

all of us on our committee to work with him in a bipartisan way.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, S. 2009 is primarily concerned with U.S. responsibilities to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the other Freely Associated States in Micronesia, and with a pause in the implementation of federal minimum wage in American Samoa.

I certainly support continuing U.S. oversight of the effects of nuclear testing in the Marshalls.

And I defer to my colleague from American Samoa with respect to economic policy in his district.

In one respect, though, S. 2009 does impact my district, the Northern Marianas Islands.

The bill moves a Government Accountability Office report on the effect of minimum wage increases in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa from every two years to every three years.

These GAO reports are important. They provide a credible analysis of a complex policy, namely the annual 50¢ increase in the minimum wage in the Marianas.

Yet this decision to delay the next GAO report and stretch out the period of time between reports is being made without benefit of a hearing in this House.

Neither businesses nor workers, who are impacted by the minimum wage increases in my district, have had a chance to be heard from.

Last year, in part based on the GAO's findings, I supported a one-year break in the wage increase.

Looking ahead to next year, I had hoped to have another GAO report to guide any decision about—perhaps—skipping another year.

But S. 2009 will leave us without benefit of the GAO's advice.

And I believe this House needs that guidance.

I will not object to passage of S. 2009, but I do regret that this House did not follow its regular order before bringing the measure to the floor.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of S. 2009. This legislation includes provisions adjusting the federal minimum wage schedule for American Samoa in light of GAO's findings on its unique labor market conditions. Mr. FALOMAVAEGA of American Samoa has asked the Congress to make these adjustments for American Samoa and pass this bill.

Current law requires that the minimum wage increase in American Samoa annually until it reaches the Mainland's federal minimum wage level.

Current law also requires the GAO to regularly report to Congress on economic conditions in American Samoa over the course of these minimum wage adjustments. These GAO reports are intended to give Congress information so that, if necessary, Congress can adjust the minimum wage schedule for the territory.

Precisely because American Samoa has a unique, isolated, and relatively undiversified economy and because the path to the full federal minimum wage for this territory is a necessarily long one, Congress must be flexible over time with the minimum wage schedule in response to changing economic conditions. Congress must also maintain the clear re-

quirement that the minimum wage in American Samoa be on a schedule to reach Mainland levels. In decades past, the use of a special industry committee to periodically review and set the minimum wage in American Samoa proved ineffective, unfairly depressing wage levels below what was economically feasible.

The minimum wage provision in S. 2009 meets these standards. The adjustment proposed by S. 2009 is the result of the GAO's latest report, which lays out certain economic difficulties confronting American Samoa. These difficulties arise from a variety of factors, including recent global economic conditions and a specific set of challenges facing American Samoa's tuna canning industry.

In response to the GAO report, this bill adjusts the schedule by delaying any minimum wage increases in American Samoa until 2015. Importantly, it maintains a clear minimum wage schedule for the territory, with new increases made triennially.

This is not the first adjustment in the schedule since the increases began in 2007. Adjustments were also enacted in 2010.

Congress must continue to monitor conditions in American Samoa. Future adjustments to either accelerate or delay the minimum wage schedule may be necessary and warranted. Workers in American Samoa deserve a fair minimum wage as soon as possible, which not only improves their standard of living but generates new economic activity for everyone's benefit. To achieve that end and to be sensitive to other economic pressures on the island that may affect employment levels, it is our ongoing responsibility to calibrate the minimum wage schedule as conditions warrant.

I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. FALOMAVAEGA and other colleagues in the House and Senate to ensure workers in American Samoa receive a just wage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2009.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE GARY L. ACKERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable GARY L. ACKERMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
5TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK,

July 16, 2012.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for documents, issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY L. ACKERMAN,  
Member of Congress.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 17, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 17, 2012 at 12:53 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 205.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6018, by the yeas and nays;

S. 2009, by the yeas and nays.

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

#### FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6018) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes, 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