERAL SPENDING.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 101, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

''SUBCHAPTER IV—GENERAL PROVISIONS

''§ 3641. Independence of inspectors general

''Nothing in this chapter shall affect the independent authority or discretion of an inspector general to determine whether or how to conduct an audit, investigation, or any other function authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to disclose any information relating to an audit or investigation.

''§ 3642. Effective date

''This chapter takes effect on the date of the enactment of this chapter.''.

(b) DEADLINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.—Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act, the President shall appoint Commissioners to the Commission under section 3622 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(2) COMMISSION DEADLINES.—

(A) Within 60 days after the effective date of this Act, the Commission shall establish the committee required under section 3627 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(B) Within 180 days after the effective date of this Act, the Commission shall—

(i) promulgate rules and issue guidance under sections 3602 and 3603 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act;

(ii) together with the Secretary of the Treasury, determine the frequency and content of reports to be submitted to the Commission by the Department of the Treasury under section 3604 of such title, as so added;

(iii) designate common data elements under section 3611(a) of such title and data reporting standards under section 3611(b) of such title, as so added; and

(iv) establish one or more websites under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, as amended by this Act.

(3) AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT DEADLINES.—

(A) Within one year after the effective date of this Act, each Executive agency shall implement section 3614(a) of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(B) Within two years after the Commission designates any common data element or data reporting standard under section 3611 of such title, as so added—

(i) each Executive agency shall issue guidance under section 3614(e) of such title, as so added;

(ii) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance under section 3615 of such title, as so added; and

(iii) the Administrator of General Services shall take the actions required under section 3617 of such title, as so added.

(4) TREASURY DEADLINES.—

(A) Within 180 days after the effective date of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, together with the Commission, shall determine the frequency and content of reports to be submitted to the Commission by the Department of the Treasury under section 3604 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(B) Within 180 days after the Commission and the Secretary of the Treasury determine the frequency and content of reports to be submitted to the Commission by the Department of the Treasury under section 3604 of such title, as so added, the Department of the Treasury shall begin to submit such reports to the Commission.

(C) Within two years after the Commission designates any common data element or data reporting standard under section 3611 of such title, as so added, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue guidance under section 3616 of such title, as so added.

(5) RECIPIENT DEADLINES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or the amendments made by this Act, no recipient shall be required to comply with this Act or such amendments until 180 days after the Commission has issued rules and guidance under section 3602 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act.

(6) TRANSFER OF USASPENDING.GOV.—Within 180 days after the effective date of this Act, the Commission and the Office of Management and Budget shall transfer the management and control of USASpending.gov from the Office of Management and Budget to the Commission, as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, as amended by this Act.

TITLE II—FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION

SEC. 201. FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION.

Chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 101, is further amended by inserting after subchapter II the following new subchapter:

''SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SPENDING TRANSPARENCY COMMISSION

''§ 3621. Establishment

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission as an independent agency in the Executive Branch.

''(b) FUNCTIONS AND POWERS TRANSFERRED.—

''(1) FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.—Except as provided in this section, there are transferred to the Commission all functions of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board.

''(2) POWERS, AUTHORITIES, RIGHTS, AND DUTIES.—The Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission shall succeed to all powers, authorities, rights, and duties that were vested in the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board on the day before the effective date of this chapter.

''§ 3622. Composition of the Commission

''(a) MEMBERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of five Commissioners who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate.

''(2) PARTY AFFILIATION.—Not more than three of the members of the Commission shall be members of the same political party.

''(3) TERM.—Each Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years and until a successor is appointed and has qualified, except that—

''(A) a Commissioner shall not so continue to serve beyond the expiration of the next session of Congress subsequent to the expiration of such term of office;

''(B) any Commissioner appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which that Commissioner's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term; and

''(C) the terms of office of the Commissioners first taking office after the enactment of this paragraph shall expire as designated by the President at the time of nomination, one at the end of one year, one at the end of two years, one at the end of three years, one at the end of four years, and one at the end of five years.

''(4) COMPENSATION.—An individual appointed to the Commission under this subsection shall be compensated at the rate of basic pay prescribed for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5.

''(b) CHAIRMAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a member of the Commission as Chairman, who shall serve as Chairman at the pleasure of the President. An individual may be appointed as Chairman at the same time that person is appointed as a Commissioner. At any time, the President may appoint, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate, a different Chairman, and the Commissioner previously appointed as Chairman may complete that Commissioner's term as a Commissioner.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Chairman shall be the chief administrative officer of the Commission and shall preside at meetings of the Commission.

''(3) POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.—

''(A) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and in section 3625 of this chapter, the executive and administrative functions of the Commission, including functions of the Commission with respect to the appointment and supervision of personnel employed under the Commission, the distribution of business among such personnel and among administrative units of the Commission, and the use and expenditure of funds, according to budget categories, plans, programs, and priorities established and approved by the Commission, shall be exercised solely by the Chairman.

''(B) In carrying out any of his functions under the provisions of this paragraph, the Chairman shall be governed by the general policies, plans, priorities, and budgets approved by the Commission and by such regulatory decisions, findings, and determinations as the Commission may by law be authorized to make.

''(C) The appointment by the Chairman of the heads of major administrative units under the Commission shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.

''(D) Personnel employed regularly and full time in the immediate offices of Commissioners other than the Chairman shall not be affected by the provisions of this paragraph.

''(E) The Commission shall be responsible for the functions of revising budget estimates of the Commission and determining the distribution of appropriated funds according to major programs and purposes of the Commission.

''(F) The Chairman may authorize the performance by any officer, employee, or administrative unit under the Chairman's jurisdiction of any functions of the Chairman under this paragraph.

''(4) LIMITATION ON TERMS.—No person appointed as Chairman under this subsection shall serve as Chairman for more than 10 years, whether or not such service is consecutive.

''(5) INTERIM CHAIRMAN.—Upon the effective date of this chapter, the person serving as Chairperson of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board on the day before the effective date of this chapter shall serve as acting Chairman of the Commission until the President appoints a Chairman of the Commission pursuant to this subsection.

''(c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall not impair the right of the remaining Commissioners to exercise all the powers of the Commission.

''§ 3623. Functions

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

''(1) be responsible for the collection, storage, and public disclosure of information about Federal spending;

''(2) serve as the authoritative government source for the information about Federal spending that it collects; and

''(3) coordinate and conduct oversight of Federal funds in order to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

''(b) SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Commission shall include each of the following:

''(1) Receiving, storing, and publicly disseminating all of the information that is reported to it under sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of this title.

''(2) Reviewing whether reporting under section 3602 of this title meets applicable standards and specifies the purpose of the Federal award and measures of performance.

''(3) Identifying possible criminal activity and referring such matters to appropriate Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities.

''(4) Supporting ongoing criminal investigations, prosecutions, and related proceedings.

''(5) Furnishing research, analytical, and informational services to Executive agencies, inspectors general, law enforcement agencies, and appropriate State authorities in the interest of detection, prevention, and prosecution of waste, fraud, and abuse of Federal funds.

''(6) Regularly evaluating the quality of the data submitted to it under sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of this title.

''(7) Standardizing common data elements and data reporting standards to foster transparency and accountability for Federal spending, as required by section 3611 of this title.

''(8) Reviewing whether there are appropriate mechanisms for interagency collaboration relating to Federal funds, including coordinating and collaborating to the extent practicable with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency established by section 11 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(9) Issuing a report in accordance with subsection (e) on the feasibility of collecting and publishing online tax expenditures data.

''(c) PRIORITIES IN ANALYSES AND REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Commission shall give high priority to analyses and reviews relating to Federal funds—

''(A) awarded without the use of competitive procedures; or

''(B) awarded to any contractor found to be in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977.

''(2) IDENTIFICATION.—The Commission shall identify any contractor found to be in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 as a violator of such Act in any contract information related to such contractor published online under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

''(d) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) REPORTS.—

''(A) REGULAR REPORTS ON DATA QUALITY AUDITS.—The Commission shall regularly submit to the President and Congress reports on its audits of the quality of the data submitted to it under sections 3602, 3603, and 3604 of this title.

''(B) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES.—The Commission shall submit semi-annual reports to the President and Congress, summarizing the activities and findings of the Commission and, in the Commission's discretion, the findings of inspectors general of Executive agencies that relate to the Commission's activities during the reporting period.

''(C) REPORT ON SAVINGS.—Not later than five years after the effective date of this chapter, the Commission shall submit to the President, Congress, and the Comptroller General of the United States a report containing estimates of the direct and indirect cost savings to the Treasury achieved as a result of the Commission's activities.

''(D) OTHER REPORTS.—Section 2(f) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 requires another report by the Commission.

''(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commission shall make all reports submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available contemporaneously online.

''(3) GAO EVALUATION.—Upon receipt of the report submitted by the Commission under paragraph (1)(C), the Comptroller General shall conduct an evaluation of the report and submit the evaluation to Congress within six months after receipt of the report, with such findings and recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

''(e) TAX EXPENDITURES REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (b)(7), not later than one year after the effective date of this chapter, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on tax expenditures data that includes the following:

''(A) A description of processes that could be put in place to collect and disseminate tax expenditures data, and the potential effects of making such data publicly available on the Internal Revenue Service, taxpayers, and other relevant parties determined by the Commission.

''(B) Any changes in law that are needed to make such tax expenditures data publicly available.

''(2) TAX EXPENDITURES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'tax expenditures' has the meaning given that term in section 3(3) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 622(3)).

''(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commission shall make the report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available.

''(f) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make recommendations to Executive agencies on measures to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse relating to Federal funds.

''(2) RESPONSIVE REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a recommendation under paragraph (1), an Executive agency shall submit a report to the President, the congressional committees of jurisdiction, and the Commission on whether the Executive agency agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and any actions the Executive agency will take to implement the recommendations. The Commission shall make all reports submitted to it under this paragraph publicly available contemporaneously online.

''§ 3624. Powers

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall conduct independent analyses and reviews of spending of Federal funds, including analyses and reviews of information maintained in the Federal accountability portal established under section 3612 of this title, and provide investigative and audit support to the inspectors general of Executive agencies.

''(b) ANALYSES AND REVIEWS.—The Commission may—

''(1) conduct its own independent analyses and reviews of spending of Federal funds; and

''(2) collaborate with and provide support for any inspector general of any Executive agency or other law enforcement authority on any audit, investigation, or other review relating to Federal funds.

''(c) AUTHORITIES.—

''(1) ANALYSES, REVIEWS, AND INVESTIGATIVE AND AUDIT SUPPORT.—In conducting analyses and reviews, and in providing investigative and audit support to inspectors general and law enforcement authorities, the Commission shall have the authorities provided under paragraphs (1), (3), and (6) through (10) of section 6(a), and section 6(b), of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

''(2) MATCHING PROGRAM AUTHORITY WITH RESPECT TO EVALUATIONS AND REVIEWS.—The authorities provided under section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (provided to the Commission pursuant to paragraph (1)) may be used by the Commission while conducting an evaluation or other review authorized under such Act.

''(d) CONTRACTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this chapter, including contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, and make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

''(2) CONTRACTING FOR MISSIONS OF OTHER AGENCIES.—The Commission may enter into contracts with any Federal agency (within or outside the executive branch) to enable such agency to identify waste, fraud, and abuse, including contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services.

''(3) CONTRACTING FOR PUBLICATION OF DATA.—The Commission may make contracts or agreements with any Federal agency (within or outside the executive branch) to publish data maintained by such agency on the website maintained under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.

''(e) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The Commission may transfer funds appropriated to the Commission for expenses to support administrative support services, investigations, audits, reviews, or other activities related to oversight by the Commission of Federal funds to any office of inspector general, the Office of Management and Budget, and the General Services Administration.

''§ 3625. Employment, personnel, and related authorities

''(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall have an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Commission and serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The

Executive Director shall report directly to the Commission and carry out the functions of the Commission subject to the supervision and direction of the Commission. The position of Executive Director shall be a career reserved position in the Senior Executive Service, as that position is defined under section 3132 of title 5.

''(b) OTHER EMPLOYEES.—The Commission may appoint and fix the compensation of such officers, attorneys, information technology professionals, and other employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Commission under this chapter.

''(c) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The General Services Administration shall provide the Commission with administrative support services, including the provision of office space and facilities.

''§ 3626. Transfer of certain personnel

''(a) RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD EMPLOYEES.—The Chairman or Executive Director, or both, shall identify employees of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board for transfer to the Commission, and such identified employees shall be transferred to the Commission for employment.

''(b) PAY.—

''(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), each transferred employee shall, during the 2-year period beginning on the effective date of this chapter, receive pay at a rate equal to not less than the basic rate of pay (including any geographic differential) that the employee received during the pay period immediately preceding the date of transfer.

''(2) Paragraph (1) does not limit the right of the Commission to reduce the rate of basic pay of a transferred employee for cause, for unacceptable performance, or with the consent of the employee.

''(3) Paragraph (1) applies to a transferred employee only while that employee remains employed by the Commission.

''§ 3627. Advisory committee to Commission

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').

''(2) PURPOSE.—The Advisory Committee shall submit to the Commission such findings and recommendations related to the Commission's implementation of this chapter as it determines are appropriate.

''(b) MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRPERSON.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall appoint no fewer than 10, and no more than 20, members to the Advisory Committee, from among individuals who—

''(A) represent the interests of recipients of Federal contracts;

''(B) represent the interests of State, local, and tribal governments receiving Federal grants;

''(C) represent the interests of other recipients of Federal funds; and

''(D) represent nonprofit organizations that advocate transparency and accountability in government.

''(2) TERM.—Each member of the Advisory Committee appointed under this section shall serve for a term of three years, except that the Commission may appoint original members of the Committee to one-year and two-year terms in order to achieve staggered terms. No person shall serve more than one term.

''(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall elect a chairperson.

''(c) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than six times annually, at the call of the chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

''(d) COMPENSATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Committee who is not a full-time employee of the United States shall—

''(1) be entitled to receive compensation at a rate not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5 for each day during which the member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Committee; and

''(2) while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for the Committee, be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703(b) of title 5.

''(e) STAFF.—The Commission shall make available to the Advisory Committee such staff of the Commission as the chairperson of the Advisory Committee recommends is necessary to carry out this section.

''(f) REVIEW BY COMMISSION.—After receipt of any finding or recommendation from the Advisory Committee, the Commission shall—

''(1) review the finding or recommendation; and

''(2) promptly issue a public statement—

''(A) assessing the finding or recommendation of the Advisory Committee; and

''(B) disclosing the action, if any, the Commission intends to take with respect to the finding or recommendation.

''(g) ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINDINGS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the Commission to agree to or act upon any finding or recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

''(h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Advisory Committee.

''§ 3628. Authorization and availability of appropriations

''(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $51,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 to carry out the functions of the Commission.

''(b) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—If the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board has unobligated appropriations as of the effective date of this chapter, such appropriations are authorized to remain available to the Commission until September 30, 2015.

''§ 3629. Sunset

''This subchapter shall cease to be in effect after the date occurring seven years after the date of the enactment of this subchapter.''.

SEC. 202. CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO COMPENSATION OF CHAIRMAN.

Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Chairman of the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.''.

SEC. 203. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATED TO RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD.

(a) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISIONS IN SUBTITLE B OF TITLE XV OF PUBLIC LAW 111–5.—Subtitle B of title XV of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 287) is amended by striking sections 1521, 1522, 1525(a), 1529, and 1530.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REFERENCES TO BOARD AND CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) Paragraph (2) of section 1501 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 287) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission established in chapter 36 of title 31, United States Code.''.

(B) Such section is further amended by striking paragraph (3).

(C) The following provisions of such Act are amended by striking ''Board'' each place it appears and inserting ''Commission'' in the headings or text, as the case may be: the heading of subtitle B of title XV, and sections 1523, 1524, 1525(b), 1525(c), 1526, 1527, 1528, 1542, and 1553.

(D) Section 1513(b)(2) of such Act is amended by striking ''the quarter in which the Board terminates under section 1530'' and inserting ''the quarter ending September 30, 2013''.

(c) REPEAL OF SUBTITLE B OF TITLE XV OF PUBLIC LAW 111–5.—Effective on October 1, 2013, subtitle B of title XV of division A of such Act is repealed.

(d) REFERENCES IN FEDERAL LAW TO BOARD.—On and after the effective date of this Act, any reference in Federal law to the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board is deemed to be a reference to the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission.

TITLE III—ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require the public disclosure of classified information.

SEC. 302. PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT EXEMPTION.

Section 3518(c) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (3), this subchapter shall not apply to the collection of information during the conduct of any evaluation, or other review conducted by the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission, or during the conduct of any audit, investigation, inspection, evaluation, or any other review conducted by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency or any office of inspector general, including any office of special inspector general.''.

SEC. 303. MATCHING PROGRAM EXCEPTION FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL.

Section 6(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking ''and'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (10); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraph:

''(9) notwithstanding subsections (e)(12), (o), (p), (q), (r), and (u) of section 552a of title 5, United States Code, to compare, through a matching program (as defined in such section), any Federal records with other Federal or non-Federal records, while conducting an audit, investigation, or inspection authorized under this Act to identify weaknesses that may lead to waste, fraud, or abuse and to detect improper payments and fraud; and''.

SEC. 304. TRANSFER OF CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL FUNDS REPORT.

(a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—The Commission and the Secretary of Commerce shall transfer the functions of the Consolidated

Federal Funds Report to the website established under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, as amended by this Act.

(b) INFORMATION.—Section 2(d) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, as amended by section 103 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting ''; and''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) shall permit users to determine the following information:

''(A) For each fiscal year, the total amount of Federal funds that were obligated in each State, county or parish, congressional district, and municipality of the United States.

''(B) For each fiscal year, the total amount of Federal funds that were actually expended in each State, county or parish, congressional district, and municipality of the United States.''.

(c) CONFORMING REPEALS OF SUPERSEDED PROVISIONS.—Chapter 62 of subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, is repealed. The item relating to that chapter in the table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle V of such title is repealed.

SEC. 305. TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY OVER CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE TO COMMISSION.

(a) TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FROM ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET TO COMMISSION.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Paragraph (6) of section 6101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(6) 'Commission' means the Federal Accountability and Spending Transparency Commission established in subchapter III of chapter 36 of this title.''.

(2) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO PROGRAM INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 6102 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking ''Administrator'' and inserting ''Commission'' both places it appears;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking ''Administrator'' and inserting ''Commission'';

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and that the printed catalog'' and all that follows through ''printing''; and

(iii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by striking ''transmit annually'' and inserting ''make''; and

(II) by striking ''to the Committee'' and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: ''available to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.''.

(3) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ASSISTANCE AWARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM.—Section 6102a of such title is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (b);

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(C) by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Commission'' each place it appears; and

(D) in subsection (b), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking ''transmit promptly after the end of each calendar quarter, free of charge,'' and insert ''make available''; and

(ii) by striking ''Oversight'' and inserting ''Administration''.

(4) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ACCESS TO COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEM.—Section 6103 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsections (a) and (c), by striking ''Administrator'' and inserting ''Commission'' each place it appears; and

(B) by striking the text of subsection (b) and inserting the following: ''The Commission shall publish online all of the information contained in the information system under subsection (a) in accordance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).''.

(5) AMENDMENTS RELATING TO CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Section 6104 of such title if amended by striking ''Administrator'' and inserting ''Commission'' each place it appears.

(6) REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 6106 of such title is repealed.

(b) DEADLINE FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAM INFORMATION SYSTEM AND CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE.—Within 180 days after the effective date of this Act, the Commission and the Administrator of General Services shall transfer the management and control of the following from the Administrator to the Commission, as required by chapter 61 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a):

(1) The computer information system required under section 6103 of such title, as so amended.

(2) The catalog of Federal domestic assistance programs required under section 6104 of such title, as so amended.

(c) DEADLINE FOR TRANSFER OF ASSISTANCE AWARDS INFORMATION SYSTEM.—Within 180 days after the effective date of this Act, the Commission and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall transfer the management and control of the assistance awards information system from the Director to the Commission, as required by section 6102a of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 306. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE IMPROVEMENT.

(a) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.—Section 716 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''(a)'' and inserting ''(2)''; and

(B) by inserting after the section heading the following:

''(a)(1) The Comptroller General is authorized to obtain such agency records as the Comptroller General requires to discharge his duties (including audit, evaluation, and investigative duties), including through the bringing of civil actions under this section. In reviewing a civil action under this section, the court shall recognize the continuing force and effect of the authorization in the preceding sentence until such time as the authorization is repealed pursuant to law.''.

(2) COPIES.—Section 716(a) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended in the second sentence of paragraph (2) by striking ''inspect an agency record'' and inserting ''inspect, and make and retain copies of, an agency record''.

(b) ADMINISTERING OATHS.—Section 711 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

''(4) administer oaths to witnesses when auditing and settling accounts and, with the prior express approval of the Comptroller General, when investigating fraud or attempts to defraud the United States, or irregularity or misconduct of an employee or agent of the United States.''.

(c) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(1) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Subchapter II of chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 721. Access to certain information

''(a) No provision of the Social Security Act, including section 453(l) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 653(l)), shall be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the authority of the Comptroller General to obtain any information or to inspect or copy any record under section 716 of this title.

''(b) No provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including section 301(j) of that Act (21 U.S.C. 331(j)), shall be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the authority of the Comptroller General to obtain any information or to inspect or copy any record under section 716 of this title.

''(c) No provision of the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–435) and the amendments made by that Act shall be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the authority of the Comptroller General to obtain any information or to inspect or copy any record under section 716 of this title, including with respect to any information disclosed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission for purposes of pre-merger review under section 7A of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 18a).

''(d)(1) The Comptroller General shall prescribe such policies and procedures as are necessary to protect from public disclosure proprietary or trade secret information obtained consistent with this section.

''(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

''(A) alter or amend the prohibitions against the disclosure of trade secret or other sensitive information prohibited by section 1905 of title 18 and other applicable laws; or

''(B) affect the applicability of section 716(e) of this title, including the protections against unauthorized disclosure contained in that section, to information obtained consistent with this section.

''(e) Specific references to statutes in this section shall not be construed to affect access by the Government Accountability Office to information under statutes that are not so referenced.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 720 the following:

''721. Access to certain information.''.

(d) AGENCY REPORTS.—Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''or planned'' after ''action taken''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the congressional committees with jurisdiction over the agency program or activity that is the subject of the recommendation, and the Government Accountability Office before the 61st day after the date of the report; and''.

SEC. 307. AMENDMENTS TO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978 AND THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REFORM ACT OF 2008.

(a) INCORPORATION OF PROVISIONS FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL REFORM ACT OF 2008 INTO THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—

(1) CLASSIFICATION AND PAY.—

(A) AMENDMENT.—Section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) CLASSIFICATION AND PAY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Inspector General of each designated Federal entity shall, for pay and all other purposes, be classified at a grade, level, or rank designation, as the case may be, at or above those of a majority of the senior level executives of that designated

Federal entity (such as a General Counsel, Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Human Capital Officer, or Chief Acquisition Officer). The pay of an Inspector General of a designated Federal entity shall be not less than the average total compensation (including bonuses) of the senior level executives of that designated Federal entity calculated on an annual basis.

''(2) LIMITATION ON ADJUSTMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an Inspector General of a designated Federal entity whose pay is adjusted under paragraph (1), the total increase in pay in any fiscal year resulting from that adjustment may not exceed 25 percent of the average total compensation (including bonuses) of the Inspector General of that entity for the preceding 3 fiscal years.

''(B) SUNSET OF LIMITATION.—The limitation under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any adjustment made in fiscal year 2013 or each fiscal year thereafter.''.

(B) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 4(b) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–409; 122 Stat. 4304; 5 U.S.C. App. 3 note) is repealed.

(2) PAY RETENTION.—

(A) AMENDMENT.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding after section 8L the following new section:

''SEC. 8M. PAY RETENTION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The provisions of section 3392 of title 5, United States Code, other than the terms 'performance awards' and 'awarding of ranks' in subsection (c)(1) of such section, shall apply to career appointees of the Senior Executive Service who are appointed to the position of Inspector General.

''(b) NONREDUCTION IN PAY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, career Federal employees serving on an appointment made pursuant to statutory authority found other than in section 3392 of title 5, United States Code, shall not suffer a reduction in pay, not including any bonus or performance award, as a result of being appointed to the position of Inspector General.''.

(B) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 4(c) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–409; 122 Stat. 4304; 5 U.S.C. App. 3 note) is repealed.

(3) ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING AGAINST SPECIAL COUNSEL OR DEPUTY SPECIAL COUNSEL.—

(A) AMENDMENT.—Section 11(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(12) ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING AGAINST SPECIAL COUNSEL OR DEPUTY SPECIAL COUNSEL.—

''(A) SPECIAL COUNSEL DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'Special Counsel' means the Special Counsel appointed under section 1211(b) of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) AUTHORITY OF INTEGRITY COMMITTEE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An allegation of wrongdoing against the Special Counsel or the Deputy Special Counsel may be received, reviewed, and referred for investigation by the Integrity Committee to the same extent and in the same manner as in the case of an allegation against an Inspector General (or a member of the staff of an Office of Inspector General), subject to the requirement that the Special Counsel recuse himself or herself from the consideration of any allegation brought under this paragraph.

''(ii) COORDINATION WITH EXISTING PROVISIONS OF LAW.—This paragraph does not eliminate access to the Merit Systems Protection Board for review under section 7701 of title 5, United States Code. To the extent that an allegation brought under this subsection involves section 2302(b)(8) of that title, a failure to obtain corrective action within 120 days after the date on which that allegation is received by the Integrity Committee shall, for purposes of section 1221 of such title, be considered to satisfy section 1214(a)(3)(B) of that title.

''(C) REGULATIONS.—The Integrity Committee may prescribe any rules or regulations necessary to carry out this paragraph, subject to such consultation or other requirements as might otherwise apply.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7(b) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–409; 122 Stat. 4312; 5 U.S.C. 1211 note) is repealed.

(b) AGENCY APPLICABILITY.—

(1) AMENDMENTS.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(A) in section 8L—

(i) in subsection (a)(1)—

(I) by striking the first ''agency'' and inserting ''Federal agency and designated Federal entity''; and

(II) by striking the second and third ''agency'' and inserting ''Federal agency or designated Federal entity''; and

(ii) in subsection (b)—

(I) in paragraph (1), by striking ''agency'' and inserting ''Federal agency and designated Federal entity''; and

(II) in paragraph (2)—

(aa) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''agency'' and inserting ''Federal agency and designated Federal entity''; and

(bb) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''agency'' and inserting ''Federal agency and designated Federal entity''; and

(B) in section 11(c)(3)(A)(ii), by striking ''department, agency, or entity of the executive branch'' and inserting ''Federal agency or designated Federal entity''.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head and the Inspector General of each Federal agency and each designated Federal entity (as such terms are defined in sections 12 and 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), respectively) shall implement the amendments made by this subsection.

(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL WEBSITES.—Section 8L(b)(1) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by striking ''report or audit (or portion of any report or audit)'' and inserting ''audit report, inspection report, or evaluation report (or portion of any such report)''; and

(2) by striking ''report or audit (or portion of that report or audit)'' and inserting ''report (or portion of that report)'' each place it appears.

(d) CORRECTIONS.—

(1) EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER.—Section 7(c)(2) of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–409; 122 Stat. 4313; 31 U.S.C. 501 note) is amended by striking ''12933'' and inserting ''12993''.

(2) PUNCTUATION AND CROSS-REFERENCES.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(A) in section 6(a)(4), by striking ''information, as well as any tangible thing)'' and inserting ''information), as well as any tangible thing''; and

(B) in section 8G(g)(3), by striking ''8C'' and inserting ''8D''.

(3) SPELLING.—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(A) in section 3(a), by striking ''subpena'' and inserting ''subpoena'';

(B) in section 6(a)(4), by striking ''subpena'' and ''subpenas'' and inserting ''subpoena'' and ''subpoenas'', respectively;

(C) in section 8D(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''subpenas'' and inserting ''subpoenas''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''subpena'' and inserting ''subpoena'', each place it appears;

(D) in section 8E(a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''subpenas'' and inserting ''subpoenas''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''subpena'' and inserting ''subpoena'' each place it appears; and

(E) in section 8G(d), by striking ''subpena'' and inserting ''subpoena''.

(e) REPEAL.—Section 744 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (division D of Public Law 111–8; 123 Stat. 693; 5 U.S.C. App. 8L) is repealed.

SEC. 308. LIMITS AND TRANSPARENCY FOR TRAVEL AND CONFERENCE SPENDING.

(a) TRAVEL EXPENSES OF FEDERAL AGENCIES RELATING TO CONFERENCES.—

(1) LIMITATIONS AND REPORTS ON TRAVEL EXPENSES TO CONFERENCES.—Chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 5711 the following:

''§ 5712. Limitations and reports on travel expenses to conferences

''(a) In this section, the term—

''(1) 'conference' means a meeting that—

''(A) is held for consultation, education, or discussion;

''(B) is not held entirely at an agency facility;

''(C) involves costs associated with travel and lodging for some participants; and

''(D) is sponsored by 1 or more agencies, 1 or more organizations that are not agencies, or a combination of such agencies or organizations; and

''(2) 'international conference' means a conference attended by representatives of —

''(A) the United States Government; and

''(B) any foreign government, international organization, or foreign nongovernmental organization.

''(b) No agency may pay the travel expenses for more than 50 employees of that agency who are stationed in the United States, for any international conference occurring outside the United States, unless the Secretary of State determines that attendance for such employees is in the national interest.

''(c) At the beginning of each quarter of each fiscal year, each agency shall post on the public Internet website of that agency a report on each conference for which the agency paid travel expenses during the preceding 3 months that includes—

''(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency, including travel expenses, the cost of scouting for and selecting the location of the conference, and any agency expenditures to otherwise support the conference;

''(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

''(3) the location of the conference;

''(4) in the case of a conference for which that agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

''(A) justifies the location selected;

''(B) demonstrates the cost efficiency of the location; and

''(C) provides a cost benefit analysis of holding a conference rather than conducting a teleconference;

''(5) the date of the conference;

''(6) a brief explanation how the conference advanced the mission of the agency;

''(7) the title of any Federal employee or any individual who is not a Federal employee whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency; and

''(8) the total number of individuals whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency.

''(d) Each report posted on the public Internet website under subsection (c) shall—

''(1) be in a searchable electronic format; and

''(2) remain on that website for at least 5 years after the date of posting.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5711 the following:

''5712. Limitations and reports on travel expenses to conferences.''.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016, an agency (as defined under section 5701(1) of title 5, United States Code) may not make, or obligate to make, expenditures for travel expenses, in an aggregate amount greater than 80 percent of the aggregate amount of such expenses for fiscal year 2010.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAVEL EXPENSES.—

(A) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Not later than September 1, 2012 and after consultation with the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall establish guidelines for the determination of what expenses constitute travel expenses for purposes of this subsection. The guidelines shall identify specific expenses, and classes of expenses, that are to be treated as travel expenses.

(B) EXEMPTION FOR MILITARY TRAVEL.—The guidelines required under subparagraph (A) shall exclude military travel expenses in determining what expenses constitute travel expenses. Military travel expenses shall include travel expenses involving military combat, the training or deployment of uniformed military personnel, and such other travel expenses as are determined under the guidelines.

(c) CONFERENCE TRANSPARENCY AND LIMITATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term ''agency'' has the meaning given under section 5701(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term ''conference'' has the meaning given under section 5712(a)(1) of that title (as added by subsection (a)).

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE MATERIALS.—Each agency shall post on the public Internet website of that agency detailed information on any presentation made by any employee of that agency at a conference, including—

(A) any minutes relating to the presentation;

(B) any speech delivered;

(C) any visual exhibit, including photographs or slides;

(D) any video, digital, or audio recordings of the conference; and

(E) information regarding any financial support or other assistance from a foundation or other non-Federal source used to pay or defray the costs of the conference, which shall include a certification by the head of the agency that there is no conflict of interest resulting from the support received from each such source.

(3) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT EXPENDED ON A CONFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—No agency may expend more than $500,000 to support a single conference.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude an agency from receiving financial support or other assistance from a foundation or other non-Federal source to pay or defray the costs of a conference the total cost of which exceeds $500,000.

(4) LIMITATION ON THE ANNUAL NUMBER OF CONFERENCES AN AGENCY MAY SUPPORT.—No agency may expend funds on more than a single conference sponsored or organized by an organization during any fiscal year, unless the agency is the primary sponsor and organizer of the conference.

SEC. 309. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The American people have a right to know that taxpayer dollars are well spent. We have a responsibility to stay up with the times. As government has grown, waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement have increased. Today, however, the technology is before us, if we simply embrace it, to do a far better job of accounting for every dollar spent on behalf of the American people. That's not just the American dollars that are spent by the Federal Government, but dollars passed on to the private sector, to the States, to public entities, and to nonprofits.

Today, as those trillions of dollars are put out, we find that we don't know where they're spent. At best, we know the first place they went to. Under the Recovery Act, often called the ''stimulus,'' we can all disagree or agree on how the money was spent; but unlike previous appropriations, under that act, we found a way to do a better job of tracing the dollars, of tracing the dollars through recipient reporting—a system that, although costing a little bit to do, ultimately once set up saves money.

The DATA Act before us today will literally track those trillions of dollars in a way not done outside of the Recovery Act. Quite frankly, we owe a debt of gratitude to the Recovery Board for showing us an effective system on which we could build.

Just a few days ago, our committee, on a very bipartisan basis, evaluated the GSA's lavish spending. They explained to us that part of the way they spent $830,000-plus was, in fact, to cobble together, as they put it, multiple baskets of money—meaning, if you didn't know or couldn't trace how they'd spent their money, you wouldn't know that it was spent on a mind reader and a clown. You wouldn't know that those 10 trips, essentially, were publicly funded trips so that key executives could have family vacations.

With the DATA Act, we expect that and many other wasteful practices to be brought to an end. Some of them will be brought to an end by the ranking member and our work on the committee, but a great many of them will be brought to bear by the American people being able to search online and learn what they currently cannot learn.

The DATA Act has been a bill that has been, unlike many, completely bipartisan. The minority and the majority have worked hand in hand. We come to you today with a bill that has been agreed to and that will save—I repeat, save—billions of dollars. Additionally, we do, in fact, amend some of the abuses under the GSA scandal and do so based on the good work of Representative DENNIS ROSS of Florida, who introduced strong language to do exactly what we're doing today.

Before we go on, let me just say that I want to thank the ranking member, because the work on this bill and the reason this bill is before us on suspension is that we've been able to work hand in hand with members of the majority and minority and with key staff on both sides to make sure that we have a bill that will pass the House, hopefully, on a unanimous basis, and clearly, we'll see the Senate send a message that it's time for accountability generated from bipartisan work in the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, let me say that the chairman, Chairman ISSA, has worked very closely with us as we have cosponsored this bill and has worked hard to make sure that all of its provisions are satisfactory to this side. So he is absolutely right, Madam Speaker, it is truly a bipartisan bill. Again, I thank him.

Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent, and we on our committee and all those in Congress believe we have a responsibility to ensure that those hard-earned tax dollars are spent effectively and efficiently. H.R. 2146, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, will make the Federal Government more accountable by making it easier for taxpayers to see where their money is going. By making government spending more transparent, we will, hopefully, reduce wasteful spending.

This bill aims to capitalize on the success of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. The Democrats in Congress created the board as part of the Recovery Act in 2009. In addition to promoting job creation, economic activity and long-term growth, the Recovery Act fostered unprecedented accountability and transparency in government spending. Under the administration's implementation and the RAT Board's oversight, the Recovery Act has had historically

low levels of waste, fraud, and abuse. The successful implementation of the Recovery Act should be a model for improving transparency and accountability in all Federal spending.

The DATA Act would do many of the same things the President directed by executive order on June 13, 2011. The DATA Act would establish a new, independent commission to lead the government's efforts on Federal spending transparency and accountability. The new commission would be authorized to set government-wide data standards and to coordinate the oversight of Federal funds to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

I supported this legislation when it was considered by the Oversight Committee in June, but I had several concerns which I asked Chairman ISSA to work with me on addressing. I commend the chairman for bringing an amendment to the floor today that addresses those concerns.

This bill also includes language requiring agencies to disclose their spending on conferences and to justify their locations and cost efficiency. The bill, as amended, also requires agencies to reduce their travel spending by 20 percent from fiscal year 2010 levels. The President directed agencies to reduce travel spending in an executive order issued on November 9, 2011.

When he signed that executive order to cut waste and promote efficient spending, he said this:

> We can't wait for Congress to act. We can't wait for them to get our fiscal house in order and make the investments necessary to keep America great. That's why, today, I'm signing an executive order that will build on our efforts to cut waste and promote more efficient spending across the government. We're cutting what we don't need so that we can invest in what we do need.

Let's show the President that Congress can and will act to reduce wasteful spending. I urge my colleagues to join me, our chairman, and our committee in supporting this legislation.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD. If people call my office and ask a simple question, something as simple as, How much did this cost?, it is difficult for even a Member of Congress to be able to track down all the details. How much was allotted for that grant? How much was actually spent? How much was that contract? How much was actually spent? How much does this agency spend on X number of programs or on this specific program?

An individual hardworking taxpayer should be able to go research that out. Outside groups should be able to research that and should be able to develop some way to systematically research and compare. Right now, we can't do that.

□ 1340

We may do something as labor intensive as mail them something, or email them some things that we found, or maybe get a PDF document and be able to send it in, or send them to an agency Web site, but there is no systematic structured way to be able to compare last year to this year, one agency to another agency, how this contract was done, how this grant was done. This is a great moment to be able to bring all that information together so that every group, including Congress, can pull that data and can research it.

This gets to the essence of why transparency is such a big deal because we want every single taxpayer to be able to look in and be able to see how their money is spent. That's an appropriate way to be able to respond to this.

This also eliminates the duplication reporting from a contractor or an agency that is actually trying to file this information to not have to do it multiple times, to make it more efficient. This deals with the inconsistent requirements of reporting across different platforms. This deals with the basics of grant and contract recipients being able to also report in that data, as was done by the Recovery Board, which has been very successful in getting accurate information in.

This also engages those outside individuals, grant writers, grant recipients, and contract recipients, to be able to come back in and process that data so we get real-time information. And it deals with one of the most basic things: efficient use of money. In this particular bill, it deals with all these conferences, reducing the cost of government conferences, finding some way to be able to put some parameters around them and structure, so that money is not pulled from one place or another to be able to function in conference, a conference that doesn't have a quarter of a million dollars budget spending $850,000 for a single event.

I reiterate what we have said on both sides of the aisle: transparency is not a partisan issue. This is a bipartisan bill, and whoever is in the White House and whoever is running agencies, just like Congress, is accountable to all the American people.

This makes all of what we do publicly available, easy to be able to research, easy to be able to compare. It is a simple way to take this on. I'm strongly in support of this and grateful that it's a very bipartisan act.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership, and I thank the chairman for his leadership.

This is truly a bipartisan effort, and one that is sorely needed, as we can see from the hearing that we held last week in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on the General Services Administration. And it was just outrageous that they would spend over $800,000 for some conference with mind readers and clowns when so many Americans are struggling and working hard.

This bill will help prevent this type of abuse from happening again, and I am rising in strong support of H.R. 2146, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act.

It is good government, it is bipartisan, it is something that we can all agree on. It is common sense, and if it had been in place earlier we could have possibly prevented the type of abuse that we are both dedicated to cleaning up.

This bill will improve congressional oversight of how Federal dollars are being spent. This bill does this by creating a single online portal for information about where Federal spending can be tracked. The bill requires recipients of Federal grants, loans, and contracts to disclose how much money they receive and how that money is spent, and reduces the compliance burden on recipients of Federal funds by streamlining reporting and establishing universal data standards.

The Congressional Budget Office has certified that:

> H.R. 2146 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates, as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA), and would impose no additional costs on State, local or tribal governments.

This is designed to save money and to save the taxpayers, and to allow the public to have insight into how these dollars are being spent, too.

The DATA Act capitalizes on the reporting required under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and President Obama's executive order establishing the Government Accountability and Transparency Board, and it will give legislative teeth to increase transparency and accountability over Federal spending across the government.

The DATA Act also caps nonmilitary travel spending at 20 percent below FY10 levels and limits both the number of and amount spent on agency conferences, which will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

So this is truly something we can all agree upon. The technology is there. This bill puts the political will behind having this accountability. We do know how to track this. This will be in one centralized place, it will be available to the public, and it's an improvement in all ways.

Currently available data on Federal spending is incomplete, confusing, and inconsistent. This act would centralize and simplify the convoluted reporting that is in place now, and everything would be reported in the same way. The bill also includes uniform reporting from the recipients of the Federal funds and, very importantly, all of this would be available to the public.

The independent commission that would be established by this would be responsible for publishing and monitoring Federal spending. A number of

diverse groups have come out in favor of it. I have roughly 20 groups that have written in support of the bill, from the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, to the Taxpayers for Common Sense, to POGO, to OMB Watch.

I believe this is an important bill. I believe it will make the government perform better, save taxpayers money, and the time of those who are tracking where these dollars are going. It is well overdue, and it should pass today.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for this important piece of legislation.

POGO AND PARTNERS STRONGLY SUPPORT PASSAGE OF THE DATA ACT

April 23, 2012.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: We, the undersigned organizations, are writing in strong support of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act), H.R. 2146, which is planned for a floor vote this Wednesday. The DATA Act is an important step towards improving federal financial transparency and would empower the public to better understand how their federal dollars are being spent.

Currently available data on federal spending is incomplete and inconsistent. The DATA Act would centralize and simplify the convoluted spending reporting standards so that every government agency reports their spending in the same way. Importantly, the bill also includes uniform reporting from recipients of federal funds. All of this information will be readily available to the public.

The DATA Act establishes an independent commission responsible for publishing and monitoring federal spending, modeled after the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. It also sets consistent government-wide standards for financial data reporting. Its enactment will greatly improve the scope, granularity, timeliness, usefulness, and accuracy of public reports on federal spending beyond what is currently available.

Concerns many of us expressed with earlier versions of the legislation have been addressed. For example, the bill provides for continuity of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act and USAspending.gov. It ensures that reporting requirements will persist even if the Commission sunsets. It requires prime federal award recipients to identify all sub-awards, and expands Treasury Department reporting requirements. It also strengthens the Government Accountability Office's ability to obtain certain agency records.

This bill, introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R–CA), cosponsored by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D–MD) and 13 others, was passed unanimously by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and enjoys strong bipartisan support.

We urge that you be present and vote ''yes'' on the DATA Act to shine a light on the spending of our tax dollars.

For more information, please contact Daniel Schuman of the Sunlight Foundation, Angela Canterbury of the Project on Government Oversight, or Sam Rosen-Amy of OMB Watch.

Sincerely,

Center for Responsive Politics, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, (CREW), Cost of Government Center, Data Transparency Coalition, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Fore See, Global Financial Integrity, iSolon.org, Jubilee USA Network, Liberty Coalition, Missionary Oblates US Province.

National Freedom of Information Coalition, National Priorities Project, OMB Watch, OpenTheGovernment.org, Progressive Librarians Guild, Project On Government Oversight (POGO), Tabulaw Inc., Taxpayers for Common Sense Action, Taxpayers Protection Alliance, The Sunlight Foundation, U.S. Transparency, Washington Coalition for Open Government, WashingtonWatch.com.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS), the author of many of the reforms in this bill.

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Thank you, chairman, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2011, also known as the DATA Act.

The DATA Act finally does what America wants: opens up the books of government and lets the taxpayers see what is being spent. The bill also cuts agency travel spending by hundreds of millions of dollars per year, a great and necessary first step.

By requiring Federal agencies to report how their funds are spent and capping travel expenses, this commonsense bipartisan bill will bring much-needed accountability and transparency to Federal spending. The DATA Act should also send a clear message to bureaucrats here in Washington, D.C.

The American taxpayer is watching, and they're sick and tired of the blank-check mentality. Let's make sure that taxpayer dollars are no longer spent on lavish conferences. But with this bill we can also begin to crowdsource all Federal spending.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for introducing this bill and for his leadership on transparency and accountability in government. Let's make sure that common sense becomes something common in government.

Please join me in supporting the DATA Act.

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

As the Chairman stated and others have stated on this floor, we saw the abuses that took place at GSA, and we will certainly continue to follow them, because I believe that all of us were very upset about those abuses, Madam Speaker.

One of the things that we do believe is that the legislation like this is so important because it shines a light on how money is being spent. It won't solve all the problems, but it certainly will solve a lot of them.

□ 1350

One of the things that Mr. Devaney said, who was over the stimulus bill and the RAT Board there, is that he wanted to do certain things that not only would lay out a formula for accountability, but would prevent people from even abusing the system.

Again, I think what we're doing here puts us out front of, hopefully, some things that people may have been thinking about doing. We don't even want to think about it because there are so many people in our districts who work so hard to earn their money, and they don't mind paying their taxes, they don't mind sacrificing, as long as they know that that money is being spent effectively and efficiently.

One of the things that we have to do, Madam Speaker, is to make sure that we establish and maintain a trust with them so that when they write that check, they know it's going towards the roads that they want to see built, going towards making sure the air is clean, and making sure that the park rangers are present. They want to see that money spent properly. They don't want to see it spent on some bureaucrats flying around the country using the money in an improper way.

So with this bipartisan bill, I think we send a message to the public that we're going to do everything in our power to make sure that they have as much information as possible about where that money goes when it leaves their checking account. And because of that and because this bill is so significant and because it is about a truly bipartisan effort, I'm hoping that we will have every Member of the House voting in favor of it.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the expression we often hear about success and failure is that success has many fathers, while, in fact, failure is an orphan. This bill will not be an orphan. In fact, the work of Ranking Member CUMMINGS, along with Representative MALONEY, Representative SHERMAN, Representative COLLIN PETERSON, and the former chairman of the full committee, ED TOWNS, on just one side, have been critical in getting this done. The support of JASON CHAFFETZ, DAN BURTON, BLAKE FARENTHOLD, the gentleman who spoke a minute ago, JAMES LANKFORD, MIKE KELLY, TOM LATHAM, PATRICK MCHENRY, and DENNIS ROSS all have been critical in this process.

But perhaps less often heard, as the ranking member referred, former Inspector General and chairman of the Recovery Board, Earl Devaney, has been critical to shepherding the process that has gone over two Congresses, and I want to thank him personally while he's enjoying his well-earned retirement. Along with him was Vice President JOE BIDEN, who has been supportive and helped us in this process and held numerous meetings at the White House on behalf of it. In the Senate, MARK WARNER of Virginia has championed and introduced the companion product, making it bipartisan in both Houses.

Additionally, as I think the ranking member alluded to, the Sunlight Foundation, the Project on Government Oversight, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Americans for Tax Reform, the Data

Transparency Coalition, and XPRL US have all been critical. The last one I mentioned is particularly critical because the need for standards that ultimately are set that allow for this transparency are going to come not from us in government but from organizations who have open and transparent capability that we will leverage. All of these and more are to be thanked today.

I want to close by saying the winners of this effort will be the American people. It will be the American people because when this is fully implemented, the American people, who are used to Googling for information outside of government, will find it possible to get meaningful information on where their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent just as quickly. And that's the goal of our committee: to recognize that the hundred-or-so staff and members on both sides of the aisle of the Oversight Committee cannot protect the American people alone. The 12,000-or-so members of the Inspector General's staff throughout government cannot protect the American people alone. But with data transparency and more access and sunlight available more broadly, we believe that these organizations can, in fact, have the kind of whistleblowers and information providers that will allow us to scrub the balance sheet to wrench out waste, fraud, and abuse in our government at any level.

So I join with the ranking member in urging its unanimous support and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Oversight and Reform Committee marked up the DATA Act without holding a single hearing about the advisability of creating additional, duplicative reporting requirements for grantees, subgrantees, contractors and subcontractors. The reporting requirements imposed by this bill would affect local and state governments, colleges and universities, and private sector federal contractors and subcontractors. I ask unanimous consent to include for the RECORD statements from the National Governors Association, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Association of Chief Information Officers, International City/County Management Association, National Association of State Budget Officers, National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers, Government Finance Officers Association, and George Mason University opposing this legislation.

The authors of this bill believe that creating these additional regulations on the private sector and mandates on state and local governments will cost $51 million per year, which is the new spending authorized by the DATA Act. That only represents the direct cost, not the indirect costs taxpayers will bear if local and state governments and colleges and universities must spend more money filing paperwork to comply with the requirements of this bill. That cost also does not account for the costs to private sector businesses to comply with new regulations imposed by this bill. University and contractor associations have not taken a public position opposing this legislation because of last-minute changes to the bill made by Mr. ISSA's staff.

These changes should have been made during Committee or Subcommittee markup, but our Committee engaged in no substantive deliberations about the content of the bill in that context. As a result, today we have a bill that probably is less costly to both public and private entities but nonetheless still creates new private and public sector regulations and mandates at a significant cost. I remain concerned that the laudable goal of creating a single reporting system for federal spending could be lost in a maze of duplicative and conflicting reporting requirements as a result of this bill.

It is ironic that a bill whose stated purpose is transparency would be rammed through Committee and then brought to the floor with last-minute changes made in the least public manner possible. As a result of this convoluted legislative process, there may be problems with the current text of the DATA Act which have not been subjected to review by the committee of jurisdiction. I hope that the Senate reviews the current text of this bill carefully not only because of the bill's costs, new regulations, and new mandates, but also because the haphazard manner in which the bill was written increases the likelihood that there are drafting errors, duplicative regulations, or provisions that are inconsistent with current law.

It should be obvious that our committee could work in a bipartisan manner to promote transparency through legislation like the DATA Act, but certain provisions of this bill and the lack of deliberation in developing it expose stakeholders to potential negative unintended consequences. For these reasons I must oppose this legislation.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION; INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AUDITORS, COMPTROLLERS AND TREASURERS; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BUDGET OFFICERS; NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS; NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES,

April 24, 2012.

Hon. DARRELL ISSA,
Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ISSA: On behalf of the above listed organizations, we are writing to commend you on your efforts to further transparency and accountability in federal spending and to express our sincere appreciation to your staff in working with many of our organizations to include recommended changes in the most recent draft amendment to H.R. 2146, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act. We agree with the long term purpose of the Act to consolidate and streamline the reporting of federal funds. However, in addition to the overall goals of modernization, efficiency and accountability, the shift toward data reporting standardization should keep in mind the costs and burdens for fiscally strained state and local governments and other federal grant recipients.

While there are a number of positive changes contained in the most recent draft, we remain concerned about the magnitude of reporting and the stated timelines for implementation. The lack of funding for state and local governments to carry out the reporting and necessary oversight is disappointing given the enormous administrative challenges inherent in implementing Recovery Act-type reporting for all grants and contracts. Having adequate staff and sufficient equipment and data systems are essential to effective implementation and oversight.

The ultimate success of Recovery Act reporting and the resulting low level of fraud and abuse can be attributed not only to the work of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board but also to the commitment and dedication of accountability and oversight professionals at the state and local levels. It was recognized early on that the lack of funding for state and local governments was a major oversight and shortcoming of the original Recovery Act, and it appears that this shortcoming will be repeated in the DATA Act.

We believe that an efficient and streamlined reporting process, such as the one established in the DATA Act, hinges on identifying challenges and establishing well thought out and vetted business processes. Relying on the success of reporting for a small number of ARRA grants and contracts and expanding that universe to include all federal awards will require significant planning and resources.

We have recently become aware that the current Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board will conduct a grants information reporting pilot project this summer to identify cost efficiencies and the potential pitfalls of moving toward a centralized system for data collection and warehousing. Such a pilot would be an important step in identifying the plausibility of expanding ARRA-like reporting requirements to the entire universe of grants and contracts.

As we have suggested previously, we believe that developing a phased-in approach to implementing the DATA Act would allow for grant recipients to establish the appropriate processes for such an enormous endeavor. Such an approach would also give the Recovery Board an opportunity to undertake its planned information reporting pilots and would help to mitigate the reoccurring data quality problems that have plagued USASpending.gov.

While we support the intent of the DATA Act, trying to implement the requirements on all grants and contracts all at once will severely limit the chances of meeting the intended goals and objectives. We hope that you will reconsider the legislation in its current form to develop a reasonable phased-in approach for implementation and that you will consider adding a funding provision to support state and local governments, which will be essential partners for successful implementation.

We look forward to continuing the dialog on this important initiative. Please feel free to contact our representatives in Washington should you have any questions or desire further information.

MICHAEL BELARMINO,
NACo.
CORNELIA CHEBINOU,
NASACT.
LARS ETZKORN, NLC.
SUSAN GAFFNEY, GFOA.
ELIZABETH KELLAR, ICMA.
SCOTT PATTISON, NASBO.
PAM WALKER, NASCIO.

NGA OPPOSES DATA ACT LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON.—The National Governors Association (NGA) today issued the following statement regarding the establishment of an independent agency in the executive branch to improve transparency in federal spending and coordinate investigations to prevent fraud:

''While governors support the need for transparency in accountability and reporting, they have long opposed unfunded mandates.

''The DATA Act (H.R. 2146) builds upon lessons learned by states in tracking federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Unfortunately, funding is not provided for the Act's numerous new requirements.

''Without funding for state compliance, governors cannot implement the bill and therefore do not support the passage of the DATA Act. Governors encourage Congress to work with them to develop a more workable solution that meets the needs of states.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

Fairfax, VA, April 24, 2012.

Hon. Gerry Connolly,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CONNOLLY: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 2146, the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act), which is scheduled to be considered on the House Floor tomorrow. George Mason University very much appreciates all your efforts to make the necessary changes in the bill so it would accomplish the goal of more accountability and transparency in federal spending by enhancing the reporting requirements of Federal agencies and recipients of federal funds. We support this goal and also recognize the sincere efforts of all those involved to meet the concerns of the various stakeholders. Nevertheless, we continue to oppose the bill for the following reasons.

The bill requires recipients to report, not less than quarterly, any transaction, basic location information, individual Federal awards by agency, the total amount of funds received and the amount of funds expended or obligated for an individual award per quarter, subawardees (or prime awardee depending on status of recipient) and any additional information requested. Mason has approximately 650 active awards totaling over $285 million. Mason already reports on each of these, and to do so on a quarterly basis would require an additional 2½–3 additional FTEs. This is just the administrative cost to our Office of Sponsored Programs, not counting the time PIs would have to spend. Since State funds are dwindling and administrative costs allowed in indirect costs are capped at 26% the Act will impact our budget.

It should be noted that the Federal Demonstration Partnership found that the Recovery Act quarterly reporting resulted in each award costing an additional $7900 to administer, for little useful information. Research is about creating and advancing knowledge and is less prone to duplication and abuse because researchers generally know their peers and their published work. We have several other concerns such as the FAST Commission and the penalties for noncompliance, but the cost of quarterly reporting is the most direct.

Again, thank you for all you do on behalf of George Mason University. I look forward to continuing to work with you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

KERRY D. BOLOGNESE,
Director of Federal Relations.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on H.R. 2146, the DATA Act. I join all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in supporting greater transparency in Federal grants and contracts. But the details in how we reach that goal are important. The bill as reported by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform would have created an extra level of bureaucracy and duplicative reporting of financial data in addition to an administrative tax on scarce Federal research dollars and an unfunded mandate imposed on our already struggling universities.

Research universities, the economic engines of our Nation, typically receive research grants from 6–7 Federal agencies, each with its own financial reporting requirements and data standards. The bill as introduced would simply have added one more agency, in the form of the new Commission, to which universities would have to report. This would have increased the administrative costs on Federal research dollars without providing any new information about funding to those institutions.

The amendment being considered today is a big improvement on the original bill in ensuring that financial reporting of Federal grants and contracts is standardized and consolidated to reduce the overall administrative burden on grant recipients such as universities while providing the increased transparency that is the goal of this bill. I want to express my appreciation to Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for working closely with the university groups to address these issues.

However, I believe that more work still needs to be done on this bill to guarantee that financial reporting is fully streamlined and agencies are required to comply with a consolidated reporting system. I understand that the transition will be difficult for all involved, including both the granting agencies and the grant recipients, but I also believe that a consolidated financial reporting system is good for the government and good for the taxpayer.

I share with some of my colleagues other concerns that have been expressed about this bill, but today I speak only in my role as Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. I hope that Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS will maintain their open dialogue with the universities and other Federal grant and contract recipients about the details of this bill as it moves forward. I believe we all share the goal of increased transparency while keeping U.S. research dollars directed to ground-breaking research that is the foundation of our economic growth, rather than to additional paperwork.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2146, 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.

SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3336) to ensure the exclusion of small lenders from certain regulations of the Dodd-Frank Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3336

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 ''Small Business Credit Availability Act''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF SWAP DEALER DEFINITION.

Section 1a(49) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(49)) is amended by striking all that follows subparagraph (A)(iv) through subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: ''provided however, in no event shall an insured depository institution, an institution chartered and operating under the Farm Credit Act of 1971, or a United States uninsured branch or agency of a foreign bank that has a prudential regulator be considered to be a swap dealer to the extent that it enters into a swap—

''(I) with a customer that is seeking to manage risk in connection with an extension of credit by the institution to, on behalf of, or for the benefit of, the customer; or

''(II) to offset the risks arising from a swap that meets the requirement of subclause (I).

''(B) INCLUSION.—A person may be designated as a swap dealer for a single type or single class or category of swap or activities and considered not to be a swap dealer for other types, classes, or categories of swaps or activities.

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(i) The term 'swap dealer' does not include a person that enters into swaps for such person's own account, either individually or in a fiduciary capacity, but not as part of regular business activities as described in subparagraph (A).

''(ii) In determining whether a person is a 'swap dealer' within the meaning of subparagraph (A), the following shall not be considered as part of the determination:

''(I) any swap entered into for a person's own account for the purpose of hedging or mitigating commercial risk; and

''(II) any swap entered into for a person's own account for the purpose of meeting State or local governmental regulatory compliance purposes.

''(iii) In determining whether a person is a 'swap dealer' within the meaning of subparagraph (A)(iii), any swap which involves a capacity contract, a renewable energy credit, an emissions allowance, or an emissions offset shall not be considered as part of that determination, if—

''(I) the contract, credit, allowance, or offset is utilized to meet obligations under State or local law or regulation for that person; and

''(II) the swap is entered into for that person's own account.''.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSIONS FROM FINANCIAL ENTITY DEFINITION.

Section 2(h)(7)(C)(ii) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(h)(7)(C)(ii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(ii) EXCLUSION.—Such definition shall not include an entity that is a small bank, savings association, farm credit system institution, non-profit cooperative lender controlled by electric cooperatives, or credit union if the aggregate uncollateralized outward exposure plus aggregate potential outward exposure of the entity with respect to its swaps does not exceed $1,000,000,000.''.

SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF THE EXEMPTIONS FOR CAPTIVE FINANCE COMPANIES FROM THE DEFINITION OF MAJOR SWAP PARTICIPANT AND FROM THE SWAP CLEARING REQUIREMENT.

(a) EXCLUSION FROM DEFINITION OF MAJOR SWAP PARTICIPANT.—Section 1a(33)(D) of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a(33)(D)) is amended to read as follows:

''(D) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN CAPTIVE FINANCE ENTITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The definition under this paragraph shall not include an entity whose primary business is providing financing that facilitates the sale or lease of products by or on behalf of the parent company or another subsidiary of the parent company, and uses derivatives only for the purpose of hedging underlying commercial risks in a consolidated financing and leasing portfolio, at least 90 percent of which, as of the end of its preceding fiscal year, is qualifying financing (including loans, notes, installment sales contracts, receivables, and operating and financing leases).

''(ii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) QUALIFYING FINANCING.—The term 'qualifying financing' means—

''(aa) any financing or lease of, or that includes, a product; or

''(bb) any financing to or for the benefit of an affiliate of the entity, a distribution entity, or any customer or affiliate of a distribution entity,

except that the term does not include any financing that does not facilitate the sale of a product manufactured by the entity or its affiliates, as determined by the Commission.

''(II) PRODUCT.—The term 'product' means—

''(aa) any good that is manufactured or sold by an affilliate of the entity; and

''(bb) any service that is provided by an affiliate of the entity.

''(III) DISTRIBUTION ENTITY.—The term 'distribution entity' means a person whose primary business is the sale, lease or servicing of a product that is manufactured by the entity or its affiliates.

''(IV) AFFILIATE.—The term 'affiliate' means, with respect to an entity—

''(aa) a person that reports information or prepares financial statements on a consolidated basis with the entity, or for which a parent company reports information or prepares financial statements on a consolidated basis for the person and the entity; or

''(bb) a person of which the entity or the parent of the entity holds 50 percent or more of the equity interests.

''(V) PERSON.—The term 'person' means an individual, partnership, corporation (including a business trust), limited liability company, joint stock company, trust, unincorporated association, joint venture or other entity, or a government or any political subdivision or agency thereof.''.

(b) EXCLUSION FROM SWAP CLEARING REQUIREMENT.—Section 2(h)(7)(C)(iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 2(h)(7)(C)(iii)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iii) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN CAPTIVE FINANCE ENTITIES.—Such term shall not include an entity excluded from the definition of major swap participant by reason of section 1a(33)(D).''.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if they had been included in subtitle A of title VII of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION.

The amendments made by this Act to the Commodity Exchange Act shall be implemented—

(1) without regard to—

(A) chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code; and

(B) the notice and comment provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) through the promulgation of an interim final rule, pursuant to which public comment will be sought before a final rule is issued, and

(3) such that paragraph (1) shall apply solely to changes to rules and regulations, or proposed rules and regulations, that are limited to and directly a consequence of such amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 3336.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my support for this bill. First and foremost, I would like to thank my committee's ranking member, Mr. PETERSON, and his staff for their diligent work on this bill on behalf of end-users and small business lenders. We have a longstanding tradition of bipartisanship at the Agriculture Committee, and their work was invaluable. I'd like to thank Representative HARTZLER for her leadership on H.R. 3336 on behalf of the small business institutions and the businesses they serve.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Representative HULTGREN and Representative BOREN, whose legislation, H.R. 3527, will not be considered today. As a result of their leadership and Mr. PETERSON's support, many of the critical issues for end-users addressed in H.R. 3527 were resolved by the CFTC in its final ''definitions rule.''

I think we can reasonably feel assured that agricultural cooperatives and other end-users out in the countryside won't be unnecessarily deemed ''swap dealers'' and regulated like the largest financial institutions. As I said from the outset, if the CFTC on its own resolves concerns we have raised for months in our committee room, we would not proceed with legislation. And that's what we've done with H.R. 3527. However, concerns with the implementation of title VII remain, and so we are here today to proceed with H.R. 3336. This bill addresses issues that are important to community and farm credit banks—organizations which are instrumental to the economic vitality of our towns and rural communities.

In the Dodd-Frank Act, Congress was careful to ensure that new regulations wouldn't impose unnecessary costs on small institutions that might deter them from extending credit to businesses across America. Small banks pose very little risk to our financial system. Within the banking system, 96 percent of the notional value of derivatives is held by the five largest banks. The very small remaining percentage of the derivatives exposure in our financial system is spread across hundreds of small institutions. That's why Congress never intended for these community lenders to be regulated the same as the largest global financial institutions.

□ 1400

This bill aims to restore Congressional intent by exempting small banks, credit unions, nonprofit cooperative lenders, and farm credit institutions from costly clearing requirements under Dodd-Frank. It also ensures that banks can continue to provide risk management tools to their borrowers.

In addition, thanks to the leadership of Representatives SCHILLING, OWENS, and MCINTYRE, provisions of H.R. 3336 will ensure captive finance affiliates of manufacturing companies like John Deere and Caterpillar are eligible for the same exemptions as their parent companies and other end-users. These affiliates are an important source of credit to consumers and businesses and promote our manufacturing sector.

Lastly, through the hard work of Representatives COSTA, CARDOZA, and BACA, H.R. 3336 clarifies that utilities will not be miscast as swap dealers because they enter into contracts that are required by State law. The legislation clarifies that complying with State laws alone won't also draw new and costly Federal regulations.

There are many Members on both sides of the aisle at the Ag Committee who have spent time getting this bill to where it is today. We have been careful not to create loopholes or to stray from congressional intent. The bill does not open the door for large financial players to evade regulations or engage in speculative or highly risky activities.

Madam Speaker, in this economy, it all comes back to jobs. To create new jobs, businesses need access to credit to make new investments. This bill ensures that businesses maintain access to credit from community lenders.

So I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3336 and ensure that America's small businesses can continue to access the credit they need to build our economy.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, today, the House considers H.R. 3336, a bill which makes clarifying changes to the Dodd-Frank Act. Like two other Dodd-Frank bills that the House passed previously—H.R. 2779, the inter-affiliate bill, and H.R. 2682, the margin bill—this legislation was crafted in a bipartisan manner.

As the Ag Committee continues to oversee the implementation of Dodd-Frank, I firmly believe that the CFTC is ultimately going to get the rules and regulations right. If you look at the Dodd-Frank rules that have already been completed, by and large they have been bipartisan and responsive to the

concerns that we have heard during our oversight hearings.

For example, during a legislative hearing last year, we heard concerns about business conduct standards and the potential impact it could have on pension plans' ability to use swaps to hedge risk. When the commission approved a bipartisan final rule establishing these business conduct standards, the general response from the pension community was satisfaction.

More recently, the CFTC approved last week—again with a bipartisan vote of 4–1—rules defining who will be subject of Dodd-Frank's new oversight. Again, the general view from the end-user community is that the rule addresses their concerns. In fact, I believe one of the bills the committee voted on earlier, H.R. 3527, which rewrote the swap dealer definition, now no longer seems necessary.

I talk frequently with CFTC Chairman Gensler, and from what he has told me, I am confident that the remaining concerns that H.R. 3336 seeks to address will ultimately be resolved satisfactorily by the CFTC. I think somebody used this bill to send a message to the CFTC, and since that message is consistent with the original intent of Dodd-Frank, I have no objection to it.

As originally considered by the committee, H.R. 3336 is meant to address concerns raised by farm credit institutions, credit unions, and small banks that worry about being forced to clear. Under current law, the CFTC is supposed to develop an asset-based exemption from clearing. When you look at the swap activity of some of the banks, questions were raised whether a fixed-asset test was appropriate. The risk-based test contained in the bill will, I think, prove more than adequate and certainly will provide incentives to banks to more robustly back up their swap positions, to the extent that they are not doing so now.

During the committee's markup of H.R. 3336, Representatives MCINTYRE and OWENS raised concerns they heard on behalf of captive finance companies which fear that the exemptions provided to them under the Dodd-Frank law will not be implemented properly. This bill not only addresses those concerns, it closed a potential loophole in Dodd-Frank which could have allowed captive finance companies to use the original Dodd-Frank exemption to engage in speculation or swap activities unrelated to the commercial business without proper oversight.

Also, during the markup, Representative COSTA raised concerns on behalf of California utilities, which fear being classified as swap dealers for entering into transactions necessary to comply with State regulations. Working with members of the California delegation, we were able to adequately address these concerns as well.

Given that the legislation clarifies what Congress intended to do with the original Dodd-Frank law, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

And with that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER), who is the primary sponsor of our important piece of legislation today.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this forth and for the bipartisan support for this bill.

I'm pleased to bring the Small Business Credit Availability Act forward today in order to help small businesses, American manufacturers, farmers, and consumers to access the credit they need in order to grow our economy.

Madam Speaker, we need jobs in our country. We need manufacturing to stay strong in America, and we need small businesses to be able to grow. They can't do that if Washington stands in their way.

The Small Business Credit Availability Act removes the onerous barriers to credit imposed by the 2009 Dodd-Frank bill governing a bank's ability to offer low-rate fixed loans to small businesses and manufacturers. This bill also removes the barriers to low-rate fixed loans for credit unions, farm credit banks, rural electric cooperative infrastructure lenders, and finance companies who offer credit to their customers.

Without this bill, the Farm Credit Council alone expects that substantial new costs between $6 million and $27.2 million a year will be added to their cost of doing business, all for new processes and red tape that are not needed.

It is important that local businesses, local manufacturers, and local farmers be able to access low-rate interest loans from local financial entities. This bill keeps the business in the local communities, where it belongs, by reducing the costly new regulations imposed by the 2009 bill. In addition, it clarifies a provision of Dodd-Frank to ensure that manufacturers will be able to continue to provide credit to customers who buy their products.

We need to do everything we can to keep manufacturing here in America, and H.R. 3336 helps do that.

Lastly, our bill clarifies that State utilities are unduly burdened by Dodd-Frank when complying with State law as they enter into contracts. It's time for Washington to cut the unnecessary red tape that hampers job creation. By passing the Small Business Credit Availability Act, Congress will remove the barriers and clear the way for local entities to do business at home and create jobs while doing it.

I urge all my colleagues to support this vital bill.

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3336, the Small Business Credit Availability Act.

This bipartisan measure received unanimous support in the House Committee on Agriculture and ensures, as the previous speakers have indicated, that small financial entities such as community banks, farm credit system institutions, and credit unions will not be burdened with costly regulations resulting from the reform of our financial system. That was never Congress' intent.

I appreciate very much the work of Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON and their staffs, as well as the bill's sponsor, Representative HARTZLER, to reach an agreement with not only myself, but my colleagues, Congressmen BACA and CARDOZA, who are also on the committee, as well as the California delegation on the underlying text of this bill. Without your support, obviously we could not address this issue pertaining to California.

While we work to maintain the viability of small businesses recognized in H.R. 3336, we also must look for ways to avoid unintended consequences resulting from the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act on other entities, in this case, such as utilities.

□ 1410

It's always the difficult challenge we have in Congress, the law of unintended consequences, that we must respond to.

Because of California's regulatory environment, I expressed concerns in the committee that California's energy providers, our utility companies, might be or would be inadvertently, as we believe, swept up by the ''swap dealer'' definition, which is the efforts that the committee has addressed. Over several weeks, we worked together with the staff and the utilities to develop language that provides the clarity needed to ensure that companies within California that provide energy for all businesses and residences—which are ultimately California's ratepayers—are not penalized by the Federal regulators for simply complying with State law.

H.R. 3336 includes language clarifying that the actions undertaken to comply with State or local laws or regulations are excluded in determining whether or not an entity is considered a swap dealer. Let me be specific. The language clarifies that resource adequacy contracts entered into to satisfy California's Public Utilities Commission procurement requirements, renewable energy credits used to satisfy the California Renewable Portfolio Standard, and emission allowances to satisfy California's greenhouse regulations should not—and this is the key line—should not be considered in determining whether or not an entity is a swap dealer.

My colleagues, we should understand that the situation we're dealing with in these examples, these transactions, are closely regulated by California's Public Utilities Commission or the California Air Resources Board, and they pose no systemic risk to our financial systems or to the ratepayers.

While California is currently affected, it is possible that these concerns could be shared by energy providers in other States. That's why the committee, in their wisdom, chose to address this issue to help not only California, but possibly to extend to other States that might be similarly affected. For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

I once again want to thank the chairman, thank Ranking Member PETERSON, Chairman LUCAS, and the author of the bill, Representative HARTZLER.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHILLING).

Mr. SCHILLING. Thank you, Chairman LUCAS.

I rise in support of H.R. 3336, the Small Business Credit Availability Act.

Madam Speaker, I've only been in Congress for a little over a year, but I have found the House Committee on Agriculture to be very bipartisan, and I believe that it is in large part due to the leadership of Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member PETERSON.

I come to the floor today to speak in support of a bipartisan provision in the bill that is important to the American manufacturing sector—and particularly to Illinois companies like John Deere and Caterpillar, which employ almost 150,000 men and women.

Many of the manufacturers here at home have what are called ''captive finance affiliates'' whose function is to provide loans and leases to customers to purchase the goods they make. The credit that captive finance companies provide is essential to agricultural producers, construction contractors, and manufacturers, and the jobs they support here at home.

Congress provided an exemption in the current law for captive finance affiliates so that when they hedge risks associated with providing loans to their customers, they receive the same exemptions available to the parent company and other end-users. However, there is a lack of guidance in the CFTC's implementation of the exemption, leading to concern that these captive finance companies could be subject to mandatory clearing requirements or regulated as major swap participants. There is bipartisan agreement that this is not what Congress originally intended.

H.R. 3336 will provide the needed clarification for our manufacturers and their captive affiliates. It does so while also providing safeguards against abuse. First and foremost, this only applies to entities that use derivatives to manage their risks, meaning they cannot use derivatives to speculate. In addition, these entities cannot engage in financing that does not facilitate the sale of their manufactured products. The CFTC will have the authority to prevent affiliates from qualifying for this exemption.

Again, I appreciate the bipartisan nature of providing certainty on this issue. I want to thank Chairman LUCAS, Ranking Member PETERSON, Congressman BILL OWENS, Congressman MIKE MCINTYRE, and Congressman RANDY NEUGEBAUER for their efforts on this issue. I also really want to thank the majority and minority House Ag Committee and their staff for their work on this issue, especially Ryan McKee and Clarke Ogilvie. It is important to provide certainty for our folks back home.

Mr. PETERSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3336, the Small Business Credit Availability Act.

Today's bill makes several narrow changes to the law which will further clarify exactly how Congress intended for the CFTC to implement the new swap dealer registration requirements under Dodd-Frank.

In the law, Congress authorized the CFTC to exclude small financial institutions that provide swaps in connection with loans from the heavy regulations as swap dealers. We did so because we understood the importance of allowing these institutions the ability to package together loans and hedging instruments.

Offering loans in this way allows small financial institutions to offset some of their underlying risk and offer lower loan rates to local farmers, ranchers, and small businesses. These lower loan rates mean the businesses that sustain our rural communities will have greater access to the capital they need to continue to invest in their growing businesses.

With the Entity Definitions recently released by the CTFC—although not yet published in the Federal Reserve—the CFTC took steps towards resolving the issues addressed by H.R. 3336. However, it left some undone. Unfortunately, the current rule is silent on the commodity swaps for agricultural businesses, is unnecessarily restrictive of farm credit system institutions, and applies arbitrary time restrictions on excluded swaps.

H.R. 3336 would strengthen the rule passed by the CTFC by expanding the scope of the exemption to protect the way rural America has long done business. The farms, ranches, and small businesses in the district I represent have never been and never will be a part of the systemic failure of our financial system. Neither they nor the small institutions that serve them ought to be considered as a threat.

Today's legislation is carefully tailored to ensure that we do not shackle small businesses and family farms with rules that ought to apply and are meant to police the largest Wall Street banks.

I want to thank Ms. HARTZLER for the work that she's done on shepherding this bill through committee. She has been a staunch advocate for protecting small businesses from the overreach of Dodd-Frank. I would also like to thank Ranking Member BOSWELL, my counterpart on the General Farm Committees and Risk Management Subcommittee; our chairman, Mr. LUCAS; and our ranking member, Mr. PETERSON, for their continued efforts at comity and bipartisanship on the House Agriculture Committee.

Like many bills moved through our committee this year, H.R. 3336 passed with unanimous bipartisan support. This is a testament to the leadership on both sides of the aisle and to the carefully crafted bill that Ms. HARTZLER introduced.

With those remarks, Madam Speaker, I urge swift adoption of the Small Business Credit Availability Act.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I would note to my colleague, the ranking member, I have one additional speaker, and then myself for whatever close I may have.

Mr. PETERSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN).

Mr. HULTGREN. Chairman LUCAS, thank you so much for your support on this issue. It has been a pleasure working with you and your staff during my first term here in Congress and on the Ag Committee.

In the committee this year, we have worked hard to protect farms and small businesses from Dodd-Frank red tape. That's why I rise today in strong support of Representative VICKY HARTZLER's bill.

H.R. 3336 reduces unnecessary regulatory burdens on small financial institutions to ensure they can continue to provide capital to small businesses in their communities.

The bill ensures that small financial and farm credit institutions will continue to be able to provide swaps to their loan customers without being considered or registered as swap dealers.

I am pleased that the CTFC has come out with a ruling more favorable than the original legislation, but I think it's important still to note that this bill ensures that the CTFC provides an exemption from clearing for small financial institutions that are hedging their own risks.

I also want to thank my Illinois colleague, Congressman BOBBY SCHILLING, for his work on this bill. He added a provision particularly important for companies like John Deere and Caterpillar, which has facilities in my district.

□ 1420

Mr. PETERSON. Madam Speaker, again, this bill clarifies what was the original intent of the Dodd-Frank deliberations. Some of what's in this bill, I think, has already been resolved, but there are some clarifications here. If

there is duplication, it doesn't do any harm, so we support this bill and encourage that it be adopted.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I think, as we've heard here today, this piece of legislation is an effort, in a very bipartisan way, to address some of the issues in Dodd-Frank that need to be fixed. If you care about production agriculture, if you care about Main Street business, if you care about the people who work in the factories that produce the products and do the things that make this great economy move forward, then you'll support H.R. 3336.

It won't affect the five biggest financial institutions that do 96 percent of this kind of business, but it will help the people who really toil and struggle every day to make a living. It will help the small communities where those good folks live. It's a positive effort to address issues that have come to light in the course of the Ag Committee's exhaustive hearings.

I simply thank my colleague, Congresswoman HARTZLER, for working diligently on this bill. I thank the ranking member and my colleagues.

Let's vote for H.R. 3336. Let's try and help the folks back home.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3336, 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.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam 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.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4348) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference requested by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rahall moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4348 be instructed to recede from disagreement to the amendment of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

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

Madam Speaker, the long-term authorization of surface transportation programs expired on September 30, 2009. Since that time, Congress has enacted nine separate Surface Transportation Extension Acts, allowing us to continue limping along, patching together our Nation's surface transportation system. These short-term, start-and-stop Surface Transportation Extension Acts are undermining our surface transportation system.

Running these programs through short-term extensions creates tremendous uncertainty among State departments of transportation, public transit agencies, and highway and transit contractors that delay critical highway and transit projects, costing good-paying jobs each step of the way.

With more than 2.5 million construction and manufacturing workers still out of work, it is far past time for Congress to enact surface transportation legislation that will remove this uncertainty, create and sustain family-wage jobs, and restore our Nation's economic growth.

That's why I offer this motion today. We have an opportunity before us to move quickly to pass legislation that can remove this uncertainty and get America back to work.

Over a month ago, the Senate passed S. 1813, known as MAP–21, by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 74–22. Now, each of us in this body knows how difficult it is for the other body to agree on just about anything. But, unlike the House, the Senate was able to come together to pass bipartisan legislation that will provide States with the certainty that they need to move forward with highway and transit projects and get Americans back to work. It is time for the House, believe it or not, to follow the other body's lead and pass S. 1813.

Certainly, S. 1813 is not the exact bill that I would have written. However, the Senate bill is a dramatic improvement over what House Republicans proposed in their now-dead partisan reauthorization bill known as H.R. 7, which was reported by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, but never acted upon by the full House.

Last week, in an effort to facilitate a conference with the Senate on MAP–21, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4348, another surface transportation extension bill. I supported the House passage of H.R. 4348 as a vehicle to go to conference on the Senate bill.

I said then—taking Republicans at their word that they are serious about moving this process forward—passage of that short-term extension bill would allow us to quickly convene a conference with the Senate on its bipartisan, multiyear surface transportation reauthorization bill, which passed with the support of three-quarters of the other body.

A long-term bill will provide the certainty that States need to invest and proceed with their plans long on the books. It will provide the certainty that highway and transit contractors desperately need to give them the confidence to hire that one more worker. That is what surface transportation is all about, putting Americans back to work and sustaining our economic competitiveness.

If there are issues that we must change, we can address those through a technical corrections bill that will make the necessary policy changes to improve the bill. That is not unprecedented. We've done it before.

There is nothing to prevent the Congress from enacting S. 1813 and then continuing to work to develop further bicameral, bipartisan changes to further improve surface transportation programs and policies. But American workers should not have to wait any longer as Congress searches for agreement. The time for political games is over.

So my motion is simple, very simple. It instructs House conferees to agree to the Senate bill. Enactment of MAP–21 will put in place 18 months worth of funding, provide state DOTs and public transit agencies the certainty they need to advance projects, and provide contractors the certainty they need to hire that one more worker. Out-of-work Americans simply cannot wait any longer.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a little bit of time to explain to you and my colleagues and others who may be listening to this debate about what's happening now. The other side of the aisle has just offered a motion to instruct, and we're going to conference on an important piece of legislation. That's the transportation bill that sets the transportation policy for the United States of America.

For all of our transportation projects, those projects that would be eligible, we identify the terms of participation for States and local governments and everyone who is going to receive Federal funds for transportation projects. So all of that is very important.

It is important that we put people to work. When I go back home, I talk to

people who lost their house, lost their job, and they want an opportunity to work. And you heard that, in fact, there have been nine amendments since the bill expired, and six of those extensions were passed under the Democrats. I've had to do three.

They had complete control of the U.S. House of Representatives, the United States Senate, and the White House, and still had to pass six extensions. Then I learned from our staff that they did not pass a single freestanding extension.

□ 1430

Before we left for Easter, I passed a freestanding extension to get us so that we wouldn't close down jobs, that we wouldn't stop contracts, that we wouldn't stop people working. Now they're asking us to take the Senate carte blanche, a proposal which was adopted by the Senate—not a total vote, but it was a bipartisan vote—and just adopt it in their motion to instruct.

Now, Madam Speaker, I just got through explaining the Constitution to a wonderful group of young people from the Stetson Baptist Christian School in DeLand, Florida, on the steps just a few steps from here—right out that door and down those steps—and they stood there. I explained to them that the Founding Fathers created two Houses. The first body that they created, most importantly, the Congress of the United States, a legislative branch with a House and, yes, young people and teachers and chaperones that were listening, and I said also with the Senate.

They did that because they wanted all of those opinions to come together and they wanted us to work, again, in a bipartisan fashion to come up with the best possible solution. Yes, they'd operated with Articles of Confederation with a unicameral government, but last time I checked down the hall, I think if we open those doors and look down there, there is the United States Senate, and this is the people's House of Representatives.

I also explained to the students, this is the only body in which the Members actually have to be elected. Everybody else can be appointed. The Senators can be appointed. The President, actually you could replace him by appointment, the Vice President. But the only Federal representative that they have is the House of Representatives.

But what they want to do is cast the participation of the House of Representatives aside and just adopt what the Senate has brought forward. I tell you that the House has worked hard.

Now, I didn't have the benefit of 6,300 earmarks, which my predecessor had, to pass a bill, so it's taken me a little bit longer, and a few days ago we did pass a bill. It wasn't a bill that we passed out of committee, H.R. 7, with all the Republican votes but one, and we tried to bring to the House. It wasn't the vote that we heard in committee for some 18 hours, most of the time consumed not with Republican amendments but with Democrat amendments, over a hundred Democrat amendments, and I said we're going to sit there as long as it takes and give everyone an opportunity to participate in this free and open process, which we are doing here. Today they propose closing down that free and open process. Let's just adopt what the Senate tossed over to us.

I say ''no,'' and I say ''no'' for a whole host of reasons. The Senate proposal is a proposal that will bankrupt the trust fund. The Senate proposal is a path to just building paths, to resurfacing, to short-term jobs, not answering the call of the people who sent us here to make certain that their transportation money, when they go fill up their gas tank, pay for 1 gallon of gas, 18.4 cents comes to Washington in the trust fund, and we spend it. That's what this sets the policy for, what's eligible for receiving those Federal dollars.

But we'll just forget there's a House of Representatives and cast that body aside. I think not.

I think even an eighth-grader from one of my schools at home can figure this out, Madam Speaker, and I just can't agree with this motion to recommit.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

In order to respond to the distinguished chairman, that's funny, and I appreciate the history lesson he's just given us on legislation in this body. It's funny, while you were speaking to students from your district, I was just speaking to students from my district outside on the Capitol steps as well. They happened to have been from Webster Junior High School from Webster Springs, West Virginia.

I explained to them the process that we're in right now going to conference on the transportation bill, how the other body had passed in a bipartisan fashion, the other body who can rarely agree on anything, including a resolution saying ''I love mother,'' but here they came together and passed a bill with 72 votes in a bipartisan fashion. I had explained to them briefly what the other body's bill did and what our bill did. That's funny. They were all nodding in agreement. They all said we ought to accept the Senate bill; go for the Senate bill.

So I guess the point I'm making is that we all know how this place works. We all know the difficulties in getting something through the other body where, like it or not, the Framers of our Constitution set it up so that the minority in that body has the power.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the ranking member on our Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. In a bitterly divided Congress along partisan lines, I think there is one thing we can all agree upon: America is falling apart.

Our Nation's infrastructure, according to two reports from commissions that met during the Bush administration when the Republicans controlled the House, the White House, and the Senate, came to the same conclusion: we are vastly underinvesting in our national transportation infrastructure.

We're not even spending enough to bring the Eisenhower-era investments up to a state of good repair: 150,000 bridges need repair or replacement; 40 percent of the pavement on the National Highway System needs to be substantially rebuilt, not just paved over; and a $60 billion to $70 billion backlog on critical capital investments for our legacy transit systems across America.

The good news is, if we make these investments, we'll put millions of people to work—and not just construction workers, not just engineers, manufacturing steel for the bridges, manufacturing for light railcars, for streetcars, first Made in America streetcars in 70 years being produced at Oregon Iron Works, and the components sourced from 24 States in the United States of America.

We have the strongest buy America requirements in our transportation sector, and I hope that we can agree, as we move forward through this conference, to strengthen those even more so we don't leak these precious tax dollars and jobs overseas like we do in so many other ways.

Now, I understand the reluctance of the majority, and they will prevail here today, to say, Let's do the Senate bill now and move on. Let's put people back to work starting next week. But I've got to caution the majority. They will prevail today, but these temporary extensions are costing us jobs. They aren't status quo, let's just extend 90 days and 90 days.

We are getting substantiated reports from the 50 States that they are delaying or cancelling transportation investments and projects for this construction season because of the uncertainty about Federal funding. Time is of the essence here.

In the northern tier States, we've got to get this bill done before we take—well, we've got a break next week, then we're back, I think, for 7 legislative days, then we've got a break the next week, then we come back for another 7 legislative days, then we've got a 10-day break after that.

We've got to squeeze in a little legislative work between these breaks. I believe that if we're determined that we can begin the conference as soon as we are appointed, and we could have this done no later than May 15 before we begin, two breaks from now, another break. So we've got to stop taking breaks and give the American people a break and put them back to work. Make the investments they know we need in our Nation's infrastructure.

I urge support for the ranking member's position.

□ 1440

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee, who also chairs the Highways Subcommittee, Mr. DUNCAN.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. I thank Chairman MICA for yielding me this time, and I especially thank him for his long and hard work on this legislation. He has raised several points, Chairman MICA has, as to the problems that this motion to instruct would cause, so let me just mention a few things.

This motion to instruct conferees to accept the Senate bill in its entirety is contrary to the purpose of having a House and Senate conference. It is our responsibility to sit down with our Senate colleagues and address areas where we have differences of opinion. More importantly, the Senate bill includes provisions that many people have serious concerns about.

For example, the Senate bill requires that all new passenger vehicles, beginning in 2015, be equipped with an event data recorder. These recorders are similar to the black boxes required on airplanes. While the intent of this provision is to collect safety information, many people think this is a slippery slope that we really don't want to go down. Privacy is a big concern for many of my constituents and for many people across this country, and this provision, many people feel, would cross the line of Federal intrusion into citizens' personal, or private, lives.

There are also other areas where the Senate bill does not go far enough. We've talked about environmental streamlining for years, but everyone on both sides of the aisle knows we need to really do something about that now because other developed nations are doing projects in half the time or less than we are. In the last two Federal highway studies, one showed it took 13 years and another said it took 15 years from conception to completion. These are not transcontinental highways. These are just relatively short highway projects, and we could be doing those in 6 or 7 years.

The Senate bill does not set hard deadlines for Federal agencies to approve projects, so they can be delayed and delayed and delayed. It does not allow State environmental laws to be used in place of Federal environmental laws. There are some States in which the State laws are better. The Senate bill does not expand the list of projects that qualify for categorical exclusions. The Senate bill does not expedite projects that are being rebuilt due to a disaster, such as the bridge on Interstate 35 in Minnesota, which was done so quickly to everybody's great relief. These are issues not addressed in the Senate bill, issues which could be addressed in the conference. There are also many other issues that Chairman MICA has pointed out.

Let me just say that much of the highway bill that the House has produced came from the other side. I understand there were hundreds of letters from Democratic Members and that 60 percent of what was requested in those letters was done by the committee staff. Then there were over 100 amendments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MICA. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. We started our markup at, I think, 9 o'clock in the morning, and we went until about 3 o'clock the next morning. We addressed over 100 amendments that were submitted by Democratic Members, and I think over 20 of them were put into the bill. So many things were put in by the other side before the bill ever was marked up, and then during the markup. Now we're supposed to do away with all of that and just go with the Senate bill, but I don't think that's the way we should do it. I urge my colleagues to oppose this motion.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to our distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. I thank the Members of the House.

Madam Speaker, let me just say, in having served on the committee for 19 years, it is the House bill I am very disappointed with. Secretary LaHood stated it best: it's the worst bill he has seen in 35 years. Of course, it's the worst bill I've ever seen. I sat through that markup from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 o'clock in the morning, and it was a nightmare, since many of the proposals dismantle transportation.

I can truly say that people come to this floor often raving against the Senate. I now say thank God for the United States Senate because they have come up with a commonsense bill that we can fund and pass—and go home. It's a bill that would fund transportation and really put about 2 million people to work. We have many projects in the Florida area that could benefit from our passing comprehensive transportation, but more than that, we have such a high unemployment rate in Florida—9 percent—that every $1 billion we spend in transportation will generate 44,000 permanent jobs.

In talking about rules and regulations, visiting us today in the Capitol is the Hawk family, whose daughter was killed because of pollution. When we talk about regulations, surely we've got to strike a balance. We have regulations for a purpose. When we raise our hand to defend and protect the public, we're talking about the Constitution, but we also have a responsibility to make sure that we protect the public and have a balanced approach and not destroy all of the regulations pertaining to the environment, which is what the House bill did in the markup.

We can go on and on, but let me just tell you as I close that you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time. Pass the Senate bill.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to a gentleman who has authored one of the major amendments to the legislation that passed, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE).

Mr. RIBBLE. I am struck here this afternoon. I've heard my good friends on the other side of the aisle and their concerns. I think it's legitimate that they would like to see long-term certainty in our infrastructure system. Yet, when the highway bill ended in 2009, they controlled the White House, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. While in the majority of all three levels of government, they chose to extend the transportation authorization six times. So here we are, once again, with another delay tactic, letting the American people wait some more. They know that this motion to instruct is not going to go anywhere because there are important reforms that the American people have told us they want.

One of those reforms is my amendment, which is part of our bill that streamlines the redtape. Why in the world should we take 15 years to get a highway project finished? It's because we're waiting two-thirds of the time to get approvals done. It's nonsensical, yet we keep on promulgating the same problem over and over and over again. It's like Groundhog Day here. I have to tell you, Madam Speaker, it gets frustrating after a while.

We need to get on with this and move forward with something. Let's get this into conference so that we can go ahead and make our reforms. The American people have spoken. They spoke in the last election. They decided that they wanted a split government, that they wanted the majority over here in the House and a different majority in the Senate. That was their choice. The way a bill becomes law is that the Senate does its thing and then we do our thing, and then we come together and negotiate in between to find the best common ground for all Americans. That's what we plan on doing here.

I very strongly urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this motion to instruct. Let us get to conference with our reforms and with the House-passed legislation, the bipartisan House-passed legislation. Let's get on with it so that we can get some certainty put back into this.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I am honored to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, a valued member of our committee, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Let me thank my ranking member and chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I rise in support of the provisions included in the Senate version of the reauthorization. It was my hope that we

would have a longer-term bill, one that would reauthorize surface transportation, transit, and rail provisions for several years. I support the Senate version because it will provide certainty to the State departments of transportation, to transit agencies, and to contractors, which will help create and sustain jobs for out-of-work Americans.

□ 1450

Most of the roads and bridges in this country are in serious disrepair, and States and municipalities are unable to address these needs with piecemeal extensions.

The Senate bill preserves transit funding and continues funding major transit programs from the highway trust fund. I was very concerned with the elimination of transit funding included in the House version. Transit funds are essential to both urban and rural areas by providing alternative transportation, easing congestion, and reducing emissions. In addition, I support the expansion of the TIFIA program to $1 billion annually, and the modifications that make it easier for public transportation agencies with dedicated revenue sources to apply for TIFIA loans.

Madam Speaker, we are currently operating under the ninth extension of SAFETEA–LU. This really is unacceptable, and we owe it to the American people to address our crumbling infrastructure and to get them back to work.

I voted for the most recent extension of SAFETEA–LU, but for the purpose of getting to where we are now, so we could get to conference and consider the Senate amendment to H.R. 4348 in conference. I implore my colleagues to support the instructions to put the Senate transportation bill before us in conference so that we can bring it to the floor.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to one of the outstanding new members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this motion to instruct. The House needs to conference with the Senate and craft a long-term highway bill.

In MAP–21, the Senate bill, there is a provision that was offered by Senator BINGAMAN that provided disincentive to States and cities to consider partnering with the private sector for fear of losing a percentage of its Federal funding. This is only one of the many problems I have with the Senate bill.

In my State of Indiana, Governor Daniels made the bold move to enter into a public-private partnership for the Indiana toll road. Indiana received over $4 billion up front for the lease of this road. When the Governor announced this public-private partnership, Members of this body were critical of the decision, and some even claimed that it would never work.

Not only has it been successful for the Indiana toll road, but it has also resulted in over $6.5 billion invested in infrastructure projects throughout Indiana. After 30 years of planning, Interstate 69 in my district is being built connecting Evansville, the third largest city in the State, to Annapolis.

The Indiana toll road is a perfect example of how business and government can work together to address America's infrastructure needs. The Bingaman amendment ignores these types of successes, and rather than rewarding, States are putting the American taxpayer first and pursuing alternative funding for roads. It will punish a State and take away portions of their Federal funding. Under the Bingaman amendment, Indiana would lose $72 million. Nevada, I should point out, will lose $66 million.

In these challenging fiscal times, public-private partnerships represent an exciting option to many States to better leverage their Federal transportation dollars. Congress should take positive steps to encourage innovative financing strategies like public-private partnerships rather than penalizing them. The only way to fully address our Nation's infrastructure needs is to involve the private sector. The Federal Government can't do everything.

BUILDING AMERICA'S FUTURE,
APRIL 16, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: In order to remain economically competitive, the United States must have a modern 21st century transportation system. Goods must move efficiently to market and people must reliably get from their homes to their jobs or schools.

However, as you are keenly aware, transportation-funding shortfalls are increasing at all levels of government, and traditional funding sources are no longer keeping pace with rapidly growing needs. As a result, states and cities have had to increasingly look to innovative solutions, such as partnering with the private sector (where appropriate) in an effort to modernize their transportation networks. Now is surely not the time to restrict the ability of states and cities to innovate.

Yet, that is precisely what happened with the inclusion of several harmful provisions in the Senate's transportation bill (MAP–21). We are particularly concerned about language that provides a disincentive to states and cities to consider partnering with the private sector for fear of losing a percentage of its federal funding; eliminates the option to use Private Activity Bonds (PABs) to finance leased highway projects; and changes the depreciation timetable for longterm highway leases from 15 years to 45. Taken together or individually, these provisions would have a chilling effect upon future private investment in infrastructure, perhaps even bringing it to a complete halt.

As the House continues to work on its multi-year transportation bill, we urge you not to include any provisions that would make it more difficult for states and cities to continue to innovate and partner with the private sector. In order to address our nation's enormous transportation needs, states must rely on a variety of options to fund and finance those needs. At a time when federal funds are increasingly limited but needs are growing exponentially, the last thing Congress should do is tie the hands of governors and mayors by limiting the options available to them.

Public private partnerships are not the solution to every state's transportation funding challenges, but they are certainly a piece of the solution.

Our own experience with public private partnerships in infrastructure investment convinces us that the private sector is looking for such long term stable investments and that these partnerships must be a viable option for helping to fund our transportation needs.

We urge you to protect the ability of states seeking creative solutions to transportation funding challenges, rather than creating roadblocks to leveraging state dollars with private investment.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG,
Mayor, City of New York.
ED RENDELL,
Former Governor, State of Pennsylvania.
MITCH DANIELS,
Govenor, State of Indiana.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to our distinguished ranking member on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I thank Mr. RAHALL for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the motion to instruct conferees. This motion would direct conferees to adopt the Senate bill, MAP–21, which I introduced as H.R. 14 in March. This legislation can provide State DOTs, transit agencies, and contractors with the certainty they need to create and sustain jobs for the thousands of Americans who are still out of work as a result of the economic downturn.

MAP–21 not only passed overwhelmingly in the Senate with a bipartisan majority of 74–22, but the Senate bill is fully paid for and will save an estimated 1.8 million jobs and create up to 1 million additional jobs when implemented. During a weak economic recovery looking for a jump-start, this is precisely what we need to do.

Given that H.R. 4348 is merely a 90-day extension of highway programs at current levels with a few policy additions, we could put the construction industry back to work that much faster, given that the construction season is in full swing if this motion to instruct is adopted.

MAP–21 has the support of three-quarters of Congress, Senate Democrats, Senate Republicans, House Democrats; it has the support of the White House. It's time that the House Republicans got on board with job creation instead of fighting it. Americans

want safe roads and bridges; but, above all, they want jobs.

The Senate passed the biggest job-creating bill in this Congress by an overwhelming bipartisan margin. The House has done nothing. Let's get this country moving again by passing the Senate bill so the President can sign it. Let's create jobs. Let's Make It in America.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. MICA. I yield 3½ minutes to the chair of the Rail Subcommittee, the distinguished member of our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. I just want to remind my colleague from New York, as he is walking off the floor, that it was the Democratic-controlled Congress that was unable to pass a transportation bill when they had control of this body for the past couple of years.

Today, I come to the floor in opposition to the motion to instruct; and, quite frankly, I'm surprised, I'm shocked, I'm stunned that my colleagues on the other side are willing to take up a Senate bill which is a bad bill and, in fact, there's a couple of provisions in there that I would think the ranking member of the full committee and the ranking member of the Railroad Subcommittee would embrace. There is a coal ash provision in there which is going to be good for coal in West Virginia, so that is something I would hope that we would embrace going to conference, to come out and save those jobs in West Virginia, create more jobs.

Then, of course, the gentlelady from Florida, she embraces the Senate bill, which is going to be a disincentive for private money. It's my understanding that Florida is a leader when it comes to working with the private sector to build infrastructure. Why in the world would we want to have a disincentive out there for public-private partnerships when Florida will benefit mightily from it? Again, as I said, I'm stunned that we're standing here today with this motion to instruct.

The Senate bill fails to make real reforms, continues the transportation enhancement and safety routes, the school programs that mandate bike paths and roadside flowers and ''walking school bus'' programs. You would think that the people in Pennsylvania, Florida or West Virginia didn't love their kids enough that they wouldn't be able to instruct them on their own how to go to school safely.

Also, the people in Pennsylvania, we need to spend that money—not on bike paths, although I love bike paths, I have got a few of them in my district—but the time we face today should be focused on repairing those bridges when Pennsylvania has over 5,000 bridges that are in desperate need of repair. Again, the Senate bill continues to mandate that they hire a bike/pedestrian coordinator and a Safe Routes to School coordinator. Like I said, those are things I don't believe belong in this bill.

Further, the Senate bill fails, or it creates, actually, a national freight program adding to bureaucracy at PennDOT. The new freight program allows States to use up to 10 percent of their appropriated funds for freight rail projects, which means less money for highways and bridges. I'm an advocate for rail in this country. I don't believe that Class I's would want anything to do with this because every time they have got involved with Federal money, it takes a lot longer and it's a lot more expensive. I don't even believe that the Class I's would embrace a program like this that the Senate is putting forward out there. The Federal regulatory provisions for passenger rail providers include rail authorities that are intended to stifle competition. Once again, there's private sector initiatives going on all over this country when it's coming to commuter rail.

Another thing, positive train controls, the Senate doesn't push that back. We found the technology is not there; it's not right. We don't have it. You can't use alternative forms of safety devices when it comes to positive train control.

In addition to that, in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, SEPTA, they are going to have to spend half of their capital money, half of their capital dollars, to put positive train control in place. This is going to cause even the trains in New Jersey and the Philadelphia area to be less safe because they are not going to be spending on fixing their rolling stock and rehabilitating their rail lines.

□ 1500

So this bill, again, falls far short of any kind of reforms we need, as well as the Railroad Rehabilitation Improvement Financing fund, which is a loan program to tap into $35 billion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MICA. I yield the gentleman 30 additional seconds.

Mr. SHUSTER. Now, that's the kind of reform we need to see, not forcing States to spend 10 percent in freight rail projects, but let's let them tap into this RRIF loan program and make it easier.

The way our bill and our reforms are, it would make it much easier for the Class I's, and especially the short lines, to be able to invest those dollars at low interest rates and improve the freight rail system in this country.

Again, I'm stunned that my colleagues wouldn't support these what I consider to be groundbreaking reforms that will allow us to spend more money on building roads and bridges.

With that, I urge a rejection of this motion to instruct.

Mr. RAHALL. May I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia has 16 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Florida has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RAHALL. I have the right to close debate?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. RAHALL. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to one of our star new members of the committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA).

Mr. HANNA. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct.

The House has developed some of the strongest policy reforms in decades. I, for one, am not ready to give them up. I thank Chairman MICA in particular for his leadership to streamline project delivery. It shouldn't take 15 years to finish a project. Our bill streamlines the permitting process so that they can be done concurrently, instead of consecutively. This is good policy and something worth fighting for. We can cut this time in half—and we should.

I also worked on two other provisions that simply aren't addressed in the Senate bill:

One addressed the use of engineering services. Specifically, it calls for States to utilize private sector engineering firms to the maximum extent possibility. State DOTs should streamline their operations and reduce overhead so more money is going to put shovels in the ground, not to bureaucracy.

The second provision would create regional planning organizations to give small communities a seat at the table, which is something they don't have now. The rural areas I represent face stiff competition for limited Federal dollars, and they deserve their fair share. But this reform, too, is absent from the Senate bill.

Let's work with the Senate to get these and other good ideas from both sides included in a final bill. Madam Speaker, we should embrace this process to make a positive impact on the Senate bill.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion to instruct.

Mr. RAHALL. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to one of the senior members of the Transportation Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER).

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

What's interesting about the debate is, if the Senate bill is good, you're going to appoint conferees, argue for the Senate side—you don't have to introduce a bill here in the House—and expect us to accept it when we haven't read it, we haven't debated it. It came to the floor without any discussion on our side. So when we go to conference, if you like the Senate provisions, if you

like a 2-year bill when we're going to fight for a 5-year bill, you're welcome to ask for that.

But there are some things in the Senate bill that really bother me. You had the Senate side say and guarantee there were no earmarks in this bill. Well, if you look at what Senator REID has done, in the 2005 SAFETEA–LU, the House put out a $45 million request for a project that was considered a legal earmark at that point in time. What Mr. REID has done is he has reappropriated that project to a $45 million project near the Las Vegas airport.

Now, it's nice that the Senate wants to make promises, but actions speak a lot louder than words. And when the actions of the bill state clearly that $45 million of House money authorized in 2005 is being transferred to a project in Las Vegas in a bill—and it's 2012—something inappropriate about that promise seems to occur.

I really appreciate the chairman putting language in our original bill on environmental streamlining. I think he did a great job on this. But when I wrote the bill, the language was very clear on what we were trying to do.

In 2005, authored language in TEA–LU said if a State has an environmental process that meets or exceeds Federal environmental law, they don't have to go through a duplicative process, and it allowed five States the opportunity to participate in that. But one State took advantage of that: the State of California. To this date, it's saving 17 months on process time—just application—and it's saving 30 months on delivery time.

What we tried to do in the House bill was the same thing. We're saying: Allow environmental reciprocity. But we want to go beyond that. We want to say not only should States be allowed to do that, but allow local municipalities and counties to do the same thing. They can save 17 months on process, 30 months on delivery. Today, time equals dollars. Plus, if you can create the projects today, we're going to move the economy forward in a positive direction and create some jobs.

But there's other things we need to do.

Receiving grants: Current law says that if a State or municipality applies for a Federal grant, they can't start the project until the grant money is received by the municipality or the agency. What we've done is say that once you have been approved for the grant, if you want to start the project, now start the project and you can reimburse yourself when the grant funds come in. You might save 12 months alone waiting for a grant to come in from the Federal Government; whereby, you can start today using local agency funds or State funds and get your money back when this money comes in from the grant project.

We need to establish some certainty on when you can start a project. The problem we have is, when applications are made to the Federal Government for a process for approval, it goes through an uncertain time process where they can delay and delay and delay. We've said, thanks to the chairman, that there's a date certain. Now the Federal Government has to respond by a date and has to approve it by a date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MICA. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think Chairman MICA did a great job putting the language into the bill, because it says you have to know when you can do something based on the Federal process and it sets a deadline for the Federal bureaucrats to get their job done.

Now, it seems like local governments and State governments are rapidly wanting to do things and the Federal Government drags its heels, requiring them to delay until they get final approval. We're saying, no, let's set a date for the Federal bureaucracy to approve a project—and I know you agree with this issue on your side—to let the construction projects go forward and make sure bureaucrats do their job. I approve what Chairman MICA is willing to do and wants to do here.

Mr. RAHALL. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I started out talking about how it's important for the legislative process to properly be fulfilled under the terms of the Constitution and separation of responsibilities in the legislative body. This motion, of course, would close all of that down. We'd accept what the Senate has done without all of the work many Members have put into it. And I didn't go to Webster Springs, but I did go to Beckley, West Virginia, where we held the first meeting to allow the other side of the aisle to present at the very first of these deliberations their viewpoint and their recommendations for trying to pass a long-term transportation bill.

We took many of those—as you heard, 60 percent of the recommendations form the other side. We took 100 amendments, considered them, and passed 20 during 18 hours of marking up and considering the bill. So we've tried to make this a bipartisan process and a full process that everyone gets to participate in. But now they're here telling us that we don't want the House to participate any further, and just take the Senate bill and go along.

□ 1510

Now they, of course, passed six extensions, short term, keeping things in turmoil during—I think we calculated about 14 months. I've had to do three in about the same period of time. The difference is, I didn't have 6,300 earmarks, I didn't control the other body or that house downtown, what do they call it? The White House. But they controlled them all, all the branches, and they couldn't git 'er done.

So, the Senate bill does not set a threshold on some of these environmental approvals that tie us up. And no one wants to step over any good environmental provisions. What we want to do is shorten a little bit the time that these things go under consideration. They go on and on. You heard Mr. RIBBLE talk: 15 years to approve some of the projects in his district, 7 years on average for simple processing if the Federal Government gets involved. And we keep repeating the same thing. You heard the speaker say it's like Groundhog Day around here, and we've got to stop the Groundhog Day, and we could do that by having the House provisions adopted.

There are a whole host of things wrong with the Senate bill, and I won't get into them. And I know it's been a bumpy road to get here. I've told folks that when I became chairman—and I think the ranking member, when he became ranking member, neither of us was handed an operating manual. So this has been a bumpy road to get here, and it is a difficult process, but we tried to include everyone in that process and come up with the best suggestions and recommendations.

Mr. RIBBLE's amendment, which is to streamline provisions of H.R. 7, is excellent. Well, we'll get more for less, and we can do it responsibly. Mr. BOUSTANY from Louisiana's amendment getting the Highway Maintenance Trust Fund to get funds that are collected for improvement of the ports—actually they improve our ports that are so important to infrastructure. So there are many good provisions in our legislation. It's not what I would have exactly crafted or passed in the very beginning or brought out here, but it is a vehicle so that everybody can have consideration who has participated in this process.

So I submit to you, although it's been a bumpy road with some twists and turns—we didn't expect that the Senate bill is a path to fewer jobs; it's a path to fewer projects actually getting done. It's a path to build only paths, if you want to look at it that way. Unfortunately, it's also a path to a dead end for transportation.

So, I submit, Madam Speaker, that we take a different road, that we take a road to where we'll have more jobs. We could do more with less, and we can, I think, do a lot more for the American people in a very difficult time in our history in moving this great country forward and building our infrastructure.

With that, I'll yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, as I said in my opening comments, the Senate bill, MAP–21, is not the perfect bill. It's not the bill I would have written had I had

my druthers. And yet I hear several of my colleagues on the other side saying how stunned they are that I am not for the House bill and that I would be here offering a motion to accept, carte blanche, the other body's bill.

I'm sure those Members know how this process works, and before I just give them a brief lesson on that, let me repeat my words again from my opening comments: that the other body's bill is not perfect. If there are issues that we must change, we can address those through a technical corrections bill that will make the necessary policy changes to improve the bill. This is not unprecedented. We have done it before, I would say to my stunned colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

So there is nothing to prevent Congress from enacting S. 1813 and then continuing to work to develop further bicameral, bipartisan changes to further improve our surface transportation programs and policies. But the bottom line here, the bottom line here is that our American workers should not have to wait any longer as Congress searches for an agreement. The time for political games, the time for adding stuff to score political points, is over.

I would say, in addition, to my distinguished chairman from Florida, he appears to blame part of his problems, headaches, and troubles on his side of the aisle on the fact that we no longer have what are known as earmarks. Now, it seems to me his suggestion is that we reinstate that process known as earmarks whereby we, in this body, if it's so concerned about Members of the House having a say and doing our constitutional jobs, where we would have a legitimate input into the making of transportation policy by deciding those local projects that are best for our people, rather than leaving them to bureaucracies or to Presidents of the United States, regardless of who occupies that office.

So, last week, I asked my colleague to join me in a bipartisan manner in writing a letter, which he kindly agreed, to the Speaker urging an expeditious naming of conferees, which we've now done. That was a bipartisan letter signed by the big four in our committee. I would now ask him, again, in the spirit of bipartisanship, and I will yield him time if he's prepared to answer my question yes or no—yes or no—if he will join me in a bipartisan letter to the Speaker asking for the reinstatement of earmarks. Yes or no?

Mr. MICA. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RAHALL. Yes, I'll yield.

Mr. MICA. I have to be a little bit more verbose. Would you allow me additional time?

Mr. RAHALL. I'll grant you 1 minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. MICA. When I took over as ranking member and we had sort of a rank way in which earmarks were done, I cleaned up the process. I think earmarks, there can be bad legislative earmarks and bad administrative earmarks. When they're done behind closed doors, they're not properly vetted, they're not transparent, and they haven't had the sunshine, the antiseptic sunshine to let people know what's going on and they're not a worthwhile project that has true support, they shouldn't be considered, whether by the administration or legislatively. I think that we have a moratorium now, and I'd like to see a different way to present those requests. I think fundamentally under Article I of the Constitution, I think it's section 2, we should, as the House of Representatives, and we do earmark, even if we just put one line in that says that we'll turn all this money and responsibility over to the administration—that is an earmark. But we can do, and we should do better.

Mr. RAHALL. I appreciate the gentleman's response. Perhaps we ought to start drafting such a letter and see how far we get.

But let me conclude my part of the debate here, Madam Speaker, by reiterating what my motion is. It's simple, it's pure, it's clean, and it's straightforward. It instructs our conferees that we are appointing today to agree to the Senate bill.

That bill, known as MAP–21, provides a total of $109 billion in funding for fiscal years '12 and '13 for Federal highway, highway safety, and public transportation programs.

Among its other features, it continues current funding levels, it sustains approximately 1.9 million jobs on an annual basis, it provides continued dedicated financing for public transit from the highway trust fund—no more ''go fish'' with general appropriators on a yearly basis for our transit agencies. It continues and expands upon provisions developed during the last Surface Transportation Act to expedite project delivery without gutting environmental protections or limiting public participation.

I fear if you do either of the last two, you're only going to prolong the process through court battles because there will be court challenges that will go on beyond any approval process of the bureaucracy that may exist today.

The Senate bill also strengthens Buy America requirements that apply to Federal highway, transit, and rail capital projects by prohibiting the segmentation of such projects in order to avoid Buy America requirements. It ensures that the Department of Transportation periodically review existing nationwide waivers applicable to highway and rail projects. It requires DOT to justify any proposed waiver of the Buy America requirements, and it ensures that the American public has notice of an opportunity to comment on any proposed waiver prior to taking effect.

Finally, MAP–21's bipartisan financing package fully pays for the bill—fully pays for the bill, fully pays for the bill—by providing approximately $9.6 billion in new revenues into the highway trust fund.

□ 1520

This amount will fully pay for highway, transit, and highway safety programs authorized by the bill, and it will allow DOT to maintain a positive balance in both the highway and transit accounts of the highway trust fund at the end of the bill.

The bipartisan offsets do not add to the deficit because the general fund of the Treasury is also made whole for every dollar that's transferred into the highway trust fund.

So as I conclude, let me say that for these reasons I urge adoption of this motion.

Mr. MICA. Will the gentleman yield for one question?

Mr. RAHALL. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MICA. Last week, I think it was, you had come to the floor and asked me to sign a letter to the Speaker to appoint conferees and to go to conference. That's correct?

Mr. RAHALL. Correct.

Mr. MICA. And then we signed that and we sent it to the Speaker. It has gone to the Speaker. So now we're doing that, and now you're asking me to go to conference and roll over and play dead?

Mr. RAHALL. No, I'm not asking you to roll over and play dead. I'm saying that we ought to go to conference, accept the Senate bill. We can come back, as I've said now for the third or fourth time, and enact a technical corrections bill if there is something that we see in there that is drastically bad.

Mr. MICA. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RAHALL. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. MICA. I thought this motion to recommit was to accept the Senate position. So we're getting it to conference. Didn't I pass a motion to go to conference? So now what? You're asking me to just, okay, surrender, it's all over?

Mr. RAHALL. Reclaiming my time, Madam Speaker, I've said many times during this debate that that's not the position of this gentleman that we roll over and play dead to the other body. I've said the other body is not the perfect bill. I've said that there are technical corrections we can change once we get a conference underway. Once we pass a conference committee bill, we can come back and make technical changes. That's not unprecedented in this body.

The important point here to remember is: no longer can we play these political games; no longer can we add extraneous stuff on a jobs bill such as this transportation bill to score political points for a certain wing of our party.

What we need to do, and the American people are demanding, this is the time that contracts are let for work—

not 90 days from now, not 180 days from now. This is springtime. This is time when the highway projects are let, and the American worker is waiting to know whether he or she will have a job this summer.

That's why I think every move should be made to get to conference expeditiously, to have that conference conclude its work and bring a bill back for both Houses of Congress to enact in order to provide that certainty to the American small businesses, to the American economy, to the American worker that he or she will have a job this summer. And that certainty should not wait around for us to decide whether we're going to roll over and play dead or not. That bill can be corrected, as we've done numerous times in this body, through technical changes once we have given that certainty to the American worker and to the American people.

It's for that reason that I urge that the House today approve this motion to instruct conferees as we go to conference on the transportation bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4:45 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1645

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at 4 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4348; motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3336; and motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1038; all 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.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on H.R. 4348, offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 181, nays 242, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 179]

YEAS—181

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren, Zoe
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NAYS—242

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—8

Filner
Holden
Loebsack
Lowey
Marino
Paul
Rangel
Slaughter

□ 1711

Messrs. SHIMKUS, CALVERT, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. POLIS, COSTA, and RYAN of Ohio changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

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 179, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3336) to ensure the exclusion of small lenders from certain regulations of the Dodd-Frank Act, 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 Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 312, nays 111, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 180]

YEAS—312

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Clarke (MI)
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Hochul
Honda
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Keating
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—111

Ackerman
Baldwin
Becerra
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Capps
Capuano
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Conyers
Courtney
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Hinchey
Hirono
Holt
Hoyer
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kildee
Kucinich
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren, Zoe
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Pingree (ME)
Price (NC)
Rothman (NJ)
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Filner
Holden
Loebsack
Lowey
Marino
Paul
Rangel
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1719

Messrs. MORAN, AL GREEN of Texas, and DICKS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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 against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 180, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO CORRECT ERRONEOUS SURVEY, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, ARIZONA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1038) to authorize the conveyance of two small parcels of land within the boundaries of the Coconino National Forest containing private improvements that were developed based upon the reliance of the landowners in an erroneous survey conducted in May 1960, 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.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 181]

YEAS—421

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
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
Bonamici
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
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
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
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
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
Engel
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)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
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
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
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
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—9

Akin
Filner
Holden
Loebsack
Lowey
Marino
Paul
Rangel
Slaughter

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1726

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 181, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 181, I was unavoidably detained and would have voted "yea."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3674

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor to H.R. 3674.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEEHAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

□ 1730

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4348, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012, PART II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill (except section 141) and the Senate amendment (except secs. 1801, 40102, 40201, 40202, 40204, 40205, 40305, 40307, 40309–40312, 100112–100114, and 100116), and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MICA, YOUNG of Alaska, DUNCAN of Tennessee, SHUSTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. BUCSHON, HANNA, SOUTHERLAND, LANKFORD, RIBBLE, RAHALL, DEFAZIO, COSTELLO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Messrs. CUMMINGS, BOSWELL, and BISHOP of New York.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sec. 142 and titles II and V of the House bill, and secs. 1113, 1201, 1202, subtitles B, C, D, and E of title I of Division C, secs. 32701–32705, 32710, 32713, 40101, and 40301 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. UPTON, WHITFIELD, and WAXMAN.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 123, 142, 204, and titles III and VI of the House bill, and sec. 1116, subtitles C, F, and G of title I of Division A, sec. 33009, titles VI and VII of Division C, sec. 40101, subtitles A and B of title I of Division F, and sec. 100301 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HASTINGS of Washington, BISHOP of Utah, and MARKEY.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for consideration of secs. 121, 123, 136, and 137 of the House bill, and sec. 1534, subtitle F of title I of Division A, secs. 20013, 20014, 20029, 31101, 31103, 31111, 31204, 31504, 32705, 33009, 34008, and Division E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HALL, CRAVAACK, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of secs. 141 and 142 of the House bill, and secs. 1801, 40101, 40102, 40201, 40202, 40204, 40205, 40301–40307, 40309–40314, 100112–100114, and 100116 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CAMP, TIBERI, and BLUMENAUER.

There was no objection.

THE SMALL BUSINESS TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

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

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, in North Dakota, we know jobs come from small business, not from Big Government. Small business is the backbone of our economy, and it's the engine to get America back to work. Unfortunately, all too often, instead of helping small business, Washington serves as a roadblock to its growth by piling on excessive regulations and imposing burdensome complex Tax Code on the job creators.

The legislation I'm introducing today is known as the Small Business Tax Simplification Act. It will simplify our Tax Code for small businesses. Instead of being bogged down with complex tax-reporting requirements, this bipartisan legislation will allow businesses to use a simplified form of accounting that more closely matches the way small business owners run their businesses.

This bill represents commonsense change that would ease the burden of tax complexity for many small businesses, as they can spend more of their time and resources doing what they do best, and that's growing jobs and helping our economy.

GOP FRESHMAN CLASS ON COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from New

York (Mr. REED) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to join here this evening with six or more of my colleagues from the freshman class to talk about a very important issue that we face in this Nation, and that is the need for our country to engage in an open and honest debate about comprehensive tax reform as we come to the end of the year with the expiration of our individual tax rates, our corporate tax rates, and the potential exposure of the estate tax being reinitiated at levels that would decimate family farmers and families across all of America.

I am pleased to be joined by so many of my colleagues who understand the importance and the critical nature of this issue to put us on a path to make America competitive when it comes to the world economy, and also to come up with a Tax Code that is simpler and easier for people to understand and that we don't have to spend thousands of dollars, hundreds of dollars, paying advisers to fill out forms just to meet the obligation of a tax burden that is out of control because of spending that is completely causing this Nation to create a national debt of $15.6 trillion. As we go forward in this conversation, let us be open, honest and fair about the issues before us.

With that, I would like to yield, Mr. Speaker, to a good friend of mine from Georgia.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you. I will tell you the key to this is open and honest debate.

We hear a lot from the President and from Democrats today about America's millionaires not paying their fair share. And they, quite honestly, quote Warren Buffett and talk about the Buffett rule. And certainly I'm happy that Mr. Buffett lives in a country like I do where he's able to achieve what he has. But Warren Buffett is a billionaire, not a millionaire.

Now, let's talk about who America's millionaires are. In my part of the country, farmland sells for about $3,500 an acre. So if you own 285 acres of land that you farm, you're a millionaire. In other parts of the country, it may sell for as much as $15,000 an acre. And if you're a farm family with 66 acres, that's one of America's millionaires.

These are hardworking, middle-income Americans who have saved all their lives to pay for the farm. We need to work to protect these family farms so the next generation can carry on their legacy. We hear a lot about that—protecting the American farmer—from the other side of the aisle. Yet they propose tax policies that do the exact opposite and very much would destroy our agricultural industry and the safety net that it provides this country.

□ 1740

In fact, if you follow their tax policy, America's farmers will simply be another statistic. What statistic? As it stands today, approximately 30 percent of family businesses will be passed on to the family's second generation—only in America—12 percent will make it to the third generation, and only 3 percent of all family businesses make it to the fourth generation or beyond. For a family farmer, for a small business owner, that's very disheartening. However, if the President has his way, those percentages will be even lower.

On January 1, 2013, the death tax will rise from the dead again, re-ordained by President Obama, and return with a rate of as much as 55 percent. Again, in my part of the country, a middle-income family farmer in my part of the country who owns more than 285 acres of land could be assessed a death tax of as much as 55 percent of what they try to leave to the next generation. That's what the President defines as the family farmer's ''fair share.''

Mr. Speaker, family farms are a significant and reliable food source for our country and the world, and they play a vital role in our Nation's national security. However, under the President's death tax proposal, family farmers will be forced to downsize their operations chunk by chunk, selling their assets to pay for what amounts to nothing other than the seizure of the family farm. Many may shut down and have to sell everything just to cover the cost.

I think of the song by Crosby, Stills & Nash that said: ''Tax the rich, feed the poor, 'til there are no rich no more.'' This is certainly the attitude of the current administration.

The truth is you simply can't feed the hungry without the family farmer. They play a vital role in everything we are and do as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, you want more hungry people in America? You want a decline in family businesses and higher unemployment? Follow the President's proposal on the death tax, because that's exactly where it leads. It's the seizure of assets of the family farmers and the family businesses in America. I promise you, if that happens, there will be more hungry people in America.

Mr. REED. I so appreciate my colleague from Georgia, the president of the freshman class, for his comments on the family farm and standing up for family farmers all across America.

One thing that we're going to face at the end of the year with the expiration of these tax rates and a need for us to commit firmly to comprehensive tax reform, I hope we all adopt a policy, a policy that I have heard from folks throughout my district, across my great State of New York, and across this entire Nation, and that is a firm commitment that they're looking for from Washington, D.C., to adopt tax policy that is going to be certain, that we adopt tax policy that is going to be permanent. Because as we ask our local manufacturers, our job creators of the United States of America, they need to know that when they make these decisions on millions, if not billions, of dollars in local plants to put people back to work that the rules of the road are going to be clear and they are going to be certain and they are going to be permanent so that they can rely on that certainty, so that they can make the investment necessary to get this economy going forward again, and making sure that they can rely on those rules and that they won't change midstream as we see with tax policy that extends on 10-year windows—or tax extenders, the 101 tax extender policies that either expired last year at the end of 2011 or will expire at the end of 2012, things as basic as the research and development tax credit for our manufacturers across America. Those types of policies need to be done on a permanent nature so that when these investment decisions are made, the people that are making those choices know that there will be a forum and a platform on the American market that is secure, certain, and will allow them to make sure that there is a good thought process put in place as they make those investment decisions.

At this point in time, I would love to yield to my good friend from the State of Pennsylvania, one of our leaders in the freshman class, MIKE KELLY.

Mr. KELLY. I would like to thank my friend from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the things that are certain in life. People always say there's two things you can be certain of. One is death and the other is taxes. There's another one that we're going to be certain of after January 1, and that is you're going to continue to pay taxes after death.

In a government that borrows 42 cents of every dollar it spends, it comes as no surprise that we can't even let the dead relax. They're still going to be taxed beyond what they ever could have possibly imagined in real life.

So we look at a country that now has the highest corporate tax in the industrial world; we're going to have the highest or the second highest death tax in the world. And why? Because of a town that's never learned to do what it tells all of its citizens to do: live within your means, play fair, pay your fair share.

Well, I would just suggest to you that, in addition to that, what we're telling people is, look, you don't have the certainty anymore that you have planned your estate the right way, because after January 1 this government is going to come up with heavier taxes on its citizens—not the ones that are on the ground and living, but the ones that have already died, that have paid their fair share, that have played within the rules, that have done everything they're supposed to do as good citizens of this great country. They're going to be told at the end of their life that you cannot go to your final resting place in peace. No. Everything that you have accumulated in your life and already paid taxes on is going to be taxed again.

And who is it that's going to face that burden? All those people that we tried to work so hard for, that we tried to put things aside for. Our children and our grandchildren are facing a hockey stick of spending that goes up and off the charts. Again, a country that cannot live within its own means, and yet an administration that tells its citizenry you have to pay your fair share, the rich are not paying their fair share.

Listen, farms are not only going to go away because those assets are going to have to be liquidated to pay death taxes, small businesses are also going to be harmed by this new tax. They're going to have to liquidate in order to pay the estate taxes that are left over after somebody has worked their whole life, paid their fair share, done what they're supposed to do, lived within their means. But that's not enough. That's not enough for this administration. They will continue to rip off from your pocket after death that which you have worked so hard to earn over your lifetime.

There is nothing more prickly; not even the sharpest cactus in the desert has more prickly pins on it than this law and this rule in the way it's coming.

So I would just say to all my friends, if it's really about being fair, if it's really about playing by the rules, if it's really about a stewardship where you take what is given to you and you pass it on to the next generation in better shape than you got it, my goodness, how have we strayed so far from a basic American principle as that? How have we strayed so far as to tell those who have worked so hard in their lifetime that even in their death they cannot rest, they cannot be assured of that which they have worked so hard in order to pass on to the next generation is going to be vulnerable? Fifty-five percent tax on your estate.

The liquidation of family farms, the liquidation of family businesses, the liquidation of the dreams of our children and grandchildren, all of them go up in smoke as this tsunami of tax increases that this administration will be forcing on the American people after January 1.

I thank my friend from New York for bringing this issue up.

Mr. REED. Well, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for joining us here tonight.

In listening to your comments, I wholeheartedly agree that what we're seeing at the end of this year, if Washington, D.C., does not get its act together—and we as the freshman class, I think, are doing a great job in holding this city accountable and really changing the culture of Washington, D.C. The job has just started. We have a lot more work to do, and we'll continue to go forward on that mission.

But what we have to commit ourselves to is, if we do not act by the end of the year, the largest tax increase in the history of America will go into effect with the expiration of the individual tax rates, the reinstatement of the estate taxes at levels of 55 percent and beyond, and we need to act.

Mr. KELLY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REED. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. KELLY. I think the other thing that is very important to understand is that we talk about competing in the global economy. Now, our friends to the north in Canada do not have a death tax. Our friends to the south in Mexico do not have a death tax. This, again, is an example of an administration that is so out of touch with the real world, that has never had any skin in the game, never understood that in order to produce a profit you must first know how to create one and not just how to tax it. But we are, again, taking ourselves out of the global economy and we are telling our people, You know what? You may be better off living in Canada or in Mexico, especially if you've accumulated anything in your lifetime, because you're not going to be able to pass it on to the next generation.

Mr. REED. I so appreciate that comment.

With that, I would like to yield to another colleague of ours, a great Member of the freshman class from Florida, Colonel WEST.

□ 1750

Mr. WEST. I thank the kind colleague of mine from New York (Mr. REED).

Mr. Speaker, as a field artillery officer in the United States Army, I learned a thing or two about weaponry. Our success on the battlefields of Desert Storm and Desert Shield depended on choosing the correct artillery for each specific objective, whether it was halting the enemy's forward progress, diminishing the strength of its forces, or completely destroying its capabilities.

Although he has never served our country in uniform or risked his life to defend its freedoms and liberties on distant shores, it seems President Obama understands a thing or two about weaponry as well. But in the President's case, Mr. Speaker, the current weapon of choice is tax policy, and the enemies are small businesses, investors, entrepreneurs, and corporations, who seemingly are deemed undesirable. In short, these are the economic engines of our Nation.

The President's planned tax increases seemed designed solely to demonize the rich and use them as a propaganda tool to score political points. But the collateral damage of these policies will spread far and wide into the heartland of America. After all, the 160 percent increase in Federal cigarette taxes put in place in 2009 by President Obama and his administration, certainly affects those earning far less than $250,000, despite his promise not to raise their taxes.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, next year, unless changes are made in the Tax Code, Americans will be bombarded with the heavy artillery of the largest tax increase in the Nation's history, causing massive economic injury and destruction.

To begin with, if the Bush-Obama tax rates are allowed to expire, the current tax brackets of 10 to 35 percent will rise to 15 to 39.6 percent. Other tax provisions scheduled to disappear that will hit ordinary Americans include the American Opportunity Tax Credit—up to $2,500 per student for qualified college costs, a tax exclusion for forgiven mortgage debt, and a tax credit for employer-provided child care.

Children of farmers, as my colleague from Georgia talked about, and small business owners who wish to continue the legacy of their parents will find it increasingly difficult to do so, as the death tax exemption will shrink from $5 million to $1 million. Further, inherited assets exceeding that amount will be taxed at a maximum rate, Mr. Speaker, of 55 percent, up from 35 percent, and a 5 percent surcharge on estates over $10 million.

Investors will be battered with a capital gains tax increase from 15 percent to a maximum of 25.8 percent. Seniors who rely on their dividend returns will also be hampered. Stock dividends, currently 15 percent, will be taxed as ordinary income with a top rate of 43.4 percent. That's 39.6 percent income tax plus a 3.8 percent tax on investment income proposed in the President's health care law.

In the last few months we've heard a lot about fairness from the President, Mr. Speaker, especially when it comes to wealthier people. In President Obama's own message about his proposed budget for fiscal year 2013, he says everyone must shoulder their fair share. But how, Mr. Speaker, does he define fair when 47 percent of wage-earning households pay zero Federal income taxes, while the top 25 percent of wage-earning households pay 87 percent?

Besides, the spending proposed in the President's fiscal year 2013 budget is far beyond what the revenue base can support. It would be mathematically impossible to increase taxes on the Nation's highest earners to close the future trillion dollar-plus deficits if spending continues as President Obama has planned.

And according to a report by the Joint Committee on Taxation, the highly touted Buffett rule would raise a paltry 30 to $40 billion over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, during that same timeframe, President Obama's budget would create nearly $7 trillion in new debt, which means the Buffett tax would lower that debt by less than half a percent. This is clearly not sound fiscal policy. It's the misguided policy of economic fairness, and it is just as Frederic Bastiat stated in his essay, ''The Law'': It is legal plunder under the

guise of benevolence and misconceived philanthropy.

While the President has some understanding of the destructive capability of his tax policy, he demonstrates little understanding of battlefield strategy, because those who are on the receiving end of an artillery barrage seldom stay in place.

When businesses and individuals are being bombarded with higher tax rates, they will simply change their behavior. Investors will shift money from taxable to nontaxable investments. Total economic activity slows, as there is less incentive for employees to work extra hours, while smaller, potential returns mean investors and venture capitalists are less willing to shoulder risks. All taxpayers have a greater incentive to shield their income.

Obviously, President Obama is no student of history either, Mr. Speaker, for if he were, he would know revenues increased under Presidents Kennedy, Reagan and yes, George W. Bush, at least until the 2007 financial crisis, when tax rates were reduced.

But increasing tax revenue does not appear to be the President's strategic objective. If it were, he would be recommending policies to help increase the revenue base by optimizing the regulatory and tax environment to encourage businesses to invest, grow, and hire.

The House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, has passed 26 bills to do just that, but they currently languish on the desk of Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, who will not bring them up for vote in the Senate.

Instead, President Obama seems determined to punish and wipe out economic success in this country, leveling tax weapons of mass destruction on all taxpayers. This is a battle our Nation can ill afford to lose. We must reform our Tax Code, and we must restore the conditions for economic success for all our citizens because truly, they are taxed enough already.

Mr. Speaker, unleashing the individual industrialism and entrepreneurial spirit of Americans does not come from capital consolidation in Washington, D.C. The American people do not want more Solyndras and GSA boondoggles.

The American people want economic security, which comes from this body becoming responsible stewards of their tax resources, not taking more from them based upon divisive, socioeconomic rhetoric.

The American people, Mr. Speaker, want a constitutional republic, not a socialist, egalitarian, welfare nanny state. The American people want an economic future so bright that they will have to wear sunglasses.

Mr. REED. I thank my colleague for his sentiment and the words that you expressed. And I'm reminded that we here in Washington cannot be like my children when they used to sit in the TV room and watch their cartoons, such as Teletubbies and the other ones that are there. We need to grow up. We need to deal with this issue once and for all.

And one thing that I'm repeatedly reminded of when I hear the President's proposal about the top 2 percent need to pay their fair share. I try to deal with this issue in an open and honest way. And if you do the math on that proposal, you raise $70 billion over 10 years. We have a $1.3 trillion deficit every year. The math just does not add up.

And so I always have to remind people as I engage in this debate about the need for comprehensive tax reform that the solution to our national debt problem is not going to be a revenue solution unless we grow this economy. Raising revenue through increasing taxes is not going to bridge—as my colleague said, mathematically, it is impossible to raise taxes enough to get to that $1.3 trillion number.

That's why I'm always reminded that this is a spending problem at its root cause, and that's why we need to continue to focus on that arena.

And I would also like to echo my colleague from Florida in his words. Essentially, this is going to boil down, in this November 2012 election, to two strategies of moving forward. And if I heard your statements and your words correctly, we essentially have one strategy that is going to be deployed by my colleagues on the Democratic side, on the other side of the aisle, who say it needs to be a revenue-based solution.

But that is code word back in my living rooms in my district for, we're going to raise taxes to deal with this situation. And I think this freshman class and the people that have joined us here on this side of the aisle in the Republican Party have firmly committed that the solution is on downsizing government, cutting spending, adhering to what our Founding Fathers believed in and put forth in the Constitution, a limited Federal Government, not an all-encompassing Federal Government that has grown the debt to the level that we see today.

□ 1800

I am also firmly committed to not engaging in the debate as to who caused it be it which President from whatever party. That is not the solution moving forward, engaging in the blame game. It is about recognizing the problem is upon us, whoever caused it, Democrat or Republican, and let's solve it.

When we come to November of 2012, the American people will not be stupid. They are not stupid individuals. They will see that the math doesn't add up with a solution based on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle of increasing taxes to bridge this national debt problem. It is about truly being fiscally responsible and getting our fiscal house in order.

Does my colleague have any additional comments?

Mr. WEST. I just want to say you are absolutely right, and I thank you for yielding an additional minute.

It is truly the choice between two futures: it is a future of economic freedom, or a future of economic dependency. It is a future that talks about the entrepreneurial will and spirit and the individual industrialism of the American people or collective subjugation. I think that the American people will make the right choice in November 2012.

Mr. REED. I so appreciate it, and I wholeheartedly agree with that sentiment.

At this point in time, I would like to yield to my good friend from Kansas (Mr. HUELSKAMP).

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Thank you, Congressman REED. It is a very timely topic.

I come from western Kansas, and big skies and big dreams, and big visions; and I tell you, we can see an approaching storm brewing sometimes hundreds of miles away. You can see the dark clouds. You can feel the gusting winds. Though the skies are wide open, sometimes it's hard to predict which path the storm will take.

We've heard tonight, and I'll say it again, there is a storm brewing here in Washington that may seem like miles, perhaps hundreds of miles, away; but it's not. Unlike our Kansas storms, it's pretty evident this storm is going to hit America unless this Congress and this President act.

Every American will pay higher taxes next year. Let me rephrase that. Every tax-paying American—because you know half of Americans pay no Federal income taxes. So I'm talking about the half that actually pay. Income and the capital gains rates will go up; the death tax will go up as well. The child tax credit and the standard deduction will decrease. All of this is certain to happen unless we act.

It's been mentioned that this would be the biggest tax increase in American history. I think it actually might be the biggest tax increase in human history. It could be. We'll look forward to those figures. Our economy is just starting to show signs of life again, however weak. Can you imagine what it will mean for the economy if taxes go up at the end of the year? Can you imagine where the stock market is going to go in the final quarter if Congress goes home before the election without acting to extend the lower capital gains rate?

I know my colleague, Colonel WEST, noted the President might not be a great student of history. Actually, all he has to do is study his own comments and go back less than 2 years ago. The President said, ''You don't raise taxes in a recession.'' That's President Obama, the President of our country, if he could study his own history. I agree with him. I don't agree with him on a lot of things. But he said you don't raise taxes in a recession.

Sure, we might have emerged from a formal definition of a recession, but I

don't think there is anyone out there who believes the economy is growing by leaps or bounds, and I don't think you can shoehorn a massive tax increase onto an already overburdened American economy. You just can't.

America needs and deserves a Tax Code that's not premised on pitting American versus American in a class warfare struggle. Unfortunately, that seems to be the only real solution this President has. The so-called Buffett rule is just a gimmick trying to distract the American people from the reality that he wants the biggest tax increase in American history, and he's going to get it unless we can change this before the end of the year.

I have proposed a bill called the American Opportunity and Freedom Act, which would make permanent the Bush-Obama tax cuts. Yes, the Bush-Obama tax cuts. Look back at history. This President extended the tax cuts. He signed them. They are the Bush-Obama tax cuts.

Remember, he called those tax cuts ''a substantial victory for middle class families.'' This was President Obama out on the campaign trail, today I believe, saying we have to extend these tax cuts. I agree.

I also support comprehensive reform, including the Fair Tax. I think my colleague from Georgia is going to visit about that, I hope. I've cosponsored the Jobs Through Growth Act and numerous other proposals to make our Tax Code fairer, flatter, and more simple.

The bottom line is we need to do something now. Our Tax Code should not outpace the Bible in number of words. It certainly doesn't outpace the Bible in wisdom, and families shouldn't have to read 100-page booklets to fill out their tax return. I'm told if you call the IRS one hour, you call the next hour, you call another hour later, you will get a different answer every time you call in, because even the folks who are implementing the Tax Code, they don't know what the answer is.

Americans out there are just trying to do the right thing, trying to do their fair share, Mr. President. Your IRS agents can't even tell them the right or same answer.

The most fundamental purpose of the Tax Code is to raise enough revenue in order to fund essential functions that fall within the purview of government.

I just got off a Skype phone call with fourth and fifth graders in Peoria, Kansas. They had a lot of great questions. I thought the best question was from a young man who said, Why are taxes so high? Of course, he probably doesn't pay much taxes. He probably heard that at home. The answer I gave him was this: because we spend too much money, and on top of that, we borrow another $1.1 trillion under the Obama budget. So not only are taxes high; they're still borrowing money so they can spend it. It comes down to how much we spend.

I think we can agree that Washington's problem isn't not enough revenue, it's too much spending.

Washington has created this storm. But unlike the tornadoes that sweep across the plains, we have an opportunity to avoid the devastating consequences of the approaching storm that's coming at the end of this year.

I'm excited to be here to talk about that because I must tell you, I am optimistic. We can solve this problem. We can take advantage of the approaching storm, actually do comprehensive tax reform that can change the future for all Americans. We can pull this economy out of the doldrums, go back to the days when the economy actually grew, when jobs were being created.

But in today's environment, the uncertainty created by this administration and by a tax law that's not permanent, that is dragging down our economy. We can't avoid that, and we can do much better. I'm happy to be here tonight to talk about that.

Mr. REED. I thank you so much, my colleague from Kansas, for coming down this evening to talk about this issue. You are exactly right. When I listened to the comments you had to offer, and as we go into this debate about comprehensive tax reform, I think there is somewhat of an agreement on both sides of the aisle that tax reform needs to be done because our Tax Code is way too complicated—70,000 pages of tax regulation and statutory language, legislation on top of legislation.

We need to firmly attack that Tax Code in a way that focuses on the primary goal of what our Tax Code was originally enacted for, to raise revenue, not to engage in policy determination or picking winners or losers through the Tax Code and advancing social policy through the Tax Code, but focusing on a Tax Code that raises revenue to cover our lawful, legitimate government expense as put forth in the United States Constitution of a limited Federal Government.

If we adhere to that principle and that goal, I am confident that both sides of this aisle will come together and achieve what could be one of those historical moments in this Chamber again where we set the country on a path to a more competitive and prosperous future moving forward.

With that, does the gentleman from Kansas seek recognition?

Mr. HUELSKAMP. If I might ask you a question, Have you read the entire Tax Code?

Mr. REED. I've tried. I've read numerous parts of it especially when I'm up late at night and I can't sleep. It seems like a panacea for those sleepless nights because it immediately puts me back to bed.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. It would probably be my guess that there isn't a colleague of ours that has read this Tax Code. Now, there are probably some special attorneys in this town that claim to have read that whole Tax Code. As you mentioned, how many pages?

Mr. REED. Seventy thousand.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Seventy thousand pages. It's my understanding it's 3½ times the size of the Bible perhaps, longer than all of Shakespeare's works, and it's all about to be centralizing power in Washington.

We have a grand opportunity, I agree. With challenges come opportunities. We have a tremendous opportunity, and it will have to be a bipartisan opportunity. I agree with you. We have to have the President propose a solution and his only solution right now is let's just raise taxes.

□ 1810

If he does nothing, if he refuses to help us make America more competitive, if he refuses to help us, we'll have, as you mentioned, the single largest tax increase in American history. We can't stop it if he's not willing to help out, but I think the American people are demanding comprehensive tax reform. They're demanding us to get this right because we cannot afford the massive tax increases in the current law. I am very fearful about that, but I am optimistic that we can and will do the right thing.

I've got a friend of mine in Junction City, Kansas. I met him at a town hall. His name is Tom, and he's a small business owner. He said, You know, I'm going to start a small business—or I would—but because of those tax increases at the end of the year, I'm not going to do that. He said, I would have hired seven people. Those seven people not hired in Junction City, Kansas, don't show up on any list, but they show up in Junction City as seven more people—seven families—that don't have the income they need, and they probably end up having to have some government assistance or having to get help from their churches and their neighbors. Those are the things that get lost.

We can't forget in this town that it's not about us, that it's not about special interests. It's about the American people and about getting this economy going again. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about that. The common goal of those of us sitting in the Chamber tonight is to get this economy moving again and to actually be competitive internationally. I appreciate your leadership on that, CONGRESSMAN REED. You are doing a fantastic job here tonight.

Mr. REED. I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and I appreciate those kind words.

As we move forward, I'd like to bring a good friend of ours from Wisconsin into this conversation. He has been a stalwart down here on the House floor, and has joined us numerous times in these opportunities when we have a chance to debate the issues of the day.

With that, Mr. DUFFY, it is an honor to yield you time.

Mr. DUFFY. I appreciate the gentleman from New York for yielding.

As we talk about these issues—and I've been listening today as my colleagues have been discussing the tax

policy—if you take a step back, if you look at all of the different rules and regulations and bills that have taken place over the course of the last 3½ years, it's a torrential rain. We have to take it almost raindrop by raindrop, looking at each policy, each rule, each law that has gone into effect. I want to take a moment to step back from the tax debate and first start with the conversation in regard to the budget because I think most Americans that I talk to, they are very nervous about what's happening with this ever-expanding government and ever-expanding debt. Many Americans know we owe now $15.6 trillion. They know we've borrowed $1 trillion every year for the last 3 years.

So they will step back and go, Well, what's the plan? How do we address this really difficult problem?

I know a lot of the moms in my district are concerned about who's lending us that money. Ask the Chinese. They're concerned about their kids that they're raising so well, are educating so well. What kind of an America are they going to grow up in?

So they say, Listen, what kind of budget are you going to have? How are you going to fix it?

If they were to look to the Senate, they would look and see that for the past 3 years the Senate wasn't willing to pass a budget, that they weren't willing to put out a plan on how they would deal with this daunting issue that this country faces. If they were to look over to the President and ask the President, How do you deal with this cancer that is growing in America, which is our debt? How do you deal with it? I think they'd say, Well, Mr. President, you've given us a budget, but it's a budget that never balances. It's a budget that includes all the tax increases you've ever discussed, but it doesn't balance. It's a budget that we've brought to this House floor, and it was such a political document that doesn't accomplish the goals that the moms and dads of America want accomplished that not one Republican or one Democrat voted for that budget.

We need real ideas to be put on the table, and we need bold leadership to address the large issues that we face in this country. For the last 2 years, the House Republicans have given that bold leadership. We've been willing to put ideas on the table on how we fix the great problems of our generation. I'm proud of our freshman class, and I'm proud of our House Republicans for willing to step out and lead. Part of that leadership has been the reform of our tax system, of our Tax Code, making it more competitive and more fair, and I want to talk about that a little bit, which is the conversation tonight.

I think many Americans may not know this, but as of April 1, April Fool's Day, we had the highest corporate tax rate in the industrialized world, and that's because the Japanese on April 1 were the last ones to lower their taxes, making us the highest tax country. That's a problem. We find ourselves in a situation in America where one party is asking for a more competitive Tax Code that will encourage investment and growth in America. We have the other side, which is the President's side, that encourages, under the auspices of fairness, that we increase taxes.

As I talk to people back at home, these conversations oftentimes come up, and I'll ask my friends at home. I'll say, Listen, if you look at businesses in America, can you name a few of them that don't pay taxes? Are there a few businesses here that you can identify that don't pay taxes?

Virtually everyone in the town hall will shake their heads and go, Yeah, yeah. I can name that business that doesn't pay taxes.

So I'll ask them, Well, if you want that business to pay taxes, if you were just willing to raise the tax rate from 35 percent up to 40 percent, which is what the President wants to do, will that business that's in your head that doesn't pay taxes now pay taxes if you just increase the rate by 5 percentage points?

No. The Tax Code is broken—for generations, long before I got here. I was riding my trike when people were carving out special interests in the Tax Code. There are 70,000 pages in the Tax Code that are for special interests, special loopholes. The people of my district don't take advantage of those 70,000 pages. It's for the special interests that come to this town day after day and ask to carve themselves out. What have we done? We in this House have said that's not fair; that's not right.

Let's carve them all back in. Let's reduce the complexity of the Tax Code, bring all these people back in and make them, yes, pay their fair share. What we've said that we can do is take the top rate from 35 percent and bring it down to 25 percent, and then the other rates down to 10 percent. If you do that by eliminating all the loopholes in the code, you'll bring in more revenue, and it will be fair. Doesn't that make sense? Raise and raise doesn't accomplish it. Reforming the Tax Code is where we have to go. Let's get a bipartisan group together, carve out those special interests, reduce the rates, and make us more competitive.

We hear a lot about the Buffett tax, right? It's a tax on investment income. Listen, there are two different kinds of income. You have the income that you get from your salary. Your salaried income, that's taxed at a certain rate. You're guaranteed to get that every week or every 2 weeks because you put your 40 or 80 hours in, and that paycheck comes to you and you're guaranteed to get it. But there is also investment income. In America and around the world, investment income is taxed at a little bit of a lower rate.

You say, Well, why? Why would that be taxed at a lower rate? The reason is—let's say you invest $100,000. You're not guaranteed to make anything on that $100,000. Actually, you might lose the whole investment—you might lose that $100,000—but if you're lucky enough or smart enough or savvy enough to make some money on that $100,000 investment, we've said you should have a tax rate that's a little bit less than that which is guaranteed in the salary. So we have a little less of a tax rate on investment income.

But there is something else. We want to encourage investment in America because we know, if you're investing in our infrastructure, in our manufacturing facilities, in our businesses, if we have investment, what happens? We create jobs. There is job growth in America when you have investment in America, and we want to make sure this is a great home for investment. If you raise the taxes on investment, you will get less of it. Let's make sure we have a great investment tax rate so money around the world wants to pour into this country and wants to take advantage of one of the best workforces in the world, which is right here in America.

One other point I want to make before I yield back to the gentleman is that there are a lot of people who talk about raising taxes to bring in more revenue. I think it's important that we're very clear: that when people are talking about raising taxes to bring in more revenue in order to pay down the debt, that's not what's happening. People are asking to raise taxes to spend more money. There is no effort to reduce spending in this town. Those who want to increase taxes want to spend more—they don't want to spend less—but if you want to actually bring in more money to the Federal coffers, you should look at the tax history, because every time we're raising tax rates, there is not a correlation in bringing more money into the Federal coffers.

□ 1820

Raising tax rates doesn't mean more money. What does mean more money into the Federal coffers is a growing economy. If you can grow your economy, if you can put your people back to work, more people pay taxes.

If more people pay taxes, more money comes into the Federal coffers, and we have more dollars to pay down our debt. Not only that, there's less people on food stamps and energy assistance because they have a job.

This is some commonsense reform that this group in the House is talking about. If we could just implement it, take the weight of a burdensome Tax Code off the shoulders of our entrepreneurs, our job creators, and our investors, we can see expansive growth, explosive growth.

I look forward to being part of a team who is willing to engage in a great debate to make sure we are again the most competitive and best placed in the country to invest.

Mr. REED. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for joining us and the

sentiment and the words that you have expressed. As we go into the election and as we go into November 2012, I think what we are articulating on the House floor tonight as we are having this conversation about tax reform is that there are some differences that the American people are going to be able to choose between.

One of the fundamental differences, when it comes to tax policy, is I see a base philosophy differential between my colleagues on the other side of the aisle from the Democratic Party and those of us on this side of the aisle in the Republican Party, and that base differential and philosophy is what I hear from my Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle when they propose such things as let's increase taxes on the top 2 percent or this group or that group. It's a fundamental belief, I would submit, that they believe that that money is better given to them here in Washington, D.C., to then dole out as they in Washington, D.C., feel is appropriate.

The philosophy on this side of the aisle that I am firmly committed to, and I am sure many of my colleagues here tonight are firmly committed to, is that that money is the individuals' money, it is the American citizens' money. They are the ones who earned it. They are the ones who punched the clock around the hour—24/7 or 8 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon or midnight till 8 a.m. They are the ones earning that money, and that is their money. The more that we can keep that money that they earned as citizens and individuals in their pocket, they will do the right thing. We believe in the individual.

From the arguments that I have heard from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I would say that they differ in that opinion. They truly do believe that Washington should be the judge of where those resources go, because for some odd reason they sit here in Washington and try to come up with one-size-fits-all answers to the problems of the day. It fundamentally is a philosophy that that money is Washington, D.C.'s money and not the individual's.

My colleague from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is a strong advocate of the Fair Tax proposal that's been out there and that's being debated. That is one of the things that I have to say about this freshman class is that we have changed the culture of Washington, D.C., and that we are going to allow all alternatives to be on the table and have an open and honest conversation with all of America about reforms that are going forward and then going forward in a way that solves our Nation's problems, and everyone will be given a fair shake to express those ideas.

I'm sure my colleague from Georgia is rising today to offer his insight and his proposal as to an alternative to the income tax structure that we presently exist under, and that would be the Fair Tax. If I'm wrong on that, I apologize to the gentleman from Georgia; but knowing his reputation and his words around this town, I'm sure we are going to hear a little bit about that.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. WOODALL. I appreciate my friend from New York for yielding.

You are absolutely right. I have some Fair Tax passion. I believe that there is a better way to create a United States Tax Code, and I believe the Fair Tax is that. H.R. 25, for folks who haven't read it. But the truth is I came down here tonight because I knew that we were going to have that debate of ideas that you're talking about. I mean, whether it's your leadership on this Special Order, whether it's the enthusiasm my friend from Wisconsin brings to the floor, we're talking about the challenges that we face using a different language than we've used in this body before. This is a floor that has been taken over by freshmen here tonight. This is an institution that's been taken over by new ideas. I don't mean just new freshman ideas; I mean new ideas from all aspects of this institution.

I hear my friend from Wisconsin talking, and he comes from a competitive district. There is all this talk about these rabid freshmen, crazy Republicans. The people of Wisconsin, they can choose anybody they want. They don't have to choose Republican. They can choose a Democrat. They can choose an independent. They can choose anybody they want, and they choose him.

His message is not: Look what I am going to go to Washington and get for you. His message is: We don't need a subsidy here because we've got the hardest-working workforce in the world. His message is not: How can I give you an unfair advantage over your neighbors? His message is: How can we make the American economy the most competitive economy in the world, because if we do that, the American worker will succeed because we work harder, better, and longer than anybody else on the planet. That is a different take on what happens in Washington, D.C., and it's a different take on what happens in the Tax Code.

I know my friend from New York sits on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, as does my friend from Tennessee, and you have to have a Ways and Means Committee. For folks who don't sit on that committee, they're the ones who write all the Tax Code. The Tax Code is a complicated thing to do.

What this Ways and Means Committee is doing—and it's important to be said because this is an election year, and a lot of crazy things happen in an election year. There are crazy things like people supporting a Buffett rule to solve deficit problems, a rule that if it had been in place this year and collected that same amount of revenue for the next 250 years, it still would not have balanced the budget from last year. That's right.

This great savior of all that's good that ails us in this country, President Obama's Buffett rule, had it been in place this year, and not just this year but the next 250 years, it had raised that revenue, it still would not have balanced the budget from last year, just the budget gap from last year. We have all this nonsense in a political year.

But what we're getting out of the Ways and Means Committee—and I know my two friends from the Ways and Means Committee wouldn't brag on themselves, so I'm going to brag on you for you. We have had more serious hearings about fundamental tax reform in this Ways and Means Committee over the last 16 months than we've had in the last decade. This is a committee that, by virtue of simplifying the American Tax Code, is going to undo the work of the Ways and Means Committee for decades and decades and decades in the past. They're doing it not to exploit the power of their position; they're doing it to help grow the American economy.

As an alternative to the Buffett rule, I have brought down a chart to demonstrate what happens in today's Tax Code. My friends on the Ways and Means Committee know it all too well. But in today's Tax Code, the folks who have the money benefit from all the loopholes and exceptions and exemptions and carve-out. Of course they do. It makes sense. I will tell you, the folks who have the money are the ones who are paying the taxes, so it certainly makes sense that they are the ones benefiting from the carve-outs.

We have a choice of two futures here. We can either implement the President's Buffett rule, which again, by simple mathematics, will have absolutely no effect either on growing the economy or paying down the deficit, or we can simplify today's Tax Code to make it flatter and fairer.

That's what my friends on the Ways and Means Committee have been working on, Chairman DAVE CAMP and the rest of the committee, in ways that I have never seen before, with a sincerity that I have never seen before. You're absolutely right, and I appreciate my friend from New York for saying it.

They've said, Bring all comers. Bring all comers. We're not the smartest people in the room. If the idea comes from Lawrenceville, Georgia, bring it. If it comes from Seneca, New York, bring it. If it comes from Chattanooga, Tennessee, bring it. We want all the ideas, and we'll just let the chips fall where they may. That's what's different in this town.

I say to my colleague, what is different in this town with this Republican class is we don't have to rig the game to get to the outcome. We just bring the debates to the floor. Bring the facts to the floor. Let the facts speak for themselves. And then guess what. Have a vote. If it's a good idea, it wins, and if it's a bad idea, it loses. We see both of those happen on this floor

every day, and the Ways and Means Committee is leading in this tax process.

This would have been a great year for the Ways and Means Committee—putting my political hat on for a moment—a great year for you all to play some sort of game with the Tax Code. I have seen it happen in Congresses past.

□ 1830

Oh, this is going to be good for reelection. We're going to go do X, Y, or Z. It's not going to happen. It's not going to be real. But we're going to play the game. The folks on this committee this year, the freshmen in the body this year, would rather lose in November, having tried each and every day to do the right thing, than win in November, having played the game the way it's been played for so many years.

So serious is the effort in the Ways and Means Committee that it was included in the House-passed budget this year—flatter, fairer rates, eliminating exemptions, loopholes, carve-outs—all of those things that the American people look at and lose faith in this body. You've stood up to them all. You've stood up to them all in the Ways and Means Committee. We've stood up to them in the Budget Committee to say, No more. There's a better way. And we're going to share with the American people.

I appreciate my colleague for taking on the time tonight. And I ask him to commit this chart to memory. I say to all my other colleagues who might be watching back in their offices that on budget.house.gov, you'll find myriad charts to talk about all the things that my friend from Wisconsin discussed and my friend from Kansas discussed and my friend from Florida discussed. It will lay them out in easy-to-see and visualized ways.

But if we want to get a handle on what's happening in America with the discrepancies—call it fairness, call it economic growth, you name your ill—a flatter and fairer tax code is the beginning of that solution, it's not the end. But the Tax Code was not designed to implement social policy. It was designed to collect revenue so that we can run the national defense of this country. And if we get back there, the American economy and the American taxpayer is going to be the beneficiary.

I thank my friend for his leadership tonight.

Mr. REED. I so appreciate the gentleman from Georgia and the expression and sentiments you bring to the floor and the passion that you bring to the floor on this issue and all the issues that you bring to our attention. And you are so right. We are committed to having an open and honest debate with all of America, because the American hardworking taxpayer deserves no less.

We are here to do what needs to be done. We are here to lead. And that's why I appreciate my colleague from Georgia on the Budget Committee, because I know there was some political heat put on that Budget Committee to back away from coming up with a budget that we could stand for in this Chamber. But we took the stand and you took the stand as part of that Budget Committee to say, You know what, we're not going to engage in the politics of old. We're not going to be afraid to lead. Because the problems that face us in America today are generational. They are the same level threats that generations before us faced.

And that most recent example, possibly, that jumps to the top of my mind is World War II, when the real fate of the American Government, the American symbol of freedom and democracy, was at risk with a threat from Europe with fascism and the expressions coming out of that area of the world. And what did America do? That's the history lesson that I bring to this Chamber tonight.

American leadership, our President, our leaders did not look to divide America on that issue. That leadership led by uniting America to come together to face the generational threat and survive so that the America that they had could be passed on to our generation and this generation and grandchildren's generations to come so they have the opportunity to succeed and take care and live that American Dream. It is time for our Nation to come together, not be divided. And I am very confident because I have faith in the American individual that come November, 2012, the American people will make the right call. And between the choices that will be clearly articulated between both sides of this aisle we will see what needs to be done, and the right decisions will be made, and we will overcome this generational crisis that faces us in our national debt and this economy that has bogged down in stagnation, debt, doubt, and despair. And we will overcome it, because failure is not an alternative.

With that, I'd love to yield to a great lady on the Ways and Means Committee, a fellow freshman and a good friend, Mrs. BLACK from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACK. Thank you for yielding to me. I want to thank you as a fellow member of Ways and Means and a freshman for bringing us together tonight for this Special Order. This is such an important issue, and the American people really need to hear that there is a choice. There's a choice between a system or a plan that is going to take more money out of the pockets of our hardworking taxpayers or one that's going to put more money in those pockets and make a system that is fairer, flatter, and simpler.

As I traveled throughout my district over the last 16 months now, I've continued to hear from my businesses in particular that there's so much uncertainty out there. And I ask them, What is the uncertainty? What is it that's keeping you awake at night that keeps you from growing your business, and as a result of that creating more jobs? Obviously, when people have jobs, they have money in their pocket. And what do they do when they have money in their pocket? They spend that money. And they spend that money to buy other products and services, which means that the economy grows.

And what they tell me is there are really three things. One, they feel like they don't know when a new mandate is going to come down, such as the health care. And that's going to cost them money. They also don't know when we're going to put another regulation on them. And many of the businesses are very burdened by regulations that, frankly, those are not the same regulations that you see when they do take their businesses offshore, which means we are just driving them offshore.

And the third is the one we're here tonight to talk about, and that is tax. We have heard in a number of our hearings in Ways and Means that all the way from the corporate tax down to the individual tax and the pass-through tax that many of our small businesses use that they are willing to give up those deductions and loopholes that are currently in the Tax Code to get something that is fairer, flatter, and simpler.

This Tax Code has not been reformed in 25 years. What it has had is a lot of things that have been added to it. And with everything that's added to it, it only complicates it more. But it does something else. It picks winners and losers. And by having a tax reform that would make things fairer, flatter, and simpler, we wouldn't be picking winners and losers. It is far too complicated.

Most of the American people don't realize that the United States has the highest corporate tax in the world as of April 1, when Japan lowered their corporate tax. I don't know that we want to be very proud of this, but we became the country that has the highest corporate income tax. Talk about driving people offshore.

So in our tax reform we bring the corporate income tax down to a level that is an average for all of the countries that we do trade with and that we are in competition with, and we bring it down to 25 percent. We do something that makes sense. It's a commonsense reform. Likewise, when we take a look at our other businesses that are not the large businesses that are corporations, but the small businesses—and about 60 percent of the small businesses are pass-through. That means they're in the individual tax system.

Am I hearing that we're out of time?

Mr. REED. We are coming to our end of time.

Mrs. BLACK. If I may then just conclude with a couple of words.

Mr. REED. I would be honored to yield to my colleague from Tennessee for her closing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Indiana). The time of the gentleman from New York has expired.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the leader for the opportunity to take this hour to discuss some extremely important issues here in the United States. We've just listened to an hour discussion on taxes with actually very, very little specificity as to whose taxes are being cut and exactly what those tax cuts would mean to the American economy and to the people of America.

Normally, when we take the floor, as we do most every week on the issue of the American economy, we talk about making it in America and rebuilding the great manufacturing industry. We've seen over the last 20 years that the American manufacturing industry has declined by some 40, 45 percent, from just under 20 million Americans in manufacturing to just over 11.5 million. In the recent months, we've seen a resurgence of the American manufacturing sector, but nonetheless it is still very, very small compared to what it once was.

□ 1840

If we're going to rebuild the American economy, we do have to rebuild the American manufacturing sector.

I'm going to come back to this tax debate here very, very quickly; but I think we ought to put it in the context of what taxes mean to the American economy, which taxes can be cut and which could be raised.

The key issues in building the American economy are here on this chart, taxes being one of the second pieces. But the rest of them are also important: international trade issues, for example, how do we deal with China and the China currency issue; how do we deal with the importation of extraordinary amounts of material, equipment and goods while at the same time exporting even less and less; how do we deal with that? The energy issues are exceedingly important if we're going to rebuild the American economy. Labor issues, how do we prepare the American labor market? That is the men and women that work in America.

Oh, by the way, I heard something here from my colleagues on the Republican side that just drives me crazy. When they say that half of Americans don't pay taxes, then they say, oh, we mean income taxes. Let's understand that every American worker up to those who earn $106,000, pay 6-plus percent—almost 7 percent—excuse me, 8 percent—of their total income in taxes. That's the withholding tax. By the way, it was the Democrats who actually reduced the Social Security withholding tax to half of what it was in previous years. So let's understand that every American worker pays taxes.

Now, the income tax issue is another matter, and we'll come to that in a few moments. But Americans who work pay taxes. Let's not forget that in this discussion. In any case, labor is a major issue.

This issue of education is now very much being discussed in America, and I want to really focus on that during this 1-hour discussion. Research is critical to the future of America's economy and, finally, the infrastructure upon which all of this is built. These are the issues that the Democrats have taken up in building and restarting, reigniting the American Dream, reigniting the American Dream so that men and women in this country can get a decent job, earn enough to be in the middle class and raise their families, own a home if they want to own a home, take a vacation when they want to have one, and be able to have health care so they needn't worry about bankruptcy which is, in this Nation, caused more than 60 percent of the time by health care and health care problems.

So trade, taxes, energy, labor, education, research and infrastructure are the key issues in reigniting the American Dream and rebuilding the American economy.

Tax is a major portion of this, and I don't want to forget about taxes. We just heard this 1-hour discussion about it. The question is, who is taxed and who gets the tax benefits? Less than a month ago, our Republican colleagues put on the floor of this House their blueprint for the American economy, their blueprint for how we are going to use government or reduce government, their blueprint on how we are going to raise the tax revenue necessary for the operations of the government.

Very, very interesting because, essentially, what they have done is to take money away from education and give money to the wealthiest of Americans. Those who earn more than $1 million a year would, under the Republican blueprint on taxes, pay less and less. Actually, they would see a tax reduction. Remember, those whose adjusted gross income is over $1 million a year would pay less taxes. They would get a tax break of $394,000 a year, minimum.

Now, if you're a billionaire, the tax cut would be in the millions and millions of dollars. Is that fair? I think not. We just heard Fair Tax on the floor. I must tell you that the Republican proposal, in their blueprint, voted out of the House of Representatives, now the blueprint for the Republican action on this year's and future budgets and appropriations would reduce the taxes for millionaires by $394,000; for billionaires, millions and millions of additional reductions in their taxes. That is not fair.

What we on the Democratic side have proposed is to make certain that the elements that lead to a growing economy and a just society are in place. Let's talk specifically about education. In the previous Congress, the Democrats took up education and said this is a fundamental element in economic growth and social justice. The opportunity to get to the middle class is largely dependent upon the education that a person is able to receive in the K–12 system and in higher education. Specific steps were taken for those in low-income communities whose schools are unacceptable. Specific money was put to those schools through the title I programs so that they could raise up the standards of education and provide those who do not have the family support and those that do not have the economic support to be able to get a decent education in K–12.

Much, much more needs to be done. But that was put in place by the Democrats in the last Congress.

Take a look at the blueprint that passed this House not more than a month ago, the Republican blueprint for the future—cut title I, pull that money away from those low-income communities where the necessity of education must be available to every one of those students. Higher education, another example, in the previous Congress, controlled by the Democrats in this House, the Senate and the President, there was a significant improvement and expansion of the Pell Grants. This is money given to low-income and middle class families to assist them in going to higher education.

Expansion, yes. Community college and part-time students for the first time were given the opportunity to get a Pell Grant so that they can improve themselves in the community college or in higher education 4-year programs, from a little over $4,000 to $5,500 increase as well as an expansion of those who were eligible. This is very important in providing the educational opportunity that students must have if they're going to succeed in a highly competitive world economy.

Secondly, interest rates on student loans, almost every student now attending school, higher education, takes out a loan. The interest rates on those loans were over 6.5 percent.

Now, we did two things as Democrats. We took away from the banks, who were ripping the students off, the student loan program, and put it back into the government, saving billions upon billions of dollars every year; and then reinvested that money back into lowering the interest rates for the students. Not a bad thing, from a 6.5 or 6.8 percent interest rate down to a 3.4 percent interest rate. All of this is designed to make it easier for students who have to take out loans to be able to pay back those debts over time.

We also did a couple of other things for students who had taken out loans, low-income and middle-income families. We changed the way and the timing in which the loans needed to be repaid. We said, you're going to have to

pay no more than 15 percent of that loan each year of your discretionary income, that is, the income over and above food, shelter and clothing, giving students a longer period of time and having to devote less of their money to pay back the student loans. My colleague who will be joining me in a few moments will discuss this in more detail.

In addition to that, we made it possible for the educational system to receive additional money for this fundamental economic development called research. We increased the research for health care, for mental health, for agriculture, and for energy. All of those things are the essence of today's and tomorrow's economy, research being necessary.

Now, what did the Republicans do? In their blueprint, voted on by 100 percent of the Republicans, this was their budget, sometimes called the Ryan Republican budget, every one of those things that we put in place to assist students in getting an education was dramatically and drastically reduced, while at the same time taking money away from students and handing that money to the oil industry and to the millionaires, the multi-millionaires, the billionaires.

Remember, the minimum tax reduction for millionaires is $392,000 a year, while at the same time taking money out of the pockets of students, increasing—not just increasing—but doubling the interest rate on student loans from 3.4 to 6.8 percent, costing every student more than $1,000 a year in additional interest payments on their loans. That's the average.

□ 1850

Now, those that are above average, that number is going to go much higher.

Pell Grants. Reducing the Pell Grants, eliminating from the opportunity to get a Pell Grant more than 1 million students over the next 10 years. Nearly 400,000 students in the United States would immediately see a reduction in their Pell Grants in the year ahead, and 100,000 not being able to get a Pell Grant at all. This is economic fairness? I don't think so. This is wise economic policy? I don't think so.

Giving to the wealthiest 1 percent in this country an enormous tax break and taking it directly out of the pockets of students is bad economic policy, it's bad policy for education, and it will not reignite the American Dream. In fact, it will stifle that American Dream, and we will not stand for that. We Democrats are rising up and saying, no, no, we're not going to do this. We're not going to give to the super-wealthy—the billionaires and millionaires—while taking money away from the students of America.

This is an important issue. This is not only an issue about economic fairness; this is an issue about growing the American economy. We know where we stand. We stand for educating the workforce so that they can compete.

Now, joining me is a gentleman from the great State of Michigan who represents Detroit, who has been on this issue from his very first day here in Congress.

HANSEN CLARKE, I know you want to jump in, so have at it.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), for yielding me time.

My message to our colleagues in the House of Representatives is very clear and direct: we've got to continue to cap student loan interest rates at 3.4 percent.

Student-loan borrowers and their families should not have to pay more on their student-loan debt. The President has done all he can do right now to help bring relief to our student-loan borrowers. Now it's time for Congress to act, but Congress has to do more. We need to reform the system. We've got to change the system. That's why I wrote and introduced the Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012. It will help cut student-loan debt, free up borrowers' money so they can invest it on their own. That's a real economic stimulus that will create jobs here in this country.

So I want to thank you again, Mr. GARAMENDI, for yielding me time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, thank you very much.

Let's stay on this student loan issue for a while here. This is the reality of student loans. The debt levels, according to the Federal Reserve Bank—and some of this has just been recently updated—student loans comprise a larger portion of the personal debt in America than credit cards and auto loans. Actually, the number recently, just in the last couple of days, has risen to about $1 trillion of outstanding student loans in the United States. The auto is about $700 billion, and then the auto and credit cards about $700 billion. So we're talking about a huge amount of outstanding money. When you double that interest rate, you're hitting right at the gut of every student and those who have graduated. When you combine that with the Republican blueprint of immediately requiring a larger payment on graduation, you're really stifling the economy.

I know you've wanted to talk about this, Mr. CLARKE, about the way in which the Republican proposal would actually slow down the economy by denying—well, go ahead. You and I were discussing this earlier.

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Thank you again. And you're absolutely correct. If we keep the student loan burden low on our borrowers—I mean, it's not low; many student-loan borrowers are paying like $1,000 a month on their loans. But the more that our borrowers can keep their money and invest it, start their own businesses—think about it, our students, our graduates are the ones that have the ambition and the discipline to be able to go through school, to graduate. They're likely the ones that would start their own businesses, be entrepreneurs. That's how you build jobs and create financial security for not only our families, but also economic security for our country.

But many of our borrowers right now, they can't take the risk of starting their own business, even starting a family—let alone buying a home—because of student-loan debt. So if we can keep that debt as low as possible, that will help stimulate our economy. It's a great job-growth stimulus.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You're exactly right. I've had my kids graduate from college. Fortunately, they didn't have to take out student loans. We gave them 4 years, and the fifth and sixth year they were on their own.

But the student loans across this Nation, right at $1 trillion now, the doubling of the interest rate, which was in the Republican budget blueprint, will stifle the economy. As those kids graduate, they have to pay off that loan immediately, not just, as we propose, 15 percent of their disposable income, but even a higher percentage. That's money that they cannot use to buy a car. They've got to pay the bank. That's money that cannot be used to start a home or buy a refrigerator or any other economic activity. Unnecessary.

Now, we can't allow that to happen. So what we need to do—and here it is, this is a ticking time bomb for the American economy. This is a ticking time bomb for the American economy. After today, there are just 66 days left before the student loan interest rate doubles to 6.8 percent. Is action being taken? Mr. CLARKE, you have a bill in. The Democrats have proposed a bill that would keep the student interest rates where they are now, 3.4 percent, and pay for that by reducing the subsidy that every American taxpayer gives to the oil industry. Over $12 billion of our tax money—your tax money, the public tax money—now goes to subsidize the wealthiest, most successful, most profitable industry in the world, the oil and gas industry.

So we would propose that the Big 5 that get more than $5 billion a year in your tax money to subsidize their fat profits, which over the last decade have been more than $1 trillion—yes, that's right, more than $1 trillion of profit, and you're adding $5 billion a year of your tax money to their already-substantial profits. We would take back that $5 billion and use it to reduce the interest rate on student loans.

Now, the Republican proposal: let's understand, this is a big issue across the United States. It's erupted on college campuses. There is outrage. There is concern. The Republican budget that came out of this House less than a month ago has hit the stone wall. The public doesn't like it. And so today, just late this afternoon, a proposal came from the Republican caucus to introduce a bill to not double the interest rate. Good. Well, how are you going to pay for it? Interestingly, you know

how they're going to pay for it? They're going to take money away from seniors. In the Affordable Care Act there is a provision that allows seniors to get free check-ups, free preventative check-ups.

So the Republican proposal doesn't go to the millionaires, doesn't go to the billionaires, doesn't ask them for any sacrifice. Instead, it says, oh, yeah, we made a mistake on doubling the interest rates, and we're going to pay for it by taking the money away from seniors and their health care. What in the world are you doing? What are you doing? Why would you do that? Why would you take from the poor and seniors more money and give it—while keeping the millionaires, the billionaires and the oil industry whole? I don't get it, but that's their proposal.

Our proposal is to go to those that have extraordinary success, the oil industry, and say: after a century, after a century of subsidization by the American taxpayer, we're going to reduce that. We're going to take that tax money back and we're going to make sure that the students of America do not see a doubling of their interest payment on their student loans.

I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

□ 1900

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Thank you, Mr. GARAMENDI. And the other point that you're making about student loans and capping these interest rates, how they'll create jobs, that's absolutely right. When our borrowers are freed up to not have to pay these high interest rates, that will create jobs.

Now, some people say, well, the student loan borrower signed the student loan agreement that had the high interest rate on there so they should pay that interest rate, but this is the main point: Those student loans that our government issues to students and to their parents to provide our students with a way to get their education when they can't afford to pay for that education, that's not just to help that student get a degree. Those loans are here to help our country become stronger. Here's why.

The more Americans that we have who are properly trained, who are able to be productive and contribute to our country to their fullest potential, they're able to create more jobs by building the best products, by providing the best services, by developing the best technology that can be sold worldwide. That helps our entire economy. So these loans are to strengthen our entire national economy. It's not just for the borrowers' benefit.

So that's why we don't want these interest rates to be so high. We want to put a cap on them. And in my bill, the Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012, I allow virtually every student loan borrower to have a second chance to pay lower rates on their student loan by allowing them to pay down their student loan according to their income. So if they're not making that much money, they don't have to pay much money.

Specifically, my bill would allow borrowers to pay 10 percent of their discretionary income each year, and once they do that for a 10-year period, the remainder of their Federal student loans will be eligible to be forgiven because we want to free up the borrowers' money so they can now invest it, invest it on starting a business, invest it on buying a home, starting a family. All of that will help create jobs.

You see, cutting student loans, keeping the student loan debt low, as low as possible, that's an economic stimulus for all of us. It makes our country stronger. It creates jobs.

Many of us told our kids, and we were also really taught by society, you know, if you work hard, if you study hard, if you go to school, if you even borrow money to get your degree and graduate, you'll live a better life. You'll likely make more money.

Well, because of student loan debt, because it's grown so much, because of the prospect also of interest rates going back up, the American Dream that was supposedly created by the availability of student loan debt has now become a nightmare to many borrowers. And we've got to cut this debt.

This is the real debt, my colleague from California, that we need to cut, because this is the debt that really costs us jobs. We need to cut student loan debt. We can take that initial step right now by keeping student loan interest rates on Stafford loans at 3.4 percent. That's the first step.

Now I'm asking the American people, demand that Congress reform the student loan system. Let's change the system. Let's make it affordable for everyone to be able to get a decent education and to repay that money back.

So again, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to share this time with you and the American people. This is so important.

You know, many times in this body we talk about we've got to cut taxes to stimulate the economy, that we've got to cut debt in order to provide people freedom. Well, what person in this country can be free when they have to personally pay student loan debt that will take them years or even decades, if ever they'll be able to pay that off.

And the reason why I say that is that I know senior citizens now who are still repaying their student loans. And at their age, there's no way they'll be able to pay those loans off. And it doesn't matter if they go bankrupt. Going bankrupt doesn't mean anything. The government will still come after you for all the student loan money because you can't discharge your student loan debt in bankruptcy.

It's a cruel, unfair burden that certain students' loans are imposed on Americans. We need to cut that burden. Cutting that burden is not only fair, but it will create jobs for our country. We want our graduates to be able to have their money to invest, invest on starting their own businesses.

I'm from Detroit. Our city was built up. We built up this country's economy because of entrepreneurs who were able to pursue their dreams. Now the very people that we have trained to pursue their dreams can't do so because of student loan debt. That's outrageous.

Congress, keep student loan interest rates at 3.4 percent. Cap those rates. Do it now.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Mr. CLARKE. The clock is ticking—not the Clarke clock, but the clock is ticking. Sixty-six days before the student loan interest rates double.

We had a long conversation here about tax policy from our colleagues on the Republican side. They didn't happen to mention the burden that's being placed on students if we fail, and they didn't talk about their proposal to take the money away from seniors and continue to provide support for the superwealthy and the oil companies.

Joining me on this conversation is a gentleman who was the chairman of the Labor Education Committee, now the ranking member, has been an advocate for students and education for more than 30 years here in the Halls of Congress, a gentleman that was largely responsible for those improvements that I talked about early in this discussion. Congressman GEORGE MILLER and I have the pleasure of representing Contra Costa County. We're neighbors. We've worked together these many, many years. I'm absolutely delighted that you came to join us here tonight. No one knows more about this than you do, Mr. MILLER, so let's discuss this with the American people.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Thank you very much, JOHN. Thank you for taking this floor time for this debate, and thank you for the effort and the fight that you have led on making it in America, so that, once again, America makes things, once again America has a robust manufacturing economy, whether it's this iteration of manufacturing or the next iteration of manufacturing, that America remains competitive around the world in making it in America for sale around the rest of the world.

Nothing could be more important to sustaining our manufacturing base in this country, to sustaining our ability at innovation and economic growth that takes place as a result of that innovation, than the education of our young men and women throughout this country. And nothing is more important to their well-being and their families—and this is proven out every year as we do studies, that years of college and college completion are very important to the economic security of that individual and that individual and the family that he or she may form later in life. It pays huge benefits for them to go to college, and that's why we've tried to make college affordable.

Many of us are very upset with the costs of college, how the costs have

gone up, have doubled in many ways across the States. But the fact of the matter is, while we're struggling with the issues of cost of college and trying to get the States to do more on behalf of the their public institutions, the fact of the matter is we have to make sure that college remains affordable for young people.

And that's why, in 2007, we made a decision to lower the interest rates on student loans so that it would be more affordable for the students, not only to go to college, but also then in paying back the debt that they incurred because of the subsidized student loans. And we made that effort, and we did it on bipartisan basis at that time. And President Bush signed that legislation into law, and we put some of that money into deficit reduction and into reducing the interest rates.

In 2010, we followed on with legislation proposed by President Obama and our committee and others to make sure that we could increase the Pell Grant so those students most in need, those families most in need would have the Pell Grant as an underpinning of making college more affordable. We continued with the subsidized student loans to make college more affordable.

We went to an income-based repayment system so that a student that may be starting out in a good career but a bad entry-level pay scale as they begin that career will be able to pay back their student loan and also continue on with their life, and as they make more money, they pay more money. And it's very important so that they can choose a profession of their passion, not just the profession that yields the most money, because many of our students, the minute they heard about this program said, I can now be a nurse, I can be a public health assistant, I can be a prosecutor, I can be a public defender, what their passion was in life. They could be a teacher and now know that they could afford to pay back their student loans.

And the interest rate is very important at this time as families and young people try to figure out what their indebtedness is going to be and how they are going to pay for college, especially at this time of the year when young people are getting their acceptance notice from universities and colleges all across the country, and now they sit around the kitchen table with their families and say, How are we going to afford this? What's the debt we are going to end up with? And it's an important procedure for families to go through as they think about this.

But all of a sudden, now, we see that when the President submitted his budget looking forward to July of this year, he asked that we continue to keep the interest rate at 3.4 percent.

□ 1910

That's very important. That's the choice that President Obama made.

The choice that the Republicans made in the Ryan budget was to let it go to 6.8 percent. In fact, there was a unanimous vote on the Republican side for the Ryan budget to let it go to 6.8 percent.

We think that's wrong. We think that's unfortunate for families in the middle of this economic turmoil that we're coming out of in this country. They need these assurances. We think that interest rate should stay at 3.4 percent.

Of course, we want to pay for it. Just as we paid for it for the first 4 years, we want to pay for it again. We believe that that should come out of the unfair tax breaks that are extended to oil companies that cannot be justified when the price of oil is $104 a barrel. They get the tax break when it's $134 a barrel. They get it when it's $150 a barrel. We think that time has come and gone, that the oil companies can continue to pursue the quest for oil and the recovery, and we appreciate that. The fact of the matter is price alone provides them the basis on which to go out and seek out the hydrocarbons necessary for our economy and for the world economy at this time.

So, this is about choices. Do you believe the interest rate should be 3.4 percent or do you believe it should be 6.8 percent? By a unanimous vote, the Republicans said it should be 6.8 percent.

But I have to tell you today, I'm quite excited, this dramatic turn of events where the Republicans today have said that they want to keep the interest rates at 3.4 percent, and we welcome that. We welcome the fact that when they saw the President out in the country talking to young people, talking to parents, knowing that these parents and young people are going through this process of figuring out how to finance their education, that he made a compelling argument that this interest rate should remain for the next year at 3.4 percent, that the Republicans have come and decided that they embrace that provision.

I was excited when I saw their Presidential candidate said he was for this. I was excited this morning when I read in the paper that the Republican leader in the Senate said nobody is against this. Oh, yes, my friends on the other side of the aisle were unanimously against this a week ago. But I think the President sold this idea to the Nation and apparently sold the Republican Party, and we should welcome that because that's in the interest and benefit and we should work together to make sure that this happens on behalf of families and on behalf of young people.

But, of course, there's always a kicker when the Republicans do this:

Our choice is an unjustified tax cut to the largest oil companies in this country and, in some cases, the world, that we should stop providing these tax subsidies to those oil companies. Their choice, unfortunately, is this: to wipe out and to repeal the preventative medicine account in the Affordable Care Act, in the health care reform act, to wipe that out.

So where do we find the Republicans paying for their desire now to join the President and lower the interest rates to 3.4 percent? They wipe out immunization programs for young children. So children now, we're going to send either less healthy children and children with fewer immunizations to school and in our community, or those parents are going to have to pay for it and they can't afford that. That's why we're doing that.

They also chose to knock out screening programs for breast cancer. Once again, just as the Affordable Care Act extends health care to women, stops making women a preexisting condition, that their gender denies them health care automatically under the current insurance systems or makes it so expensive that it's very difficult for them or their families, just as that's within the reach of women, the Republicans take away the preventative care that extends that screening to millions of women across the country.

Then, of course, the screening for birth defects for couples that are concerned or that have been told by their doctor that their child may have birth defects or that the pregnancy may be with birth defects and the choices and the difficulties that they have to make. But that screening is important in terms of early interventions, in terms of turning around the outcomes for these children.

So that's where the Republicans chose to get the pay-for, to go to those most in need, to go to those who have been denied health care for generations because of their gender, because they're women, and we all know in our family, in our friends, in our neighborhood, in the communities we represent, what women encounter with breast cancer and the importance of screening. Somehow they've decided that that's how they will pay for reducing the interest rate from 6.8 percent on July 1 to 3.4 percent.

I urge them to join us and to pay for this in essentially a painless way with respect to these unjustified subsidies for the largest oil companies in the country.

It's very important to the agenda, Mr. GARAMENDI, that you have put forth, that you worked on before you ever came to the Congress, and that is building up the jobs base, the manufacturing base, recognizing the contribution that this economy can make to future energy choices, to future transportation choices all across the board, and do it here in America.

But we're told even in a time of this tragic recession that we do not have enough skilled people to carry that mission out. We've got to build that. We've got to educate these young people, and that's what student loans allow to happen for people who can't simply write a check for the education of their children, who simply can't say, well, I've got a deduction, that's enough, that will take care of it for this year.

Families struggle to try and accomplish what every generation has, that their children will live better, will contribute more to America than we did in our generation. My grandparents wished it for me. My parents wished it for me, and they worked hard to provide it.

But when you say now, oh, but, by the way, we're not going to allow for screening for poor women who might have breast cancer, we're not going to test for birth defects for young children, we're not going to provide immunization for young children, what are they going to do, turn America into a Third World?

We struggle to get the same immunizations into the hands of poor people all around the world because we recognize the public health benefits, but they've chosen this.

So, I'm excited that they've seen the wrong direction that they were headed with the Ryan budget, the Republican budget, to double the interest rates on student loans. But I'm very, very concerned that they decided that they would extract the price from women and children once again, as they have in the past in their budgets.

So I urge that we can get this student loan taken care of before the 66 days that you've put up there, before this time bomb goes off in the very middle-income and low-income families in America.

Thank you again for making this time available for us to discuss this. We hope we'll have good action on behalf of all Americans—women, children, students, and their families. It's quite possible to do. All we have to do is reach across the aisle and work together and make sure that we don't make victims out of part of our society so that others can go to school.

Going to school is important, women's health is important, childhood immunization is important, and so is dealing with birth defects in the best way we possibly can. We owe that to those families and those children.

Thank you very much.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. MILLER, thank you for the dedication that you've made over many, many decades to education, to the well-being of children and the labor and workforce here in the United States. There are very few men and women that have spent the number of years and have been so successful as have you in making it possible for kids to get an education and for adults to get an additional education.

We didn't talk about all of the elements of the educational system. We've really focused tonight on the student loan, the Pell Grants, and the reductions that the Republican blueprint would impose upon the United States as well as the tax policy that has come from that blueprint, which essentially is a tax policy of continuing to reward the superwealthy while, at the same time, taking away from the struggling middle class, the men and women that are working every single day to keep their food on the table, their family in the house, and pay the mortgage. Now, it's one of the most unfair tax policies that I've ever seen in the many years that I've been involved in public policy. It goes well beyond that.

I want to also make just a couple of points, and if you would just stick around a second, I want to come back to the education of those men and women that are already in the workforce, but I want to make a point here.

Before we took up this 1-hour, our Republican colleagues spent the hour talking about tax policy. They overlooked their own tax policy, just went with some very easy rhetoric about we've got to cut taxes and we've got to make sure the job creators do not have an additional burden.

□ 1920

It was and is a fact that it is the Democrats in this House who actually put forward a very significant stimulus for business on tax policy. It was the Democrats who took and reduced the taxes on businesses that invested in America by allowing American businesses, big and small, to write off 100 percent of every capital investment that they made. That lasted for a year until our Republican colleagues took power here, when they reduced that writeoff to 50 percent. Still good. Still good. It's a better than the normal depreciation schedule, but that has stimulated enormous investment by businesses in improving their capital so they could be more productive and increase their output.

We also took very specific steps among the Democrats to reduce the burden on both businesses and employees when we reduced the payroll taxes. We were unable to continue the business side of that when the Republicans took power here, but we were able to continue the reduction in the payroll tax for employees. Very important: stimulus for the economy, allowing men and women who are working to have more that they could then spend and make ends meet. Those are all things that we did. We ended one other very onerous tax break. This was done by the Democrats in this House in the 2010 session. What we did was to eliminate a tax break that American corporations had for offshoring jobs.

That brings me back to the Make It in America model here. In making it in America, you cannot give a tax break to American corporations for offshoring jobs. It was more than a $12 billion-a-year tax reduction for American corporations that sent jobs overseas. You go, what in the world was that all about? Well, it was in the Tax Code. We eliminated that. I will say for the American public out there that we got precious little support—in fact, no support—from the Republican caucus on this floor when that bill came up for a vote. Wrong-headed and very, very destructive.

These are the policies that create a strong economy: education. A well-educated workforce is the most important element in any economic strategy. It was the American strategy in the fifties, sixties, seventies, and eighties. It has fallen off, but Members of Congress like Mr. MILLER have maintained education, not only in the K–12 and the higher education system but in reinvestment in the workforce: making sure that those men and women who are on the production line and those who have been laid off can go back to school, can get an upgraded education, can learn better skills, perhaps as a welder, or as a computer technician, or for all the other thousands of different types of jobs. It's being able to go back to school in the workforce investment programs, as well as in the Pell Grant programs, that Mr. MILLER put forward. It is to allow community college students, part-time community college students, to be able to take out a Pell Grant.

Let's run through them. I've got seven of them up here, but there are five that are critical in any economic development strategy. Mr. MILLER has done the education piece and has led that fight. It's education, research, manufacturing, infrastructure, and making sure that you're paying attention to the international world. So those are the five that are there.

Mr. MILLER, why don't you help me wrap up here, and then we'll be on our way, and we'll thank the American public for listening to this discourse on how education policy fits in to growing the American economy and building up the American middle class and reigniting that dream.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Education, obviously, is one of the most important ingredients. It's the best investment we make in terms of a return to the Treasury because of the increased productivity and success of the people who complete their education. The important factor here is that, when we think about this, we really have to develop a system where our students are engaged in a modern learning environment, where they have access to the technology, where they have access to resources outside of the traditional classroom, where their instructors, their teachers, have that kind of access so they can integrate their education into what's happening and into what these young people see as happening in the rest of the economy in the world around them.

So we create that learning environment, and we can create that teaching environment by changing the way we've traditionally done things in this country. We've looked at those that are high-performing. We look around the world and say, Where are those nations that are high performing? Where are those students who are doing the best? We look at what's taking place in those countries, and we see this partnership between communities and parents and students and teachers, working out recognizing that that school is a huge economic asset of that community. It may be the most important

thing where parents and the community have that say. So that's what we're trying to develop.

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to get the reform in the rewrite of No Child Left Behind yet in this Congress. It has been a number of years. We weren't able to do it in the last Congress. But I want to thank the Obama administration and the Secretary of Education because, in recognizing the role that the ingredient of education plays in the economic recovery, they've gone with the Race to the Top program and with the waivers program for those States.

What they're really saying is, if you want to take your State and go to the future, if you want to take your district and go to the future, we want to partner with you. What does that mean? That means that those Governors and those local superintendents of schools and those State superintendents of instruction are making a decision that they want to join in an effort to have internationally benchmarked standards and internationally benchmarked curriculum and assessments. It's no longer just filling in a bubble on a multiple choice. But because of the sophistication that we've learned in assessment, that we learned from the workplace, what we learned from employers, these students will be able to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge, their understanding. They will be richer. They will be better able to adapt to the needs of employers. They can go on and get a master's degree, or they can go on and get a college degree, or they can go on and get a doctorate degree.

The fact of the matter is that the world of learning is changing dramatically, and I think that, while we're bogged down here in partisan fights, unfortunately, the administration has struck out on a bold path. I think there are now 40 States that either have applied or are hoping to apply for waivers. There are 47 Governors who have said we should have internationally benchmarked standards in this country so that we know that, when our students are learning, they're learning at the same level the students in Shanghai are learning—or in Germany or in Finland or in Singapore or in Japan—and that's the change that's possible.

But the fact of the matter is that Congress has got to want to go along with that. The Governors are taking the lead. They're taking the lead. The big city mayors are taking the lead. They understand this in terms of your agenda, Congressman GARAMENDI, in making it in America—jobs in their communities. That educated workforce is the most important investment they can make, and for parents, it's that good school. People always talk about remodeling their bathrooms or adding on a bedroom or landscaping the yard to add value to their homes. If you turn that into a high-performing school, you'll add more value than anything else you could possibly do.

The National Real Estate Association will tell you that the first question people ask is, What school will my children go to? What district is this in?

We now have the ability and the capability, and in partnering up with the entire school staff, to dramatically improve the learning environment, the teaching environment, and the outcomes for all of our students. That's the excitement, because this comes along at a time when America now realizes, yes, we thought after 1980, 1990 that we couldn't make anything in America. We now recognize that, and we now see foreign investment coming back to America, and we've got to have the talent ready to absorb that.

So thank you again for this opportunity to integrate education into the Make It in America agenda. Obviously, I think it is the most important point. But as I talk to venture capitalists and to people in the high-tech fields and in the biotech fields in our State and around the country, they'll just tell you over and over again that the workforce they're looking for is a well-educated, adaptable, understanding workforce that can work with people all around the world now because you can sit in one room and work with people everywhere else in the world.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. MILLER, your passion for education was on display in this last discussion. Thank you for that passion, and thank you for the years of service that you have provided to America in leading the fight for the improvement of our education system.

Just a couple of thoughts—not random but specifically on the subject.

Yesterday, I was in Dixon, California, for the opening of a new manufacturing facility. A company, Altech in Birmingham, Alabama, decided that they were going to stay in America for the production of these bucket trucks, which are the kind of trucks that utility companies use that take the worker up to work on the power line, way up on the top of that pole. They decided to stay there, and they're going to hire an additional 100 people to manufacture these bucket trucks in Dixon, California.

In the discussion I had with the manufacturer and the president of the company, I asked him, How are you going to train these workers? And he said, We're going to do it at the community college.

□ 1930

We're going to do it at the community college. The programs that you have put together over the years, with the workforce investment program, meaning that we're investing in the workers, the retraining of the workers electricians, welders, line jobs, well-paying middle class jobs, that's what it's all about.

The most important investment that any society can make is the investment in the education of its people. We need to do more. That education of the workforce, the children, the seniors, the others that are in the field, that investment also entails the individual's participation. The loans that they take out, the Pell Grants that they receive are essential in giving them access, as you so well know. Then when we find a blueprint that passed this House, the Republican blueprint that basically takes away that opportunity, it stifles the American economy.

I share with you your enthusiasm for the newfound awareness of our Republican colleagues, and it only took a week, and it only took three speeches by the President, and they had the ''oh my'' moment. ''We made a mistake, yes.'' But don't double down on that mistake by paying for the reduction in that interest rate by taking away from the vulnerable people of America.

I think not only of the children and their vaccinations, breast cancer and early detection, but also the seniors in their prevention and detection. That's not how to do it. We know better. Your proposal, the proposal of Mr. CLARKE of using the resources that we're now giving to the most wealthy industry in the world, our tax money, literally given to the oil industry, we need to recoup that and use that instead for the very future of this country.

We're finished for this evening. It's been a good night. Thank you so very much for joining us.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Thank you very much for the opportunity and thank you for your leadership on this.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Thank you for bringing your passion for education.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3523, CYBER INTELLIGENCE SHARING AND PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4628, INTEREST RATE REDUCTION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112–454) on the resolution (H. Res. 631) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3523) to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans; and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 26, 2012, 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:

5766. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Silicic Acid, Sodium Salt etc; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0934; FRL-9333-6] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5767. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 11-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5768. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 11-03; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5769. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Army Case Number 11-09; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5770. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) case number 09-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

5771. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Attainment Plan for the Kentucky Portion of the Huntington-Ashland 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2010-0255; FRL-9657-4] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5772. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Amendments to the Handling, Storage, and Disposal of Volatile Organic Compounds Emissions; Automobile and Light-Duty Truck Coating Operations; Paper Coating; Coating of Flat Wood Paneling; Graphic Art Systems; and Industrial Cleaning Solvents [EPA-R03-OAR-2011-0998; FRL-9657-1] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5773. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Small Container Exemption from VOC Coating Rules [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0073; FRL-9651-5] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5774. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0870; FRL-9658-9] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5775. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Missouri: Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule; New Source Review Reform [EPA-R07-OAR-2011-0825; FRL-9657-8] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5776. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Hazardous Waste Technical Corrections and Clarifications Rule [EPA-RCRA-2008-0678; FRL-9659-7] (RIN: 2050-AG52) received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5777. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234; EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0044; FRL-9654-8] (RIN: 2060-AP52 and 2060-AR31) received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5778. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan Pinal County Air Quality Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2008-0359; FRL-9639-5] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5779. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Northern Sierra and Sacremento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0243; FRL-9659-8] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5780. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0180; FRL-9652-2] received April 11, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5781. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on U.S. support for Taiwan's participation as an observer at the 65th World Health Assembly and in the work of the World Health Organization, as mandated in the 2004 Participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization Act, Pub. L. 108-235, Sec. 1(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5782. A letter from the Staff Director, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2011 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5783. A letter from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting the Office's annual 2011 report of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5784. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report for FY 2011 prepared in accordance with the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5785. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs and Public Relations, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Fiscal Year 2010 annual report prepared in accorance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5786. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Fourth Quarter 2011 report of Settlements by the United States with Nonmonetary Relief Exceeding Three Years and Settlements Against the United States Exceeding $2 Million; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5787. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 50th annual report of activities for fiscal year 2011, pursuant to Section 103(e) of the Reorganization Plan No. 7 of 1961 and Section 208 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, as amended; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5788. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interest on Untimely Paid Vessel Repair Duties [USCBP-2008-0085] (RIN: 1515-AD74) received March 23, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5789. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Nonconventional Source Fuel Credit, 2011 Section 45K Inflation Adjustment Factor and Section 45K Reference Price [Notice 2012-30] received April 10, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5790. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2012-28] received April 10, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5791. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Alan Baer Revocable Trust v. United States, 105 AFTR 2d 1544, 2010-1 USTC 60,590 (D. Neb. 2010) [AOD 2012-04] received April 10, 2012, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5792. A letter from the Acting Chair, Social Security Advisory Board, transmitting the Board's report of the 2011 Social Security Technical Panel on Assumptions and Methods; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5793. A letter from the Board of Trustees, Federal Old-Age And Survivors Insurance And Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the 2012 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395i(b)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. 112—102); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

5794. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report to Congress on The Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) Budget

Plan and Review P.L. 110-53, Section 1821(b)(2); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

5795. A letter from the Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Report on the Federal Work Force for Fiscal Year 2010, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000e-4(e); jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Education and the Workforce.

5796. A letter from the Boards of Trustees, Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting the 2012 Annual Report Of The Boards Of Trustees Of The Federal Hospital Insurance And Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 401(c)(2), 1395i(b)(2), and 1395t(b)(2); (H. Doc. No. 112—101); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

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. BACHUS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2308. A bill to improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders; with an amendment (Rept. 112–453). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 631. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3523) to provide for the sharing of certain cyber threat intelligence and cyber threat information between the intelligence community and cybersecurity entities, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4628) to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans; and for other purposes (Rept. 112–454). 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. RANGEL:

H.R. 4621. A bill to authorize negotiations with Brazil to eliminate tariffs and trade barriers to United States ethanol exports; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4622. A bill to provide for the establishment of a grant program to assist State and local governments to install solar energy systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.R. 4623. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and make permanent rules related to investment by nonresident aliens in domestic mutual funds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BACHUS (for himself and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 4624. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide for the registration and oversight of national investment adviser associations; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 4625. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to require the President to certify that the Yucca Mountain site remains the designated site for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 4626. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on certain air pressure distillation columns; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4627. A bill to extend and make a technical correction to the temporary suspension of duty on certain cast stainless steel single-piece exhaust gas manifolds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H.R. 4628. A bill to extend student loan interest rates for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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. DENHAM:

H.R. 4629. A bill to require the Comptroller General to conduct an annual audit of the General Services Administration; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 4630. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of expanding the boundary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois (for himself, Mr. LONG, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 4631. A bill to require quarterly reports on agency conferences and meetings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4632. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 2-Chlorotoluene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4633. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Chloromethylbenzene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4634. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 2,3-Dichloronitrobenzene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4635. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Phenylisocyanate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4636. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on certain ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4637. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on p-Toluidine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4638. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on p-Nitrotoluene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4639. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Bayderm Bottom DLV-N; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4640. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 2-Phenylphenol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4641. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Iminodisuccinate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4642. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Mesamoll; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERG (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 4643. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of the cash method of accounting for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4644. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain portable electric grills; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4645. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on combination smoker, roaster, and grills; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4646. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain grill brushes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4647. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain decorative tabletop torch vessels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4648. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain decorative outdoor torches; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4649. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain decorative dual wick torches; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4650. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain fishing reels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4651. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain decorative outdoor bamboo garden torches; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4652. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain portable infrared gas grill and cooler combinations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4653. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain portable gas grills; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4654. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on manicure and pedicure sets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4655. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on nail clippers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4656. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain eyelash curlers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4657. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing β-cyfluthrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4658. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on Deltamethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4659. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on N-(4-Fluorophenyl)-2-hydroxy-N-(1-methylethyl)acetamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4660. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Thiencarbazone-methyl; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4661. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Spiromesifen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4662. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4663. A bill to modify and extend the temporary reduction of duty on 2-Acetylbutyrolactone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4664. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,3-Cyclohexanedione; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4665. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Flubendiamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4666. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Spirotetramat; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4667. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Isoxadifen-Ethyl; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4668. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cyfluthrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4669. A bill to modify and extend the temporary reduction of duty on β-cyfluthrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4670. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on mixtures contaning Trifloxystrobin and Prothioconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4671. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain mixtures containing Trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4672. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on mixtures containing Spirotetramat; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4673. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing Trifloxystrobin and Propiconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4674. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Diuron Technical; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4675. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on 1H-[1,2,4]Triazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4676. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of Indaziflam; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4677. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of Flubendiamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4678. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing Fluopyram; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4679. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing Fluopyram and Prothioconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4680. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing Fluopyram and Trifloxystrobin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4681. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures containing Fluopyram and Pyrimethanil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4682. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fenhexamid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4683. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fluopicolide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4684. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fluopyram; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4685. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Indaziflam; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4686. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 4-Chlorobenzaldehyde; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4687. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Phenmedipham; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4688. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on dry adhesive copolyamide pellets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4689. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Orgasol polyamide powders; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4690. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on dicumyl peroxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4691. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Frequency Herbicide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4692. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fastac; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4693. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2,3-Quinolinedicarboxylic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4694. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on product mixtures containing Spiromesifen; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4695. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on product mixtures containing Clothianidin and Bacillus Firmus strain I-1582; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4696. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on product mixtures containing Clothianidin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4697. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on product mixtures containing Pyrasulfotole, Bromoxynil Octanoate, and Bromoxynil Heptanoate, including application adjuvants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4698. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on product mixtures containing ethofumesate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4699. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cyprosulfamide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4700. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4701. A bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on Propiconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4702. A bill to reduce temporarily the rate of duty on mixtures of Paraquat and Emetic; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4703. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Paclobutrazol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4704. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Chloroacetone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4705. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Brodifacoum; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4706. A bill to extend and modify the reduction of duty on Mandipropamid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4707. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,3-Benzenedicarbonitrile; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4708. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on fludioxonil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4709. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Polymer, ε-Caprolactone-diethylene glycol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4710. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Carbonic Acid, Dimethyl Ester, Polymer with 1,6-Hexanediol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4711. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on leather basketballs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4712. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on volleyballs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4713. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on rubber basketballs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4714. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on basketballs, having an external surface other than leather or rubber; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4715. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ε-Caprolactone-2-ethyl-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol polymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4716. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ε-Caprolactone-neopentylglycol copolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4717. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,2'-Bis(4-cyanatophenyl)propane homopolymer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4718. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Linuron; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4719. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Terbacil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4720. A bill to establish the American Innovation Bank, to improve science and technology job training, to authorize grants for curriculum development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4721. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on monocarboxylic fatty acids derived from palm oil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4722. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of polyvinyl alcohol and polyvinyl pyrrolidone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4723. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Tetrakis(hydroxymethyl) phosphonium sulfate (THPS); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4724. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on (1S)-1,5-anhydro-1-[3-[[5-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-thienyl]methyl] -4-methylphenyl]-D-glucitol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4725. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Imazalil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4726. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on NORBLOC 7966; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4727. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Cetalox; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4728. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Dimethyl malonate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4729. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixtures of N-[2-(2-oxoimidazolidine-1-yl)ethyl]-2-methylacrylamide, methacrylic acid, aminoethyl ethylene urea and hydroquinone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan (for himself and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 4730. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4731. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to clarify the tariff rates for carpet cleaners and parts thereof imported into the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4732. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on 4-methoxy-2-methyldiphenylamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4733. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 4'-methoxy-2,2',4-trimethyl diphenylamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4734. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Imazalil; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4735. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on ACM; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4736. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Glufosinate-Ammonium (GA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4737. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Oxadiazon; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4738. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on the chime melody rod assembly used in the production of grandfather clocks, wall clocks, and mantel clocks; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4739. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain clock movements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. WEST, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. CARTER):

H.R. 4740. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to ensure that relocation of a servicemember to serve on active duty away from the servicemember's principal residence does not prevent the servicemember from refinancing a mortgage on that principal residence; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4741. A bill to extend and modify the temporary reduction of duty on Avermectin B; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4742. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Prosulfuron; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4743. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pymetrozine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4744. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cyproconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4745. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Cypermethrin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4746. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 2-Mercaptoethanol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4747. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Tetrahydrothiophene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4748. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on p-Dichlorobenzene; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4749. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Di-tert-butyl polysulfides; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4750. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Dimethyl 3,3'-thiodipropionate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4751. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-Hydroxyethyl-n-octyl sulfide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4752. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Reactive Red 228; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4753. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Acid Yellow 151; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4754. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Reactive Blue 269; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4755. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Disperse Yellow 42; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4756. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Reactive Blue 268; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4757. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Acid Blue 171; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4758. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on Normal Paraffin M; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 4759. A bill to establish a comprehensive process to inform American consumers about food and product recalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 4760. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polyvinyl formal resin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 4761. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on tris 2-(Hydroxy ethyl)-isocyanurate (THEIC); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4762. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on aircraft grade polyvinyl butyral; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4763. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on N-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4764. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Potassium decafluoro(pentafluorethyl) cyclohexanesulfonate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4765. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 194; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4766. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 181; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4767. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 191; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4768. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pigment Red 187; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4769. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Pigment Yellow 180; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 4770. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on Yttrium oxides having a purity of at least 99.9 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 4771. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Fungaflor Technical (Imazalil); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 4772. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Penbotec 400SC; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4773. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Bifenazate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4774. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Paraquat dichloride (1,1'-dimethyl-

4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4775. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Propargite; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4776. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Pentaerythritol tetrakis[3-(dodecylthio)propionate]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4777. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-Thiobis[2-(1,1-di-methylethyl)-5-methyl-phenol]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4778. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on N,N-Hexane-1,6-diylbis(3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-phenyl propionamide)); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4779. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,5-Bis(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-1,4-benzenediol; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4780. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,2'-(2-Methylpropylidene) bis(4,6-dimethylphenol); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4781. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-butylidenebis [3-methyl 6 tert butylphenol]; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4782. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,2'-Methylenebis (4 methyl 6 tert butylphenol); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4783. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Ipconazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4784. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Daminozide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4785. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Paraquat Dichloride and Inerts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4786. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Butralin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4787. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Bis(2,3-dibromopropyl ether) of Tetrabromobisphenol A; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4788. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Phosphoric acid, tris (2-ethylhexyl) ester; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4789. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on Etridiazole; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4790. A bill to extend the suspension of duty on 2,2,6,6-Tetramethyl-4-piperidinone; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4791. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-methylenebis(2-chloroaniline); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4792. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on allyl bromide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4793. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1,3-Dibromo-5-Dimethylhydantoin; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4794. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on magnesium hydroxide with a purity greater than or equal to 99.8 percent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4795. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain urea resins; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4796. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on electromechanical ice shavers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4797. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on combination single slot toaster and toaster ovens; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4798. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on electric knives; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4799. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on handheld electric can openers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4800. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain single serve and full pot coffee makers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4801. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain portable slow cookers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4802. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain single serve coffee makers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4803. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain single serve coffee makers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4804. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain electric skillets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4805. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain battery operated jar openers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4806. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain battery operated ice cream makers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4807. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain frozen treat makers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4808. A bill to suspend temporarily the rate of duty on certain programmable slow cookers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4809. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain electric dispensing blenders; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4810. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on self contained, carafeless automatic drip coffeemaker with electronic clock; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4811. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on self-contained, carafeless automatic drip coffeemaker; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4812. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on open top, electric indoor grills; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4813. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain electric juice extractors rated at 800W or higher; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4814. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain electric juice extractors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4815. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on sandwich toaster grills; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. STARK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. CHU, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 4816. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 632. A resolution commending the Government of Turkey for its efforts to facilitate, host, and care for refugees fleeing the Al-Assad regime's escalating violence in Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H. Res. 633. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''Financial Literacy Month''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

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. RANGEL:

H.R. 4621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 4622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 4623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. BACHUS:

H.R. 4624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 4625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United

States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. BARLETTA:

H.R. 4626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I; and including, but not solely limited to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mrs. BIGGERT:

H.R. 4628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 4629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 7 ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.''

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 4630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H.R. 4631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution ''The Congress shall have the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 4642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BERG:

H.R. 4643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 4653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, sec. 8

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4654.

At121 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress may make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution its powers and all powers vested by the Constitution in the government of United States.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress may make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution its powers and all powers vested by the Constitution in the government of United States.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 4656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress may make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution its powers and all powers vested by the Constitution in the government of United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and

collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence, and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 4673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States, which states that Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4676.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8. ''The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general

Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec. 8, ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 4690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:

H.R. 4700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; ''To regulate commerce with foreign nation''

The tariffs which are reduced or suspended in these bills are not produced in the United States and therefore should not be subjected to tariffs meant to protect US domestic producers. Reducing or suspending trade duties on certain imported products ultimately helps to lower prices of finished goods for US consumers by lowering the cost to produce such goods.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4704.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4705.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4706.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4707.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 4708.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution—''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4709.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4710.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4711.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4712.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4713.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4714.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4715.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4716.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4717.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4718.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution, which states that ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4719.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution, which states that ''The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 4729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 2, Section 3 states that the President ''shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully Executed.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan:

H.R. 4739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.''

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 4740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation ensures that the military personnel who are homeowners are not discriminated against for their military service when trying to refinance their property. Specific authority is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, and 14), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; and to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 states ''The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''

This bill modifies a duty which is clearly designated as a responsibility of Congress.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 states ''The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''

This bill modifies a duty which is clearly designated as a responsibility of Congress.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4743.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 states ''The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''

This bill modifies a duty which is clearly designated as a responsibility of Congress.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 states ''The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''

This bill modifies a duty which is clearly designated as a responsibility of Congress.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois:

H.R. 4745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 states ''The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''

This bill modifies a duty which is clearly designated as a responsibility of Congress.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 4753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:

Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4754.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4755.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4756.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4757.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 4758.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8. Specifically:
Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
Clause 3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:
H.R. 4759.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:
H.R. 4760.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:
H.R. 4761.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4762.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4763.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4764.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4765.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4766.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4767.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4768.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4769.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NEAL:
H.R. 4770.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. NUNES:
H.R. 4771.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. NUNES:
H.R. 4772.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4773.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4774.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4775.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4776.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4777.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4778.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4779.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4780.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4781.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:
H.R. 4782.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and

collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4783.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4791.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROSS of Arkansas:

H.R. 4795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: 4

H.R. 4811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 4815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect duties and to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. TIERNEY:

H.R. 4816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, 3 and 18 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. 190: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 300: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 303: Mr. WALSH of Illinois.

H.R. 409: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 615: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 692: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 708: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 719: Mr. BARROW, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. SCHWARTZ, and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 733: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 860: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 885: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. COLE, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 905: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1047: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 1112: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 1145: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1262: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1265: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 1327: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1331: Mr. CASSIDY.

H.R. 1332: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1416: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 1493: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1543: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1639: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 1653: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1666: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 1675: Mr. KLINE and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1704: Mr. KEATING and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1738: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1746: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1802: Mr. REED and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1860: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1862: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 2052: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 2086: Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 2104: Mr. PETRI, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. FORBES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. QUIGLEY Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2151: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 2221: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 2245: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2288: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 2307: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2308: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 2311: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2376: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 2493: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 2499: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2502: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 2569: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H.R. 2679: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 2741: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 2787: Mr. TURNER of New York.

H.R. 2952: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 2960: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 2962: Mrs. ELLMERS.

H.R. 3015: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3032: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3035: Mr. BARTLETT.

H.R. 3125: Mrs. BONO MACK and Mr. CARDOZA.

H.R. 3148: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 3151: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 3173: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3187: Mr. MICA and Mr. NUNNELEE.

H.R. 3269: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 3307: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3308: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 3435: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 3448: Mr. WEBSTER.

H.R. 3511: Mr. BROOKS.

H.R. 3553: Mr. NADLER, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 3591: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3612: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 3668: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3721: Mr. WEST.

H.R. 3729: Mr. SOUTHERLAND and Mr. BERG.

H.R. 3767: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 3770: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3790: Mr. BACA and Mr. LATHAM.

H.R. 3792: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3810: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3816: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 3819: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 3826: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 3828: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 3839: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3994: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 4030: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 4049: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 4055: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4057: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4077: Mr. OLVER, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4095: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SHULER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 4115: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4122: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4124: Mr. YODER.

H.R. 4133: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CULBERSON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. WEBSTER, and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.

H.R. 4134: Mr. POE of Texas and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 4154: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4157: Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. LANDRY.

H.R. 4158: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 4165: Mr. CLAY and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 4182: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 4188: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 4200: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 4229: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BACA, Ms. BONAMICI, and Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 4232: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 4237: Mr. BENISHEK.

H.R. 4256: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 4259: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 4269: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 4271: Mr. BACA.

H.R. 4273: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LONG, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. CANSECO.

H.R. 4277: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4282: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 4294: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4296: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 4313: Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 4322: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 4332: Mr. DINGELL.

H.R. 4342: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 4344: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 4346: Mr. CONYERS and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 4372: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 4387: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 4388: Mr. AKIN and Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 4402: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 4454: Mr. FLEMING, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.

H.R. 4470: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 4483: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4607: Ms. JENKINS, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 4609: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.J. Res. 103: Mr. REHBERG and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.J. Res. 104: Mr. CANSECO.

H. Con. Res. 115: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. HALL, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. RIVERA, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. ISSA.

H. Con. Res. 116: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. RIBBLE.

H. Res. 25: Mr. KING of New York.

H. Res. 59: Mr. BERMAN.

H. Res. 111: Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. COLE.

H. Res. 312: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H. Res. 333: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. COLE, and Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 460: Mr. BARTON of Texas and Mrs. BIGGERT.

H. Res. 526: Mr. WEST, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. HUNTER.

H. Res. 568: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. WEBSTER.

H. Res. 583: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H. Res. 612: Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 616: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 618: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JONES, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. MEEKS.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3674: Mr. LANGEVIN.