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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 25, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO 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 3, 2013, 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 each party limited to 1 hour 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 1:50 p.m.

FREE AMIR HEKMATI

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank other Members of this body. In less than a week, 72 Members, Members representing the House and the Senate, have joined me in the campaign to free Amir Hekmati from prison in Iran, joined the Free Amir Campaign.

This has been a strong bipartisan effort. We know there's not a lot that's happening in this House right now that happens on a bipartisan basis, but this is something that Members of the House on both sides of the aisle, and all Americans, can join together to do, take a tangible step to help free my constituent who is being held in an Iranian prison on false charges.

Every day, Americans are speaking up because it's something that they can actually do to make a difference through the social media, through Twitter. Thousands of tweets calling on Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to release Amir Hekmati have gone out while President Rouhani is in New York at the U.N. General Assembly; and we know that the Iranian Government monitors social media, participates in social media, so we know that the message is getting through to them. It's a powerful tool, and one that all Americans can engage in to help with this important cause.

I was sent here to fight for my constituents, to work on their behalf, and that includes Amir Hekmati.

Amir is a former U.S. Marine who served his country well, and went to visit his family in Iran. He is of Iranian descent, born and raised here in the U.S., a constituent of mine in Flint, Michigan. He went to visit his family and was arrested, tried and convicted on false charges as a result.

So what we're now seeking to do is to encourage the Iranian Government, as it makes overtures to the global community, to take a tangible step in coming toward the international community by doing what's right and releasing Amir.

We've had tangible support here from Congress; 112 of my colleagues signed a letter to Secretary Kerry asking him to elevate this case, and he's responded and spoke out, calling upon the Iranian Government to release my constituent, Amir Hekmati.

Ambassador Samantha Power, our representative to the United Nations, tweeted shortly after I sent her a letter, sent out a tweet of her own calling on the Iranian Government to release Amir and the other Americans being unjustly held.

It's time for Iran to do more than just talk. If Iran and President Rouhani is looking for a tangible demonstration that he is serious about reengaging the global community, reemerging as a nation among nations, then he can do what's right and release my constituent.

The other day he said he wanted to bring peace and friendship from the Iranian people to the Americans. The American people have responded by asking for that important critical concrete step in the name of friendship, in the name of peace, and that is to release Amir.

It would demonstrate to all Americans and to the global community that this is not just a matter of words, but it's a matter of action. And the only way, I think, that we, as a global society and, certainly, as the American Government, can accept Iran's request to rejoin the international community is if it does something more than just say they want to join, but actually takes an important step.

I will continue this fight. We will not stop. The family of Amir Hekmati will not stop. Democrats and Republicans in the House and in the Senate will not stop. The American Government will not stop until Amir is free.

I take this as my personal challenge, as a personal responsibility as the Member of Congress representing the family. But I think we all, as Americans, can join this fight to free Amir Hekmati and to bring him home to his family.

Ladies and gentlemen, that's all I ask is that Members of the House and the public join this cause and help free Amir.

HUNDREDS ATTEND JOB FAIR IN GROTON, CONNECTICUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

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Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in Groton, Connecticut, which is a community right on Long Island Sound, The Day Newspaper of New London hosted a job fair for the surrounding area, which I had the opportunity to attend for about an hour or so. And the good news is that there were 16 companies that were there, employers who had job openings who, again, were anxious to use the job fair as a chance to meet face-to-face with folks who attended.

The distressing news, though, was that there were over 800 people who showed up for the event. The line wound out from the ballroom of the Groton Inn and Suites through the lobby and onto the sidewalk and into the parking lot; and, clearly, if anyone who was attending there, it was quite obvious that there was not even close to the number of openings to match up with the number of people who were in attendance.

As I said, I had a chance to visit for a while, walked around, talked to a number of people, and was struck by the fact that the number one question on people's minds who, again, were carrying heavy burdens, some of them who had been out of work for as much as 18 months, 2 years, a lot of young people who just graduated from college, carrying student loans, anxious to try and get a start in life and a way to pay the bills, the question was, Well, is Congress going to shut down the government?

And it seemed sort of a little bit out of sync with the reality of what was going on in the room. But, in fact, thinking about it, I mean, it's very clear that the people there understood instinctively that a government shutdown in roughly 8 or 9 days is exactly the wrong thing that the U.S. economy needs right now, particularly in terms of fostering job growth and giving people confidence about the future.

That event, compounded by a debt limit showdown, which now the Treasury Department announced this morning that on October 17 the borrowing authority of the U.S. Treasury, the full faith and credit of our country, is actually going to expire in terms of being able to pay the bills for our Nation.

Whether it's our troops over in Afghanistan, whether it's the folks who protect us at our airports, whether it's the FBI, the Coast Guard which, again, my district is home of the Coast Guard Academy, the notion that our Nation, which has always honored its full faith and credit over the 230-plus years of its history, would somehow be put into doubt is, again, another one of these self-inflicted body blows that this institution is on the verge of inflicting, again, on a very fragile economy.

When you looked in the faces of the people who were at that job fair yesterday, I'm very proud of the fact that I come from a State with very high educational attainment levels, really, in the top five in the country. What was clear was that you were talking to people who were, in many instances, very experienced employees, working in manufacturing, pharmaceutical, retail businesses, many of them with certainly strong educational backgrounds, with college degrees and post-college degrees.

They're ready. They're ready to go out and support themselves and their families; and talking to them about food stamps, or this type of public assistance or that type of public assistance, that's not what they're looking for. They're looking for an economy that has a horizon so that employers and budget-makers and individuals who are so critical in terms of investment decisions in this country are going to have confidence about the fact that we're not going to capsize the world's financial markets by, basically, threatening the value of U.S. Treasury bonds, which is still the number one security in the world today.

The question is whether in a month's time that's still going to be the case.

It is time for this institution to start focusing on what people really get up and worry about every single day, which is about jobs, the economy, and the future of their families.

I don't want to end on a totally depressing note, and I want to end on a positive note. In the first week of August, I had the privilege to be at the Oval Office for a bill signing on the student loan legislation, which cut the interest rates on the Stafford Loan program from 6.8 percent to 3.8 percent.

Again, as a member of the Education Committee, this is an issue I've been working on for a number of years. It was a hard-fought compromise to get that measure to the President's desk in August. We'll save thousands of dollars for middle class families and for students who are going to college.

But the fact is that we were standing there behind President Obama with the Republican chairman of the Education Committee to my left; the Independent Senator from Maine, ANGUS KING, to my right; and other Democrats and Republicans who were in the room.

The fact of the matter is that event showed that, when we do our duty in this institution, when people actually recognize that we're not here as part of a debate club, we're not here to read ''Green Eggs and Ham,'' like the circus that's going on over in the Senate right now; but that we're here to do our work and to pass measures to protect America's middle class.

Let's get the jobs of this country growing again. Let's pass a budget. Let's protect America's full faith and credit in the next couple of weeks or so, and then this economy is poised to grow, and we're going to help those people who were lined up yesterday in Groton, Connecticut.

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, September 24, 2013.

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 September 24, 2013 at 11:48 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 1412.

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 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

As the remaining days of the fiscal year wind down, forget not Your people. There are many differences plaguing our Nation's discourse. Please send wisdom upon the leaders serving in government and goodwill among all the principals in current negotiations.

We thank You for the service of so many who work every day in this building, whose labor provides the lubrication for the very public actions of the Members of this assembly.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

THE PRESIDENT'S SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in less than 1 week, funding for the Federal Government is set to expire, which would result in a devastating government shutdown. On Friday, House Republicans passed a bipartisan continuing resolution to keep the government's doors open so that services are not interrupted, our national security will remain intact, and American families will be protected from the unsustainable, unaffordable health care law which destroys jobs.

It is obvious by the President's threat to veto the legislation that we cannot rely on our Commander in Chief to negotiate. Sadly, last week, he ordered his administration to prepare for a government shutdown, proving that he is unwilling to help solve this crisis.

Now is the time for the Senate to act. House Republicans remain optimistic that Senate leadership will find a solution to prevent the President's government shutdown. I appreciate the courage of Senator TED CRUZ to educate the American people on the consequences of Big Government, reducing freedom.

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

GRAY WOLF

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recently published notice of two proposed rules. The first is to delist the gray wolf and list the Mexican wolf as endangered. The second is to consider expansion of the geographic boundaries of the Mexican wolf experimental population area in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as modification of the 10(j) rule for managing the experimental Mexican wolf population. Much of the area in consideration is in Arizona's First District, which I represent.

The Service has not scheduled a hearing of these proposed rules in Arizona, where folks live and work on these multiple-use rural landscapes. It is imperative that the Service hold hearings in Arizona, close to the areas that are most affected by these proposals, and that there be adequate time to analyze and submit comments.

It is equally imperative that the Service continue to work with, as a partner and cooperating agency, the Arizona Game and Fish Department. This is the boots-on-the-ground State agency the Service has depended on the most in managing the Mexican wolf program.

OBAMACARE'S BROKEN PROMISES

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, in just 6 days, ObamaCare's insurance exchanges are scheduled to open. But what consumers will find in terms of health plans and cost will be a far cry from what they were promised by this administration.

The American people are tired of ObamaCare's broken promises. President Obama said that, ''if you like your plan, you can keep your plan.'' But that just isn't the case. The authors touted this law as a ''job creator,'' but, instead, it has caused employees to lose hours and made small businesses drop coverage for employees and question whether they can continue to hire.

Mr. Speaker, with the mentality of ''we have to pass it to find out what's in it,'' this administration forced a 2,000-page bill into law. This doesn't even account for the already tens of thousands of pages of regulations folks are going to have to navigate through.

It's clear, from reports detailing increased costs and taxes to the polls showing that the majority of Americans do not want this, that ObamaCare must be repealed, reformed, or delayed.

BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need for a bipartisan solution to our Nation's immigration challenges.

This past Saturday, I spoke at a naturalization ceremony in Tacoma, Washington, where 72 men and women from all corners of the world took their oath of allegiance to our Nation. I saw the joy on the faces of these new American brothers and sisters, including several military members who risked their lives to protect our Nation before they themselves had the rights to citizenship. Personally, the day also marked the 65th anniversary, to the day, of my grandmother's and mother's immigration to the United States from Holland.

The occasion served to remind me that we are a stronger Nation because of our Nation's diversity and the experiences that people bring here. We are indeed a Nation of immigrants, but we're also a Nation of laws. It's time to modernize those laws in a way that allows us to further secure our borders and create a feasible solution for the 11 million undocumented people here in the United States.

Improving our legal immigration system will ensure American workers receive the benefits of competing on an equal ground. It will reduce exploitation and give undocumented workers and their families a path toward achieving opportunity.

I hope we can cross party lines and pass a meaningful, comprehensive immigration reform bill.

OBAMACARE TO HIT NORTH CAROLINA HARDEST

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of North Carolinians who cannot afford to be worse off under ObamaCare.

Today, single North Carolinians in their mid-twenties can pay as little as $35 a month for health insurance. Under ObamaCare, they will pay $183 for a bronze plan. In direct contradiction to the President's promise of savings, health care costs for a family of four may even increase $7,000. Where is the affordability in that?

Americans aren't interested in the administration's PR. They're concerned with whether they'll have to spend more on January 1 than they are spending today. The answer to that question is, sadly, yes for many in my State under ObamaCare.

ObamaCare is going to hit too many North Carolina families right in the wallet. It should be repealed and replaced with our American Health Care Reform Act.

OCTOBER 1 SIGNALS A NEW DAY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, in just 6 days, the health exchanges will be open for enrollment and many people will have access to quality, affordable health care for the very first time.

The Congressional Black Caucus just completed 8 town halls across the country to fully and accurately inform our communities about the exchanges and Medicaid expansion and when and how to enroll and who their navigators and their certified enrollment assisters are. Everywhere we went, we found people hungry for the information we shared, including how the law had already helped thousands of people in their area: the young people who stayed on their parents' insurance, the many Medicare beneficiaries who were able to get preventive services and wellness visits without a copay, and the many people who got significant rebates from their insurance companies and how much each Medicare beneficiary saved in prescription drug costs. They were very angry about the misinformation that continues to be spread about the Affordable Care Act.

We Democrats are proud of the work we did with President Obama to create

this law and to make wellness a possibility for many who, for far too long, had been left out of the health care system. October 1 signals a brand new day for them and for our country, and we should celebrate it and do everything we can to make sure everyone in our districts enjoys these benefits.

HHS: A TRICKLE OF DATA, A TORRENT OF SPIN

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, once again, the President is trying to mislead and hide the truth from the Congress and the American people. The Department of Health and Human Services released a report yesterday on the pricing of health plans on the Federal exchanges—a perfect example of bureaucratic doublespeak.

The report was quick to say that rates were 16 percent under their projections. Well, that sounds great, but what were their projections? Does that mean the rates will increase or decrease? They went to a lot of trouble to avoid answering that question. Some digging by Forbes Magazine, however, uncovered the truth. For 40-year-olds, rates will increase by an average of 99 percent for men, and 62 percent for women. It seems that the truth is a lot different.

The biggest problem, however, isn't the rate increase. With only 5 days left until implementation, the administration is unwilling or incapable of answering even basic questions. The data they released was only partial data samples.

It's time for the Department of Health and Human Services to stop playing games and hiding the truth, and time to give the American people the full truth about what the President's takeover of health care really means.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FIRE-RETARDANT MATERIALS EXEMPTION EXTENSION

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1961) to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1961

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXEMPTION.

Section 3503(a) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2008'' and inserting ''2028''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1961.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1961 renews the exemption for the Delta Queen from certain Coast Guard requirements adopted decades after the vessel was built.

The Delta Queen, a paddle-wheel riverboat, was built in 1926. It operated in California until 1947 and then carried tourists up and down the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers for more than 60 years. Forty years after the vessel was built, Congress set new rules prohibiting wooden ships from carrying 50 or more overnight passengers. The vessel has a steel hull, but a wooden superstructure.

Between 1968 and 2008, the Delta Queen operated under an exemption from the restriction on wooden passenger vessels, which was renewed nine times by Congress. H.R. 1961 reinstates the Delta Queen exemption. The vessel will still be subject to all other Coast Guard passenger vessel safety requirements. It must undergo required inspections and receive a certificate of inspection, like any other passenger vessel.

I commend my colleague from Ohio, STEVE CHABOT, and the bill's bipartisan cosponsors for introducing this bill. Permitting the Delta Queen to return to the river is estimated to create 170 jobs and produce economic activity of $9.3 million annually.

The bill before us was reported favorably from the Transportation Committee on a voice vote. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and allow this historic vessel to return to the river.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I was the chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee in 2008 when Congress last rejected the measure before us today, and there has been no change in the intervening years that would now make this measure good policy. H.R. 1961 is a bill that would amend Federal law for the benefit of one single vessel, the Delta Queen. As such, I think we should call this bill what it really is: it's an earmark. Let me say that again: it's an earmark.

And what would this earmark do? First, it would create a potential fire trap on the water. In 1936, the United States required all passenger vessels to be constructed of fire-retardant materials. The Delta Queen was built in 1926, and part of its construction occurred in Europe. Its superstructure is wooden and not flame retardant. Exempting the Delta Queen from current fire safety standards would present an unacceptable and, frankly, unnecessary risk to passenger safety.

When this issue was last considered, the Coast Guard stated the following:

> The combustible construction of the vessel presents an unacceptable fire risk that cannot be mitigated by the addition of fire suppression measures.

Just yesterday, I talked to Rear Admiral Joseph Servidio, the Coast Guard's assistant commandant for prevention policy. He oversees vessel inspections, and he made it clear to me that the Coast Guard continues to oppose this waiver. He also made it clear that a number of safety concerns may persist from the Coast Guard's 2008 special inspection of the Delta Queen.

And, frankly, the exemption this legislation seeks to make is not needed for the Delta Queen to operate on the Mississippi again if it wanted to do so. Let me say that again: the Delta Queen does not need the exemption that would be provided by this bill to operate in U.S. waters. The Delta Queen could take passengers on day cruises, and it could host up to 49 overnight passengers right now. But under current law, it cannot host 50 or more overnight passengers. The only thing the exemption sought in H.R. 1961 would do is increase the number of overnight passengers the Delta Queen could carry along our Nation's waterways, thus increasing the number of passengers who would be at risk should a fire break out on the boat.

What else would this earmark do? This earmark would interfere in a competitive market to pick winners and losers by giving an advantage to one vessel, something I thought my friends on the other side of the aisle said Congress should not be in the business of doing.

Today, the Queen of the Mississippi, a boat built in 2012 in the United States is in compliance with all applicable safety standards, is operating on a Mississippi River system. And another boat that will comply with current safety standards is under construction here in the United States. But if H.R. 1961 were to pass, these American-built boats, safety-compliant vessels, would have to compete with a vessel that would not have to meet the same safety standards required of all other vessels. So not only would the earmark before us create an unsafe situation, but it would also create an unfair situation.

Rather than creating an unnecessary safety hazard, and rather than picking winners and losers, I urge my colleagues to reject this earmark.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our colleague from the State of Ohio, STEVE CHABOT.

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in very strong support of H.R. 1961, legislation that my colleagues and I introduced to save the Delta Queen steamboat. And I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Missouri—St. Louis, in particular—my Democratic colleague, LACY CLAY, for his leadership on this particular issue.

This legislation is basically one line. It doesn't cost a penny, and it has two very important functions. It preserves an important piece of American history, and it supports American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1961 reinstates the Delta Queen's grandfathered status—not an earmark—the grandfathered status from a law that prohibits wooden boats—which the superstructure of the Delta Queen is. The hull of it is steel—for carrying overnight passengers. The Delta Queen is actually capable of carrying up to 176 passengers comfortably overnight; and under the law as it currently exists, 50 is the cutoff point.

Congress granted the Delta Queen a reprieve from this law for the last 40 years. So for 40 years, the United States Congress granted this exemption. It did so because she was constructed before the law was in place and because the law was intended for boats at sea, not riverboats—boats, oceangoing vessels at sea. It was never intended for river-faring boats like the Delta Queen. That's why the Congress granted this exemption for 40 years. The Queen's grandfathered status was uninterrupted for 40 years until management concerns stalled the continuation back in 2008.

Since Congress revoked its ability to operate, the boat has been chained to a dock. Discord and disagreement won that day; but today, hopefully, it will be different.

Today we have a renewed coalition of support. Democrats and Republicans have worked together on this issue. It passed by voice vote with no votes against it in the Transportation Committee; and maybe most importantly, the boat's new management and union are working together to return this vessel and the jobs she provides to full operation.

So this is a situation where management and the union are not fighting. They may have been back in 2008. They're not now. They're together on this. They're both requesting that we pass this particular legislation today so that the Delta Queen can once again ply the rivers—the Mississippi, the Ohio—and bring jobs to communities all up and down those rivers.

With all the gridlock in Washington, this bill is a welcome show of bipartisanship for a change. I wish we had more of that around this place. But this really is a bipartisan bill. It's supported by the Seafarers International Union, by the American Maritime Officers, and by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, for example. It's cosponsored by a diverse list of Republicans and Democrats, including the entire Ohio delegation, including my colleague—and I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue—BRAD WENSTRUP from the Second District, right next to my district, the First District, in the greater Cincinnati area. He has been a leader on this, as has Congressman MASSIE across the river. And as I mentioned before, Congressman LACY CLAY from Missouri and many other Members.

It also has the support of Transportation Committee Chairman SHUSTER on the Republican side and Ranking Member RAHALL. And I would like to read a quote from the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the ranking member, who was unable to be here today. Actually, I think he is driving here and will be here for votes, but couldn't make the debate. But this is what he said back in the Transportation Committee itself, and I am quoting here from his testimony:

''I'm in favor of preserving an icon of our American heritage, the Delta Queen. In light of the support that this bill has from the Seafarers''—the Seafarers Union—''and the fact that this means good-paying jobs and that a unique part of Americana would be restored to service, I support the pending legislation.''

That's the bill that we are dealing with here today. And in the past, this effort was even cosponsored by two men who rarely see eye to eye, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and then-Senator Barack Obama. Both of them supported this back in 2008.

I owe thanks to every lawmaker who cosponsored this measure. And I owe a special thanks, as I mentioned, to the gentleman from St. Louis, Missouri (Mr. CLAY), without whose help this wouldn't be possible today.

To my colleagues who have raised issues about the vessel's safety, I hear you. Safety must always be a top priority. So let's discuss it for a minute.

This vessel is equipped with a fully automated environmental detection system that uses over 300 sensors to detect heat, smoke, and CO_2, for example. It also has a state-of-the-art sprinkler system, a Coast Guard-trained and -certified firefighting crew, and round-the-clock watchmen patrolling the vessel 24 hours a day.

It should also be noted that the original legislation from 1965—and I mentioned this before—was intended for oceangoing vessels. That's why it was called the Safety at Seas Act, not the Safety on the Rivers Act. As a river vessel, the Delta Queen is never more than a mile from shore and can be landed and evacuated in minutes, if need be. Fortunately, that's never been necessary with the Delta Queen in its 80 years, basically, in traveling, and 60 years on the rivers of the Mississippi and Ohio.

So oceangoing vessels. We are talking about vessels that oftentimes are hundreds of miles, perhaps even over 1,000 miles, from land. In this case, we're talking about never more than one mile. That's why the Delta Queen is different. It was the only river vessel that this really applied to because of its size and the fact that it could take more than 50 passengers. That was the problem.

□ 1715

And to clear any misunderstanding, the legislation does not relieve the boat managers of their responsibility to deal with safety issues. In order to obtain a certificate of inspection, a COI, from the Coast Guard, the vessel will have to address United States Coast Guard concerns.

The managers already have a detailed list of things they know will need to be upgraded, which include replacing the vessel's boilers, in all likelihood, and steam lines with modern, fully automated, welded construction boilers and steam lines.

So the issues that were concerns back in 2008, which my distinguished colleague mentioned before, these are all going to be taken care of, and should be. Otherwise, we wouldn't be supportive of this bill.

This bill does not issue a green light. This bill unlocks the private resources necessary to make this multi-million-dollar restoration effort possible. At the end of the day, if the boat doesn't satisfy the Coast Guard, they don't get a COI, and they don't sail. They don't paddle. They don't move. They don't travel at all.

While objections on the grounds of safety are reasonable, I feel that safety may be a convenient argument, really, not a justified argument.

Let me close, at this point, by saying that the Delta Queen is beloved by many, particularly many Cincinnatians, who spent years watching her sail into our city to unload passengers at dawn and head out back with a new group of people at dusk. I think many of us would like to give her that opportunity up and down the Mississippi and

the Ohio. Again, it means jobs for many people in many of these communities.

I ask my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill for two principal reasons, jobs and American history. Members can support this by voting in favor of H.R. 1961.

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

My good friend talked about safety and safety systems. It's my understanding that the vessel has fire suppression systems installed in the nonpublic spaces. They have not installed fire suppression systems in the public spaces, that's like the staterooms and dining rooms, because they would have to alter the historic fabric of the vessel to do so.

This would violate requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act and presents a safety liability.

The mention of trained firefighting crews and round-the-clock watches is not unique. In fact, all vessels must have such crews and maintain such watches.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI), the distinguished subcommittee ranking member of the Maritime and Transportation Subcommittee of the Transportation Committee.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, several things. We just heard our colleague who is supporting this bill talking about American history, that this is an icon of American history. In fact, it was American history that created the law that requires all vessels that are over 90 and more than 50 people to actually be fire-safe.

It is, sir, American history that has put in place the law that you're trying to waive. That history is one of disaster after disaster, in which thousands of people have lost their lives in boats that were not safe, that were made of wood.

Now, I happen to know the Delta King, the exact twin of the Delta Queen. It's parked on the Sacramento River, not more than a half mile from the Capitol, and I've been on it many, many times; and it does overnight a few guests. But it is a fire trap, and that's why it's not going up and down the Sacramento River.

By the way, the law that you said only applies to the sea applies to every river and every lake in the United States. So it's a little incorrect to say that this is only oceangoing vessels that are applicable to this particular law. It's not. It's all vessels. All vessels that have more than 50 people on board overnight have to meet these requirements.

We ought not do this. Regular order was completely set aside to move this bill rapidly through the Transportation Committee; and by the way, there was opposition, and he's talking right now, opposition to a waiver of a fire safety law that is intended to protect the public.

Yes, the Delta Queen, like the Delta King, is historic; and like the Delta King, the Delta Queen is a fire trap.

We ought not be passing this law. And we ought to be following regular order, and we ought to be listening to the Coast Guard that says, don't do this. Don't do this. That's what the U.S. Coast Guard says, because it is not safe.

Now, this boat can operate. It can operate with 179 people or more on day trips. It can tie up to a wharf, and it can have 49 people on board going up and down the river, or even more, they can get off, they can go to a hotel, as they have for many years. This is still a viable operation.

But under no circumstance should this body, 435 of us, say not to worry about fire safety; it's not going to be an issue. After all, somebody's watching 24 hours a day, as required on every vessel.

Let's keep in mind that the fire suppression system that was mentioned by our colleague in support of this legislation does not work and is not in the public spaces. The staterooms, where people are sleeping, the dining rooms, the other rooms on board, will not have fire suppression, that is, sprinkler systems.

This boat will not be upgraded in a way that will make it safe. We simply ought not do this.

And, yes, you can guarantee that this side of the aisle is seriously concerned about jobs, and we're seriously concerned about the men and women that work on this boat, that they work in a fire-safe environment. This boat will not be a fire-safe environment.

And so those men and women that we are concerned about having jobs ought to have jobs in a safe environment. They will not.

Very simply put, this is a bad piece of legislation. This is not about jobs. This is about saving lives, or, in the case of this bill, about putting lives at risk. Is that what we want to do?

I don't think so.

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

Just to make sure the record is clear, I'm informed by staff that the bill was noticed in regular order, and no rules were waived concerning its regular consideration by the committee or, in fact, by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to our colleague from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I'll be very brief.

Mr. Speaker, relative to the Coast Guard's issues, their principal issue is the boilers. We all know that. We've always known that. The new owners are going to replace the boilers.

The Coast Guard has to approve this. If the Coast Guard has any opposition, all they have to do is not issue the certificate to operate the boat, and it won't operate. So the Coast Guard has to be completely satisfied before it safely goes out.

Relative to sprinklers, it has a state-of-the-art sprinkler system. So the safety issues, I think, are red herrings really.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP).

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1961, which would allow America's iconic wooden paddlewheel steamboat, the Delta Queen, to return to traveling America's rivers.

For over 60 years, the Delta Queen has traveled up and down America's waterways, carrying passengers, entertaining Presidents and foreign dignitaries, and even serving our troops in times of war. She's a true American treasure.

However, due to Federal safety regulations implemented in the 1960s, wooden ships were banned from carrying 50 or more passengers overnight. While this regulation was originally intended for oceangoing cruise ships, the Delta Queen, due to her size and structure, is a riverboat that is unfairly trapped by this regulation, even though she is never more than a mile from shore.

Understanding the unique situation of the Delta Queen, and the fact that she was built and safely operating before this law was put in place, Congress has granted her exemptions for the past 40 years from this regulation, allowing the steamboat to continue to safely carry passengers along America's waterways.

However, since 2008, Congress has failed to continue the Delta Queen exemption. As a result, the Delta Queen is currently moored in Tennessee and is unable to fully provide the experiences and services that she was built for.

Today, the Delta Queen is under new management and continues to undergo rigorous safety inspections and tests administered by the Coast Guard. She has operated safely for over 80 years.

Like many of my constituents, I have fond memories of the Delta Queen, which has called Cincinnati her home for 37 years. With the passage of H.R. 1961, we can return this historic landmark back to Cincinnati, preserving America's cultural heritage, and bringing jobs and economic growth to the greater Cincinnati area.

I commend my colleague, STEVE CHABOT, for taking the lead on this issue for Cincinnati, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1961.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), and I ask unanimous consent that Mr. GARAMENDI be allowed to control the time.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the legislation before us. While the Delta Queen may be a historic vessel, exempting her from cruise ship fire safety law sets a terrible precedent, and it puts families at risk.

Moreover, this bill is designed to help one ship in the passenger cruise market at the expense of all others.

I understand the Delta Queen has a long and a distinguished history. Since it was built in the 1920s, it carried three Presidents; it is a national historic landmark. But that is all the more reason why fire safety law is important here.

This is an old ship, made almost entirely of wood and powered by out-of-date technology, that has been in dry dock for the past 4 years and not inspected in 5 years. The Queen's antique engines and steam boilers are prone to cause a fire at any moment.

In fact, the last fire on board was in 2008. So there is good reason why the U.S. Coast Guard opposes this legislation. The boat could pose a significant danger to families staying on board overnight.

You know, the issue about on the sea, on the river, people can die on the river as well as die on the sea.

In addition to that, there is nothing in this legislation that requires the owners to implement the safety upgrades. And you know, as my colleague said, and I would take issue with him on the other side of the aisle, safety is not a red herring.

And even beyond the specific circumstances of the Delta Queen, I do not believe it is a wise policy for the Congress to get into the habit of exempting businesses from basic safety regulations; nor should we be choosing, through legislation, which cruise ship companies have to follow the rules and which do not.

There are many ways to recognize and to honor the Delta Queen's rich history on the Mississippi River. This is not the right approach. As such, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our colleague from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD).

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank those Members who have decided to revisit this very important issue.

I might remind everyone that the Delta Queen received an exemption from the Safety of Life at Sea Law. And we recognized that that original law applied to oceangoing vessels and, since 1968, Congress has always provided the exemption for the Delta Queen, except that it did not in the year 2008.

Since then, the Delta Queen has been sitting down in Chattanooga. The new owners are spending $10 million to put in new boilers. There's a sprinkler system and, as has already been indicated, the Coast Guard will make the final decision about the safety issues.

But this is an issue of jobs. And I might say that the unemployment rate in America over the last 4 years, in each of the last 4 years, has been higher than in any year in the last 62, except for 3 years.

So in communities like Paducah, Kentucky, that I happen to represent, the Delta Queen each year would land at Paducah. Every month it would come by, people would get out, and it was an economic boon to our area.

We genuinely believe that this is a balanced approach. It protects the safety issues that people are concerned about because of the $10 million being spent to refurbish the Delta Queen, and it provides additional employment for people looking for good jobs.

So I would urge every Member to support H.R. 1961, a commonsense, balanced approach, to get this historic paddle boat back on the Ohio River and the Mississippi River.

□ 1730

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have available?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. I thank my friend from California for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1961. This bipartisan legislation will reinstate the historic Delta Queen's grandfathered status from a law that prohibits wooden vessels from transporting overnight passengers. Congress has granted the Delta Queen Riverboat a reprieve from this law for the last 40 years, until management concerns prevented a continuation in 2008. That situation has been resolved, and now the work of restoring this historic vessel is underway. H.R. 1961 is also supported by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Seafarers International Union, and the American Maritime Officers Association. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are truly committed to saving this one-of-a-kind American treasure, the Delta Queen.

I represent St. Louis, and St. Louis is a river town. The reason that my community was founded and grew into a great city was the mighty Mississippi River. That river not only flows beneath the magnificent Gateway Arch, it also flows in the hearts of every St. Louisan and every American who has ever read Mark Twain, listened to jazz and blues, or wondered what it must have been like to go west with the pioneers as they pushed across the unknown frontier.

The Delta Queen is more than an irreplaceable historic vessel. It is also a symbol of the bold American spirit that had the courage to tame the continent and make us one Nation, from sea to shining sea. This great steamboat should continue to travel America's inland waterways. This is the right thing to do for the Delta Queen, and it's the right thing to do for future generations of Americans and international visitors who deserve the chance to travel on this magnificent vessel.

I also want to raise some concerns about two issues that I've heard over and over. One issue is that the opponents of this bill have redefined the meaning of an earmark. When I started in this body, an earmark was related to appropriations and not a waiver.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CLAY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have a college degree from a small public college called the University of Maryland. In the U.S. marketplace, I always thought competition was healthy. Now I'm hearing that this competes against other riverboats. So I'm kind of concerned about that issue, too. Perhaps someone could address it or clarify it for me.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1961.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1961 to save a historical treasure, the Delta Queen steamboat.

I grew up in Kentucky's Fourth District. We have 276 miles of the Ohio River. My memories are rich with the images of this great vessel going up and down the river. These are images that my four children will never have, unless we pass this bill today.

Just think of the inspiration and majesty of this ship. It's a ship that's rich with history. Her debut cruise took place on June 2, 1927. For the next 13 years, she ran overnight trips between Sacramento and San Francisco. From 1940 to 1946, she served the U.S. Navy as a floating barracks and a training facility in the San Francisco Bay. She traveled the Ohio River for 60 years.

In 1966, Congress passed the Safety of Life at Seas Act. Not ''at rivers,'' but ''at seas.'' This ship was caught up in an overly broad regulation. We seek to right that wrong today.

I just want to speak to the bipartisan nature of this bill. I serve on the Transportation Committee. It received overwhelming bipartisan support, and no rules were suspended to debate this bill within the committee. In fact, in 2008, as Congressman CHABOT from Ohio stated, the Senate bill to extend this exemption garnered bipartisan support from Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and then-Senator Barack Obama.

Please help us save the Delta Queen by voting ''yes'' on H.R. 1961.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the esteemed gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate working with him and many others here in the Chamber today to address this bill.

Mr. Speaker, why are we here? What would this bill do?

H.R. 1961 would reinstate—and backdate to 2008—an exemption from commonsense fire safety standards for one single vessel.

On its face, this bill is deeply troubling from a public safety perspective.

I can appreciate the desire to keep and preserve the historic Delta Queen; but that should be done by the private market, not by Congress, and it should not be done in a way that jeopardizes public safety.

Reinstating the expired exemption would distort basic principles of the free market and competition because all other vessels operating as overnight passenger cruise vessels are built to appropriate fire safety standards. These are investments made by U.S. manufacturers and U.S. tour companies alike. Doing the right thing and building or refurbishing to code should not be obstructed by an unprecedented 15-year exemption for a single boat while it is reportedly going through a sale.

I urge Members to examine what this measure would do to public safety, what it would do to competition in the marketplace, and remind them we can protect public safety and protect jobs by voting ''no'' on H.R. 1961.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. May I inquire as to the time I have available?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I think we have no further speakers here, which gives me 4 minutes to lay out the case, which may be quite sufficient, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

With regard to regular order, I haven't been around here long enough to know that regular order does not, apparently, include a hearing. There's been no hearing on this bill. The bill simply came to the full committee and was up or down for a vote. I had the opportunity to object at that time—and continue to object at this moment.

Yes, this is about jobs, but it's also about safety. There's a reason why the law was passed, and that is protect those men and women that are on the body, presumably to enjoy, in this case, the Mississippi or Ohio Rivers. But if this bill were to become law, they would not know that they are actually in a very dangerous situation.

It's been said that we're not to worry; after all, we're not at open sea. We're miles and miles from shore. But I would remind those who care to think about safety that the Concordia was 900 feet off the Italian coast when it sank—quickly—and 30 people lost their lives only 900 feet from the coast. Now, it was saltwater, to be sure. Nonetheless, they were near the coast. There are plenty of places on the Mississippi that are more than 900 feet from the coast.

And I want you to imagine a fire breaking out on the front part of the ship, which is the only way to escape. By the way, this ship has had 15 mechanical failures in the last 20 years. These were mechanical failures that, if they were to continue, would cause the fire extinguishing system not to work, even though it's not in the staterooms and the public areas but only in the nonpublic areas. We really ought not be doing this.

A lot has been said about whether it's an earmark or not. This bill applies to one ship. It only applies to the Delta Queen. It applies to no other ship. There's a financial benefit to the owners of this ship. If this were to happen, they would be able to travel up and down the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, perhaps others, without having to meet the normal fire safety requirements. That's a financial benefit. And not with 49 passengers, but with as many as 170 or 179. That's a financial benefit. That meets my definition of an earmark—when it goes to a single private entity for their financial success.

What are we concerned about here? Jobs. Yes, we're concerned about jobs. They are the men and women that would be able to get those jobs. They are the people that I care about and that I met with yesterday about jobs in the maritime industry throughout this Nation. But nowhere in the discussions we had yesterday in Oakland, California, was the issue of jobs less important or more important than safety.

I just think we ought to be very careful here. We ought to be very, very careful because we're talking about life safety issues. I would pray and I would hope that all 435 of us that are going to deal with this bill shortly in an up-or-down vote would never have to face the moment at some day in the future over the next 15 years, should this become law, where a fire breaks out on this ship, because if it were to break out, there would be a great deal of sorrow. I suspect there will be a few amongst us who vote for this measure that would say, I made a very, very bad mistake.

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

Mr. CHABOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I agree with certainly some of the comments of my colleague from California. Safety is paramount. It's paramount to us, just as it is to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle both in support and in opposition of this legislation, and it is also to the unions and to the merchants and a whole range of people. The Coast Guard will ultimately determine whether it's safe or not. It cannot get a certificate to ply the waters of the Ohio or Mississippi unless the United States Coast Guard determines that it's safe. We agree on that.

Is the Delta Queen safe?

Well, the Delta Queen has operated safely for more than 80 years. In all that time, there's never been a fire that required any passenger evacuation—not one in over an 80-year period of time.

As a riverboat, the Delta Queen, as I mentioned before, is never more than a mile away. This was the Safety at Seas Act, as our colleague from Kentucky mentioned, that we're talking about. This legislation was supposed to apply to oceangoing vessels at sea, not the rivers. The Coast Guard more broadly brought in the rivers. And that's why Congress said, Look, we don't mean this to apply to rivers. So if it applies to any boats, any ships here on the rivers, then we're going to give them an exemption. There was only one boat it applied to that was big enough to have over 50 passengers. That was the Delta Queen, because it has a steel hull and steel paddles in the back and a wooden superstructure.

□ 1745

We have given this exemption for 40 years. From 1968 through 2008—40 years—Congress gave the exemption because we considered it to be safe. Now, it's going to be certified by the Coast Guard that it's safe before it ever goes anywhere. The Delta Queen will still be required, as I said, to get a certificate from the Coast Guard in order to move.

Now, let me read from a couple of those groups. We've heard from Members of Congress here. This is the Seafarers International Union, who had been opposed to this back in 2008 and who is now solidly supportive. Here's what the Seafarers Union said:

> We write to express our support for H.R. 1961. This legislation would effectively permit the Delta Queen steamboat to return to operation as a river-faring vessel. While there is still much restorative work ahead before the boat can return to full operation, securing the congressional waiver is the first and most critical step in that path.

That's what this is all about: the restorative work—the new boilers, the new steam pipes. We are talking probably $10 million worth of restoration. But in order for anybody to put money into that, to make the ship better, to make it safe, etc., it needs this exemption in order to allow the private sector to get the money into the boat so that it can actually continue on the history that we've seen for many years in this country on this particular boat.

Let me continue with the letter:

> This particular vessel has been a source of jobs for many merchant mariners over its tenure as an overnight cruise vessel, and it can be again. Unfortunately, absent the congressional waiver afforded by this legislation, these jobs will forever be lost.

That's what the Seafarers International Union said. The American Maritime Officers said:

''This legislation will help create the circumstances for the Delta Queen to return to operation as a river-faring vessel. The owners of this vessel understand they will need to make investments to improve the ship before she receives first approval from the Coast Guard to begin operating in regular service again. Passing H.R. 1961 will give those parties the assurance they require to undertake those efforts''—to spend the $10 million on the boat. ''Bringing the Delta Queen back in operation status is a worthy effort. It

will help create jobs through work that needs to be done.''

These maritime officers wouldn't want to be sailing on a dangerous boat.

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 1961, which would exempt the steamboat Delta Queen from important fire safety requirements. While I appreciate the historical significance of this Mississippi River steamboat, I believe that public safety must be our first priority. Exempting the Delta Queen through the passage of H.R. 1961 would expose the public to an unacceptable risk of catastrophic fire by allowing a vessel that does not meet current safety standards to carry more than 50 overnight passengers. For these reasons, I vote "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1961.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. 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 motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House following title:

H.R. 3092. An act to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SLEEP DISORDERS

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3095) to ensure that any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of individuals operating commercial motor vehicles for sleep disorders is adopted pursuant to a rulemaking proceeding, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3095

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

SECTION 1. COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SLEEP DISORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may implement or enforce a requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment (including consideration of all possible treatment alternatives) of individuals operating commercial motor vehicles for sleep disorders only if the requirement is adopted pursuant to a rulemaking proceeding.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a requirement that was in force before September 1, 2013.

(c) SLEEP DISORDERS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''sleep disorders'' includes obstructive sleep apnea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill before us.

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

There was no objection.

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

I am pleased to support H.R. 3095. This bill ensures that any new or revised requirements made by the Secretary for the screening, testing, or treatment of commercial motor vehicle drivers for obstructive sleep apnea is adopted through a rulemaking proceeding.

H.R. 3095 does not require a rulemaking proceeding to be initiated. It only requires that any future changes to screening, testing, or treatment requirements for obstructive sleep apnea are made through a rulemaking.

A rulemaking will help the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, stakeholders and this Congress understand the costs and benefits of the proposed changes and provide stakeholders an opportunity to comment.

H.R. 3095 is the most responsible way to move forward with any changes to obstructive sleep apnea screening, testing, or treatment requirements.

This bill has over 59 Democratic and Republican cosponsors and shows how effective a bipartisan effort to move practical legislation can be. Senator BLUNT from Missouri and Senator WARNER from Virginia have introduced S. 1537, the companion bill to that before us, H.R. 3095.

This bill has strong bicameral, bipartisan support, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3095.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend, the chairman of the subcommittee, for his work on this very important bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3095. This legislation ensures that changes planned by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to better diagnose and treat sleep apnea among commercial truck and bus drivers will be done with a formal rulemaking.

I believe the FMCSA's initiative to address sleep apnea is important, and I fully support the Agency's efforts to improve safety. There is little question that obstructive sleep apnea, if left untreated, can significantly affect a truck or bus driver and his or her on-the-job performance.

When we scheduled markup of this bill in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Agency was considering making significant changes to the medical screening of drivers for sleep apnea through guidance. The rulemaking process, however, will afford FMCSA the opportunity to get input from the public, including drivers and companies who will be directly affected by the changes.

FMCSA has since committed to making changes through a rulemaking. Therefore, this legislation has been overtaken by events and seems to have already had the desired effect. While I am not sure this bill is necessary, I have no objection whatsoever to its content, and I support its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our colleague from the State of Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is simple, but has the potential to save the trucking industry nearly $1 billion.

If the Department of Transportation—specifically the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration—decides they want to weigh in on sleep apnea, they need to do so by a rulemaking process.

On April 20, 2012, FMCSA published a Federal Register notice that stated FMCSA was going to publish regulatory guidance related to sleep apnea. Subsequently, as has been mentioned, they decided to go through the rulemaking process. But I still believe this bill is necessary to codify that position into law and give the opinion of Congress to FMCSA on this issue.

The problem with issuing guidance instead of traditional rulemaking is that guidance is nonbinding and open to interpretation. When somebody with a commercial driver's license goes to a physician to get a physical, the doctor can follow the guidance and recommend a sleep apnea test. Sleep apnea tests cost thousands of dollars, and the cost would be shifted to the employer of the driver, or if they are an independent driver, to themselves. If the doctor chose to ignore the guidance, they would be open to possible legal actions.

I know from experience that most physicians already practice defensive medicine, and any guidance related to this issue would only drive up the cost of medicine and hurt an industry that is already facing high unemployment.

The American Trucking Association has estimated that nearly one-third of their drivers would meet the arbitrary body mass index threshold. That would be an estimated 1 million drivers getting a sleep apnea test at an average cost of $2,265. The total cost just to the American Trucking Association members would be estimated between $900 million and $1.2 billion. The School Bus

Association estimates that this regulation would cost their drivers $100 million.

Sleep apnea is a serious disease that can't be diagnosed arbitrarily by guidance set in Washington, D.C. The Department needs to go through the rulemaking process—which, again, they've already agreed to do. This would allow a cost-benefit analysis and input from medical providers and all of the stakeholders involved in this issue.

I'm proud that the bill passed out of the Transportation Committee with unanimous support and had over 68 bipartisan cosponsors. The American Trucking Associations, the American Bus Association, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the National School Transportation Association, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, and the United Motorcoach Association have all endorsed H.R. 3095.

I would like to thank the Transportation Committee, especially Dan Veoni, for their assistance in support of this legislation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I can only hope that the agency—which has a long docket—in fact gets to this rulemaking. It is always, in the best of all possible worlds, best to have rulemaking input from the public, of course the formal effect of rules in the courts of the United States. And I'm not sure why the agency was going to do guidance instead. But this is a very important issue. There have been accidents that have been attributed to sleep apnea. But again, without any guidance, without any rulemaking, without any understanding of how to go about even detecting it and what you're supposed to do to prevent it, we are delayed in preventing these accidents. So I very much appreciate the work of both sides, and certainly of my good friend, the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all Members to support the bill before us, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3095.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PETRI. 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 motion will be postponed.

HELIUM STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 354) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 527, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Helium Stewardship Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) CLIFFSIDE FIELD.—The term 'Cliffside Field' means the helium storage reservoir in which the Federal Helium Reserve is stored.

''(2) FEDERAL HELIUM PIPELINE.—The term 'Federal Helium Pipeline' means the federally owned pipeline system through which helium for the Federal Helium Reserve may be transported.

''(3) FEDERAL HELIUM RESERVE.—The term 'Federal Helium Reserve' means helium reserves owned by the United States.

''(4) FEDERAL HELIUM SYSTEM.—The term 'Federal Helium System' means—

''(A) the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(B) the Cliffside Field;

''(C) the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

''(D) all other infrastructure owned, leased, or managed under contract by the Secretary for the storage, transportation, withdrawal, enrichment, purification, or management of helium.

''(5) FEDERAL USER.—The term 'Federal user' means a Federal agency or extramural holder of one or more Federal research grants using helium.

''(6) LOW-BTU GAS.—The term 'low-Btu gas' means a fuel gas with a heating value of less than 250 Btu per standard cubic foot measured as the higher heating value resulting from the inclusion of noncombustible gases, including nitrogen, helium, argon, and carbon dioxide.

''(7) PERSON.—The term 'person' means any individual, corporation, partnership, firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, or State or political subdivision.

''(8) PRIORITY PIPELINE ACCESS.—The term 'priority pipeline access' means the first priority of delivery of crude helium under which the Secretary schedules and ensures the delivery of crude helium to a helium refinery through the Federal Helium System.

''(9) QUALIFIED BIDDER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified bidder' means a person the Secretary determines is seeking to purchase helium for their own use, refining, or redelivery to users.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'qualified bidder' does not include a person who was previously determined to be a qualified bidder if the Secretary determines that the person did not meet the requirements of a qualified bidder under this Act.

''(10) QUALIFYING DOMESTIC HELIUM TRANSACTION.—The term 'qualifying domestic helium transaction' means any agreement entered into or renegotiated agreement during the preceding 1-year period in the United States for the purchase or sale of at least 15,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude or pure helium to which any holder of a contract with the Secretary for the acceptance, storage, delivery, or redelivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium System is a party.

''(11) REFINER.—The term 'refiner' means a person with the ability to take delivery of crude helium from the Federal Helium Pipeline and refine the crude helium into pure helium.

''(12) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.''.

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY.

Section 3 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) EXTRACTION OF HELIUM FROM DEPOSITS ON FEDERAL LAND.—All amounts received by the Secretary from the sale or disposition of helium on Federal land shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund established under section 6(e).''.

SEC. 4. STORAGE, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSPORTATION.

Section 5 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167c) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 5. STORAGE, WITHDRAWAL AND TRANSPORTATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary provides helium storage, withdrawal, or transportation services to any person, the Secretary shall impose a fee on the person that accurately reflects the economic value of those services.

''(b) MINIMUM FEES.—The fees charged under subsection (a) shall be not less than the amount required to reimburse the Secretary for the full costs of providing storage, withdrawal, or transportation services, including capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the Federal Helium System.

''(c) SCHEDULE OF FEES.—Prior to sale or auction under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 6, the Secretary shall annually publish a standardized schedule of fees that the Secretary will charge under this section.

''(d) TREATMENT.—All fees received by the Secretary under this section shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund established under section 6(e).

''(e) STORAGE AND DELIVERY.—In accordance with this section, the Secretary shall—

''(1) allow any person or qualified bidder to which crude helium is sold or auctioned under section 6 to store helium in the Federal Helium Reserve; and

''(2) establish a schedule for the transportation and delivery of helium using the Federal Helium System that—

''(A) ensures timely delivery of helium auctioned pursuant to section 6(b)(2);

''(B) ensures timely delivery of helium acquired from the Secretary from the Federal Helium Reserve by means other than an auction under section 6(b)(2), including nonallocated sales; and

''(C) provides priority access to the Federal Helium Pipeline for in-kind sales for Federal users.

''(f) NEW PIPELINE ACCESS.—The Secretary shall consider any applications for access to the Federal Helium Pipeline in a manner consistent with the schedule for phasing out commercial sales and disposition of assets pursuant to section 6.''.

SEC. 5. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.

Section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 6. SALE OF CRUDE HELIUM.

''(a) PHASE A: ALLOCATION TRANSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale in such quantities, at such times, at not less than the minimum

price established under subsection (b)(7), and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

''(2) FEDERAL PURCHASES.—Federal users may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline access under this subsection from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind price from the Secretary.

''(3) DURATION.—This subsection applies during—

''(A) the period beginning on the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 and ending on September 30, 2014; and

''(B) any period during which the sale of helium under subsection (b) is delayed or suspended.

''(b) PHASE B: AUCTION IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale in quantities not subject to auction under paragraph (2), after completion of each auction, at not less than the minimum price established under paragraph (7), and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary—

''(A) to maximize total recovery of helium from the Federal Helium Reserve over the long term;

''(B) to maximize the total financial return to the taxpayer;

''(C) to manage crude helium sales according to the ability of the Secretary to extract and produce helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(D) to give priority to meeting the helium demand of Federal users in the event of any disruption to the Federal Helium Reserve; and

''(E) to carry out this subsection with minimum market disruption.

''(2) AUCTION QUANTITIES.—For the period described in paragraph (4) and consistent with the conditions described in paragraph (8), the Secretary shall annually auction to any qualified bidder a quantity of crude helium in the Federal Helium Reserve equal to—

''(A) for fiscal year 2015, 10 percent of the total volume of crude helium made available for that fiscal year;

''(B) for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019, a percentage of the total volume of crude helium that is 15 percentage points greater than the percentage made available for the previous fiscal year; and

''(C) for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, 100 percent of the total volume of crude helium made available for that fiscal year.

''(3) FEDERAL PURCHASES.—Federal users may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline access under this subsection from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind price from the Secretary.

''(4) DURATION.—This subsection applies during the period—

''(A) beginning on October 1, 2014; and

''(B) ending on the date on which the volume of recoverable crude helium at the Federal Helium Reserve (other than privately owned quantities of crude helium stored temporarily at the Federal Helium Reserve under section 5 and this section) is 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet.

''(5) SAFETY VALVE.—The Secretary may adjust the quantities specified in paragraph (2)—

''(A) downward, if the Secretary determines the adjustment necessary—

''(i) to minimize market disruptions that pose a threat to the economic well-being of the United States; and

''(ii) only after submitting a written justification of the adjustment to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; or

''(B) upward, if the Secretary determines the adjustment necessary to increase participation in crude helium auctions or returns to the taxpayer.

''(6) AUCTION FORMAT.—The Secretary shall conduct each auction using a method that maximizes revenue to the Federal Government.

''(7) PRICES.—The Secretary shall annually establish, as applicable, separate sale and minimum auction prices under subsection (a)(1) and paragraphs (1) and (2) using, if applicable and in the following order of priority:

''(A) The sale price of crude helium in auctions held by the Secretary under paragraph (2).

''(B) Price recommendations and disaggregated data from a qualified, independent third party who has no conflict of interest, who shall conduct a confidential survey of qualifying domestic helium transactions.

''(C) The volume-weighted average price of all crude helium and pure helium purchased, sold, or processed by persons in all qualifying domestic helium transactions.

''(D) The volume-weighted average cost of converting gaseous crude helium into pure helium.

''(8) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall require all persons that are parties to a contract with the Secretary for the withdrawal, acceptance, storage, transportation, delivery, or redelivery of crude helium to disclose, on a strictly confidential basis—

''(i) the volumes and associated prices in dollars per thousand cubic feet of all crude and pure helium purchased, sold, or processed by persons in qualifying domestic helium transactions;

''(ii) the volumes and associated costs in dollars per thousand cubic feet of converting crude helium into pure helium; and

''(iii) refinery capacity and future capacity estimates.

''(B) CONDITION.—As a condition of sale or auction to a refiner under subsection (a)(1) and paragraphs (1) and (2), effective beginning 90 days after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the refiner shall make excess refining capacity of helium available at commercially reasonable rates to—

''(i) any person prevailing in auctions under paragraph (2); and

''(ii) any person that has acquired crude helium from the Secretary from the Federal Helium Reserve by means other than an auction under paragraph (2) after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, including nonallocated sales.

''(9) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary may use the information collected under this Act—

''(A) to approximate crude helium prices; and

''(B) to ensure the recovery of fair value for the taxpayers of the United States from sales of crude helium.

''(10) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Secretary shall adopt such administrative policies and procedures as the Secretary considers necessary and reasonable to ensure the confidentiality of information submitted pursuant to this Act.

''(11) FORWARD AUCTIONS.—Effective beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary may conduct a forward auction once each fiscal year of a quantity of helium that is equal to up to 10 percent of the volume of crude helium to be made available at auction during the following fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the forward auction will—

''(A) not cause a disruption in the supply of helium from the Reserve;

''(B) represent a cost-effective action;

''(C) generate greater returns for taxpayers; and

''(D) increase the effectiveness of price discovery.

''(12) SALE SCHEDULE AND FREQUENCY.—For fiscal year 2015 the Secretary shall conduct only one auction, which shall precede, and one sale, which shall take place no later than August 1, 2014, with full and final payment for the sale being made no later than September 26, 2014. Consistent with the annual volumes established under paragraph (2), effective beginning in fiscal year 2016, the Secretary may conduct auctions twice during each fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the auction frequency will—

''(A) not cause a disruption in the supply of helium from the Reserve;

''(B) represent a cost-effective action;

''(C) generate greater returns for taxpayers; and

''(D) increase the effectiveness of price discovery.

''(13) ONE-TIME SALE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(A), the Secretary shall hold a one-time sale of helium, no later than August 1, 2014 from amounts available in fiscal year 2016 pursuant to this section. Full and final payment for the sale must be made no later than 45 days after the date the sale takes place.

''(B) VOLUME SOLD.—The volume of helium sold under this paragraph—

''(i) shall be at least 250 million cubic feet; and

''(ii) shall be made available for sale consistent with paragraph (2)(B).

''(c) PHASE C: CONTINUED ACCESS FOR FEDERAL USERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer crude helium for sale to Federal users in such quantities, at such times, at such prices required to reimburse the Secretary for the full costs of the sales, and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this subsection.

''(2) FEDERAL PURCHASES.—Federal users may purchase refined helium with priority pipeline access under this subsection from persons who have entered into enforceable contracts to purchase an equivalent quantity of crude helium at the in-kind price from the Secretary.

''(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection applies beginning on the day after the date described in subsection (b)(4)(B).

''(d) PHASE D: DISPOSAL OF ASSETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 2 years after the date of commencement of Phase C described in subsection (c) and not later than September 30, 2021, the Secretary shall designate as excess property and dispose of all facilities, equipment, and other real and personal property, and all interests in the same, held by the United States in the Federal Helium System.

''(2) APPLICABLE LAW.—The disposal of the property described in paragraph (1) shall be in accordance with subtitle I of title 40, United States Code.

''(3) PROCEEDS.—All proceeds accruing to the United States by reason of the sale or other disposal of the property described in paragraph (1) shall be treated as funds received under this Act for purposes of subsection (e).

''(4) COSTS.—All costs associated with the sale and disposal (including costs associated with termination of personnel) and with the cessation of activities under this subsection shall be paid from amounts available in the

Helium Production Fund established under subsection (e).

''(e) HELIUM PRODUCTION FUND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts received under this Act, including amounts from the sale or auction of crude helium, shall be credited to the Helium Production Fund, which shall be available without fiscal year limitation for purposes determined to be necessary and cost effective by the Secretary to carry out this Act (other than sections 16, 17, and 18), including capital investments in upgrades and maintenance at the Federal Helium System, including—

''(A) well head maintenance at the Cliffside Field;

''(B) capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of facilities that pressurize the Cliffside Field;

''(C) capital investments in maintenance and upgrades of equipment related to the storage, withdrawal, enrichment, transportation, purification, and sale of crude helium from the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(D) entering into purchase, lease, or other agreements to drill new or uncap existing wells to maximize the recovery of crude helium from the Federal Helium System; and

''(E) any other scheduled or unscheduled maintenance of the Federal Helium System.

''(2) EXCESS FUNDS.—Amounts in the Helium Production Fund in excess of amounts the Secretary determines to be necessary to carry out paragraph (1) shall be paid to the general fund of the Treasury and used to reduce the annual Federal budget deficit.

''(3) RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC DEBT.—Out of amounts paid to the general fund of the Treasury under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Treasury shall use $51,000,000 to retire public debt.

''(4) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing all expenditures by the Bureau of Land Management to carry out this Act.

''(f) MINIMUM QUANTITY.—The Secretary shall offer for sale or auction during each fiscal year under subsections (a), (b), and (c) a quantity of crude helium that is the lesser of —

''(1) the quantity of crude helium offered for sale by the Secretary during fiscal year 2012; or

''(2) the maximum total production capacity of the Federal Helium System.''.

SEC. 6. INFORMATION, ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH, AND STRATEGY.

The Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by repealing section 15 (50 U.S.C. 167m);

(2) by redesignating section 17 (50 U.S.C. 167 note) as section 20; and

(3) by inserting after section 14 (50 U.S.C. 167l) the following:

''SEC. 15. INFORMATION.

''(a) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, shall make available on the Internet information relating to the Federal Helium System that includes—

''(1) continued publication of an open market and in-kind price;

''(2) aggregated projections of excess refining capacity;

''(3) ownership of helium held in the Federal Helium Reserve;

''(4) the volume of helium delivered to persons through the Federal Helium Pipeline;

''(5) pressure constraints of the Federal Helium Pipeline;

''(6) an estimate of the projected date when 3,000,000,000 standard cubic feet of crude helium will remain in the Federal Helium Reserve and the final phase described in section 6(c) will begin;

''(7) the amount of the fees charged under section 5;

''(8) the scheduling of crude helium deliveries through the Federal Helium Pipeline; and

''(9) other factors that will increase transparency.

''(b) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, to provide the market with appropriate and timely information affecting the helium resource, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall establish a timely and public reporting process to provide data that affects the helium industry, including—

''(1) annual maintenance schedules and quarterly updates, that shall include—

''(A) the date and duration of planned shutdowns of the Federal Helium Pipeline;

''(B) the nature of work to be undertaken on the Federal Helium System, whether routine, extended, or extraordinary;

''(C) the anticipated impact of the work on the helium supply;

''(D) the efforts being made to minimize any impact on the supply chain; and

''(E) any concerns regarding maintenance of the Federal Helium Pipeline, including the pressure of the pipeline or deviation from normal operation of the pipeline;

''(2) for each unplanned outage, a description of—

''(A) the beginning of the outage;

''(B) the expected duration of the outage;

''(C) the nature of the problem;

''(D) the estimated impact on helium supply;

''(E) a plan to correct problems, including an estimate of the potential timeframe for correction and the likelihood of plan success within the timeframe;

''(F) efforts to minimize negative impacts on the helium supply chain; and

''(G) updates on repair status and the anticipated online date;

''(3) monthly summaries of meetings and communications between the Bureau of Land Management and the Cliffside Refiners Limited Partnership, including a list of participants and an indication of any actions taken as a result of the meetings or communications; and

''(4) current predictions of the lifespan of the Federal Helium System, including how much longer the crude helium supply will be available based on current and forecasted demand and the projected maximum production capacity of the Federal Helium System for the following fiscal year.

''SEC. 16. HELIUM GAS RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall—

''(1) in coordination with appropriate heads of State geological surveys—

''(A) complete a national helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir, including assessments of the constituent gases found in each helium resource, such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen, and natural gas; and

''(B) make available the modern seismic and geophysical log data for characterization of the Bush Dome Reservoir;

''(2) in coordination with appropriate international agencies and the global geology community, complete a global helium gas assessment that identifies and quantifies the quantity of the helium, including the isotope helium-3, in each reservoir;

''(3) in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, complete—

''(A) an assessment of trends in global demand for helium, including the isotope helium-3;

''(B) a 10-year forecast of domestic demand for helium across all sectors, including scientific and medical research, commercial, manufacturing, space technologies, cryogenics, and national defense; and

''(C) an inventory of medical, scientific, industrial, commercial, and other uses of helium in the United States, including Federal uses, that identifies the nature of the helium use, the amounts required, the technical and commercial viability of helium recapture and recycling in that use, and the availability of material substitutes wherever possible; and

''(4) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the assessments required under this paragraph.

''(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000.

''SEC. 17. LOW-BTU GAS SEPARATION AND HELIUM CONSERVATION.

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall support programs of research, development, commercial application, and conservation (including the programs described in subsection (b))—

''(1) to expand the domestic production of low-Btu gas and helium resources;

''(2) to separate and capture helium from natural gas streams; and

''(3) to reduce the venting of helium and helium-bearing low-Btu gas during natural gas exploration and production.

''(b) PROGRAMS.—

''(1) MEMBRANE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with other appropriate agencies, shall support a civilian research program to develop advanced membrane technology that is used in the separation of low-Btu gases, including technologies that remove helium and other constituent gases that lower the Btu content of natural gas.

''(2) HELIUM SEPARATION TECHNOLOGY.—The Secretary of Energy shall support a research program to develop technologies for separating, gathering, and processing helium in low concentrations that occur naturally in geological reservoirs or formations, including—

''(A) low-Btu gas production streams; and

''(B) technologies that minimize the atmospheric venting of helium gas during natural gas production.

''(3) INDUSTRIAL HELIUM PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Energy, working through the Advanced Manufacturing Office of the Department of Energy, shall carry out a research program—

''(A) to develop low-cost technologies and technology systems for recycling, reprocessing, and reusing helium for all medical, scientific, industrial, commercial, aerospace, and other uses of helium in the United States, including Federal uses; and

''(B) to develop industrial gathering technologies to capture helium from other chemical processing, including ammonia processing.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000.

''SEC. 18. HELIUM-3 SEPARATION.

''(a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The Secretary shall cooperate with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee, on any assessment or

research relating to the extraction and refining of the isotope helium-3 from crude helium and other potential sources, including—

''(1) gas analysis; and

''(2) infrastructure studies.

''(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, or a designee, may carry out a study to assess the feasibility of—

''(1) establishing a facility to separate the isotope helium-3 from crude helium; and

''(2) exploring other potential sources of the isotope helium-3.

''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that contains a description of the results of the assessments conducted under this section.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $1,000,000.

''SEC. 19. FEDERAL AGENCY HELIUM ACQUISITION STRATEGY.

''In anticipation of the implementation of Phase D described in section 6(d), and not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, the Secretary (in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and other agencies as appropriate) shall submit to Congress a report that provides for Federal users—

''(1) an assessment of the consumption of, and projected demand for, crude and refined helium;

''(2) a description of a 20-year Federal strategy for securing access to helium;

''(3) a determination of a date prior to September 30, 2021, for the implementation of Phase D as described in section 6(d) that minimizes any potential supply disruptions for Federal users;

''(4) an assessment of the effects of increases in the price of refined helium and methods and policies for mitigating any determined effects; and

''(5) a description of a process for prioritization of uses that accounts for diminished availability of helium supplies that may occur over time.''.

SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 4 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167b) is amended by striking ''section 6(f)'' each place it appears in subsections (c)(3), (c)(4), and (d)(2) and inserting ''section 6(e)''.

(b) Section 8 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167f) is repealed.

SEC. 8. EXISTING AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall not affect or diminish the rights and obligations of the Secretary of the Interior and private parties under agreements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, except to the extent that the agreements are renewed or extended after that date.

(b) DELIVERY.—No agreement described in subsection (a) shall affect or diminish the right of any party that purchases helium after the date of enactment of this Act in accordance with section 6 of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167d) (as amended by section 5) to receive delivery of the helium in accordance with section 5(e)(2) of the Helium Act (50 U.S.C. 167c(e)(2)) (as amended by section 4).

SEC. 9. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, including regulations necessary to prevent unfair acts and practices.

SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF DETERMINATION PROGRAM.—

(1) SECURE PAYMENTS FOR STATES AND COUNTIES CONTAINING FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENTS.—Section 101 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7111) is amended by striking ''2012'' each place it appears and inserting ''2013''.

(B) ELECTIONS.—Section 102(b) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112(b)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''2012'' each place it appears and inserting ''2013''.

(C) DISTRIBUTION OF PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE COUNTIES.—Section 103(d)(2) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7113(d)(2)) is amended by striking ''and 2012'' and inserting ''through 2013''.

(2) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT SPECIAL PROJECTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 is amended—

(A) in section 203(a)(1) (16 U.S.C. 7123(a)(1)), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013'';

(B) in section 204(e)(3)(B)(iii) (16 U.S.C. 7124(e)(3)(B)(iii)), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013'';

(C) in section 205(a)(4) (16 U.S.C. 7125(a)(4)), by striking ''2011'' each place it appears and inserting ''2012'';

(D) in section 207(a) (16 U.S.C. 7127(a)), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013''; and

(E) in section 208 (16 U.S.C. 7128)—

(i) in subsection (a), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013''; and

(ii) in subsection (b), by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2014''.

(3) CONTINUATION OF AUTHORITY TO RESERVE AND USE COUNTY FUNDS.—Section 304 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7144) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013'' ; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2014''.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 402 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7152) is amended by striking ''2012'' and inserting ''2013''.

(b) ABANDONED WELL REMEDIATION.—Section 349 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15907) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) FEDERALLY DRILLED WELLS.—Out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, $36,000,000 for fiscal year 2015, and $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation and to remain available until expended, to remediate, reclaim, and close abandoned oil and gas wells on current or former National Petroleum Reserve land.''.

(c) NATIONAL PARKS MAINTENANCE BACKLOG.—Section 814(g) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 1f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $20,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior for fiscal year 2018, and $30,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary of the Interior for fiscal year 2019, without further appropriation and to remain available until expended, to pay the Federal funding share of challenge cost-share agreements for deferred maintenance projects and to correct deficiencies in National Park Service infrastructure.

''(5) COST-SHARE REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 50 percent of the total cost of project for funds made available under paragraph (4) to pay the Federal funding share shall be derived from non-Federal sources, including in-kind contribution of goods and services fairly valued.''.

(d) ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND.—Section 411(h) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1240a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING.—

''(A) WAIVER OF LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (5), the limitation on the total annual payments to a certified State or Indian tribe under this subsection shall not apply for fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

''(B) LIMITATION ON WAIVER.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the total annual payment to a certified State or Indian tribe under this subsection for fiscal year 2014 shall not be more than $28,000,000 and for fiscal year 2015 shall not be more than $75,000,000.

''(C) INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS.—If the total annual payment to a certified State or Indian tribe under paragraphs (1) and (2) is limited by subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall—

''(i) give priority to making payments under paragraph (2); and

''(ii) use any remaining funds to make payments under paragraph (1).''.

(e) SODA ASH ROYALTIES.—Notwithstanding section 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 262) and the terms of any lease under that Act, the royalty rate on the quantity of gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land in the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act shall be 4 percent.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OFFSET.—Section 207(c) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17022(c)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', except that the amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section not appropriated as of the date of enactment of the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 shall be reduced by $6,000,000''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan legislation being considered by the House this evening, H.R. 527, the Helium Stewardship Act, is a commonsense action plan to protect our economy from the impending helium shortage and to inject free market principles into our Federal helium program.

The House must take action today on this legislation before time runs out. Under current law, the Reserve must cease operations on October 1—that's only 6 days from now, Mr. Speaker. The Federal Helium Reserve supplies one-third of the world's helium, and a disruption would cause real harm to our Nation's economy.

Helium is essential to our 21st century economy. Without it, we wouldn't have lifesaving MRI machines, we wouldn't have computer chips, we wouldn't have fiber optic cables or other devices used for our defense needs. Unless Congress takes immediate action, tens of thousands of American jobs and critical technologies would be put at risk.

The bill before us today is truly a bipartisan, bicameral plan that I'm pleased to have worked on with both my Senate and House colleagues.

□ 1800

This bill would implement a new operating system for the Federal Helium Reserve on October 1 that would include semiannual auctions. This will ensure that we prevent a crippling helium shortage and that the reserve stays open until 2021, when then nearly all of the helium supply is sold. That will give us enough time for the market to supplant this helium that will go away. Mr. Speaker, it also ensures that this program, Federal program, is ended.

A little history: on April 26, the House passed H.R. 527, the Helium Stewardship Act, by a vote of 394–1. Last week, the Senate passed H.R. 527 with an amendment by a vote of 97–2.

This final text of House Resolution 354 makes several necessary, minimal adjustments to the Senate-passed version of H.R. 527 to ensure it abides by budget rules and laws so that it does not increase deficit spending.

Prompt action of this final text will maintain a flow of helium for the reserve after October 1 and prevent economic disruptions to American jobs manufacturing critical technology and medical devices.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 100 groups representing the end users of refined helium—and these groups are high-tech manufacturers of semiconductors, aerospace technologies, medical devices, chemicals, fiber optics, and science research—all have called for passage of this legislation.

We have an opportunity today to preserve our economy, bring real reforms to a Federal program, get a better return for the taxpayer, and in the end truly shut down an outdated Federal program. These are all wins that we should pass this bill and celebrate these successes.

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

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

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

Mr. HOLT. While the process of moving this legislation forward has taken some time, it has also demonstrated that Members of both parties, Members of both Houses, can work cooperatively and in good faith to reach bipartisan solutions. This is the sort of legislative action Americans want to see us undertaking.

The legislation before us is a version that none of us would write if left to our own devices. Every Member who has worked on this bill, every stakeholder affected by this bill has had to make compromises to achieve a shared goal of maintaining the supply of helium that is important. We have had to make substantive changes to address legitimate policy concerns, and we have had to make technical changes to address parliamentary and budget matters; but we have gotten the job done. I wish we could use this as a model for the continuing resolution, for the debt ceiling, for the farm bill, for so many other things.

With the clock ticking, the need to get this legislation across the finish line is urgent.

As I said when we considered this bill back in April, helium is not used just to fill balloons. It is critical for MRI, magnetic resonant imagining, machines; it is necessary for preparing NASA rockets for launching; for high-tech manufacturing such as cleaning silicone chips for integrated circuits; and for lots of important scientific research. For many of these applications, there is simply no replacement for helium.

Our Nation's Federal Helium Reserve supplies nearly half of the helium used in the United States and roughly a third of all the helium used globally. If Congress fails to pass this legislation by Monday—the end of the current fiscal year—the Interior Department's authority to continue operating the reserve will expire. If this is allowed to happen, nearly half of America's helium would be cut off creating a crisis—and that's not an overstatement—that would devastate important sectors of America's high-tech and medical economy.

H.R. 527 would extend the life of the Federal Helium Reserve past the end of this fiscal year and ensure a fair return to taxpayers on this federally owned resource. It would generate more than $300 million for American taxpayers, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

I thank Chairman HASTINGS, also former Ranking Member Markey and current Ranking Member DEFAZIO. They deserve enormous credit for moving this legislation forward.

This is a good bill that provides a workable solution to a real problem, and I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the House Resources Committee for his leadership on this and many other issues. It is so important to America's economy and our country.

I rise today also in support of this legislation to reform the Federal helium program and also to reduce the deficit by $90 million over the next decade. As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, I realize this is not about balloons. This is about America's great innovation and technology sector, about computers, and, as we heard from my colleague from New Jersey, MRIs and our great innovation and technology. It is essential that this become law.

At the same time, this measure also provides short-term help to rural communities from some of the funding sources here. Those communities are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

Let's be clear: that help is a lifeline, not a lifeboat. The status quo of asking Uncle Sam for a check year after year is simply not sustainable. However, managing our Federal forests, generating jobs and revenue, that's sustainable.

Last week, the House passed a long-term solution for our rural forested communities, H.R. 1526, the chairman's bill, the Healthy Forest for the Healthy Communities Act. Now, it's time—now, it's time—for the United States Senate to take positive action. We need to create jobs in the woods, we need to reduce the threat of wildfire, catastrophic wildfire, we need to improve the health of our watersheds and our forests, we need to help our forested communities get back to self-sufficiency, self-reliance, get people back to work in the woods. The clock is ticking. It's time to get this done. Rural communities cannot wait any longer.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague, Mr. HOLT, for giving me a moment today.

I rise to thank Chairman HASTINGS, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and all the other Members in the House and in the Senate who are involved in resolving the helium reserve issue.

While Americans are rightfully frustrated with gridlock in Washington—gridlock and posturing that right now is threatening a government shutdown and damage to our economy—today we are voting on a negotiated path forward, a more fair solution, that will ensure a stable supply of helium for businesses and will reduce our deficit by an estimated $90 million over the next 10 years.

From the beginning of the discussion over the future of the Helium Stewardship Act this year, I've taken a keen interest in the issue, as helium is a linchpin for Connecticut's economy. From refiners like Praxair to end users like hospitals and manufacturers, the health of the helium market supports thousands of jobs in my State.

Once again, I want to thank Chairman HASTINGS for working with everyone at the table to make some last-minute changes to address legitimate and justified concerns. This sort of bipartisan, respectful cooperation and compromise is just what our country needs and just what our country wants.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), who has been actively involved in this legislation since actually the issue came before us a little over a year ago.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support today of this legislation. I also want to extend my thanks to Chairman HASTINGS, to Mr. HOLT, to Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and the former ranking member, Senator MARKEY, all for their leadership, as well as our friends in the Senate, Senators WYDEN and MURKOWSKI. This is truly an example of a good bipartisan piece of legislation done in a bicameral manner. I think we can all take pride in the fact that Congress can actually get things done when we put our minds to it.

While I had some reservations regarding the initial House bill, due to some potential issues of potential contract violations, this bill before us, H.R. 527, fairly addresses those concerns. I tried to address those concerns in the previous bill. I also want to thank Ms. ESTY and Mr. HIGGINS from New York for their strong support in that effort.

Again, passing this legislation will ensure continued access to the Nation's helium supply for American businesses and researchers. As has been stated, if no action is taken before October 1, the Bureau of Land Management will be forced to shutter the Federal Helium Reserve, putting at risk thousands of jobs of hardworking Americans, particularly those in the manufacturing sector.

A steady supply of helium is absolutely essential in manufacturing items such as MRI scanners, computer chips, and fiber optic cables. We need to make sure that we can continue in those pursuits.

Also, it is important to many refiners, like in my district Air Products and Chemicals, in Ms. ESTY's district Praxair, Linde and others, who are also very much involved with making sure this helium gets to the marketplace and to the end users.

Today's action will ensure that these advanced and high-tech manufacturers will not lose access to over one-third of the global supply of helium at a time when a helium shortage is already in place.

Again, I want to say thanks to everybody involved—Mr. HOLT and Mr. HASTINGS—for their patience for listening and for coming up with a very good solution to a very important problem.

Mr. HOLT. Let me ask the chairman if he has additional speakers.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I am prepared to close if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. HOLT. Then I will close with a few remarks, again, with thanks to the chairman; and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to stress how important the operation of the Federal Helium Reserve has been to science, to technology, to manufacturing, to health care in the United States.

Three-quarters of a century ago, farsighted legislators began stockpiling helium thinking it might be used for dirigibles and blimps lighter than aircraft. They didn't know what else it would be used for, but they recognized and understood that helium had some very special properties.

Additionally, the Federal Helium Reserve—the country's domestic stockpile of helium—has been a good investment for taxpayers. Helium is without a doubt a rare valuable resource, critical to our economic and national security. Because of decisions by Congress in past years, we are now in a position where failure to act in the next 5 days will result in nearly half of America's helium supply being cut off, creating a crisis in health care, in research, in manufacturing, and in many other areas.

Here we have an example of where Congress was farsighted and then subsequently shortsighted. Today, I think we are taking wise steps to remedy the situation.

It's important that as we make the decisions and the changes that we make with this legislation, that we don't fail to recognize the possible future uses, many perhaps not envisioned, and a possible failure of the market to provide an adequate supply of helium to meet those demands.

I know there is an ideology that's prevalent around here that for any commodity, for any human need the market will provide. In fact, it doesn't always. In this case, in the helium over the decades, it would not have had it not been for the Federal reserve.

So it is important today that as we are passing this legislation, we remember that it does require within 2 years the development of a long-term helium strategy to secure access to helium and to minimize disruption of a helium supply once the current reserve is shut down.

The Federal Helium Reserve over the life of this bill will generate over $300 million for American taxpayers. Now, Mr. Speaker, the definition of a good investment is something that returns considerably more than you put into it. The helium reserve has been a good investment for this country; and, frankly, the Federal Government should be looking for more opportunities to make such investments.

If in a few years' time we realize that a Federal Helium Reserve is necessary to secure a long-term domestic supply of helium, then I hope we can work together in the same cooperative manner that we worked on this to make the farsighted investments that legislators made many decades ago to establish a Federal Helium Reserve.

I thank my colleagues on the committee, especially my friend from Washington State, Chairman HASTINGS, for his work on this bipartisan solution. I encourage my colleagues here and in the other body to get this to the President for his signature quickly.

I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1815

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, virtually all of my colleagues have expressed gratitude for this bipartisan-bicameral effort, and I want to add my words to that also.

I particularly want to thank two members of the House Natural Resources staff—Tim Charters and Amanda Tharpe—because they worked diligently on this, especially this last week in getting the final language together.

It's not often that you get to thank one person who now has served in both bodies, but former Ranking Member ED MARKEY was a cosponsor originally of H.R. 527. Senator MARKEY has now been a big advocate over in the Senate, and I want to thank him and his staff.

I particularly want to thank again Senator WYDEN and Senator MURKOWSKI and their staffs because we recognized earlier on that this had to be done before a date certain.

Obviously, as we've said many times on this floor, there are differences between the two bodies in how they approach different issues—and that was certainly true with this one—but we knew we had to get this done, so we have a piece now that, I think, both sides and both Houses can agree on.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 354.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. 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 motion will be postponed.

INTERSTATE LAND SALES FULL DISCLOSURE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2600) to amend the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act to clarify how the Act applies to condominiums.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2600

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

SECTION 1. EXEMPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUM UNITS.

(a) EXEMPTION.—Section 1403 of the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act (15 U.S.C. 1702) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8)(G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) the sale or lease of a condominium unit that is not exempt under subsection (a).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) For purposes of subsection (b), the term 'condominium unit' means a unit of residential or commercial property to be designated for separate ownership pursuant to a condominium plan or declaration provided that upon conveyance—

''(1) the owner of such unit will have sole ownership of the unit and an undivided interest in the common elements appurtenant to the unit; and

''(2) the unit will be an improved lot.''.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material for the RECORD on H.R. 2600, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to begin by commending my colleague Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY of New York for introducing H.R. 2600 in an effort to clarify the intent and purpose of the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act, or ILSA.

ILSA was signed into law almost a half century ago to regulate fast-buck operators, who were bilking investors, especially the elderly, through blatantly fraudulent sales of raw land often located in swamps and deserts.

It was land sales, not condo units, which were the intended target of the ILSA disclosures, which is quite evident in the fact that the required disclosures relate to land issues, such as access to roads and water supply, and make no sense in the context of more urban vertical developments. Nevertheless, in the 1980s, the Federal courts started to apply ILSA to vertical condominiums based on HUD's broad interpretation and Congress' failure to expressly exempt condominiums.

The fact is that purchasers of vertical condominium units do not need the additional disclosures of that act. To the extent that any of the act's disclosures relate to condo developments, they are generally duplicative of more extensive information already contained in State-mandated disclosures to purchasers.

The private use of ILSA was practically nonexistent for 40 years, until 2008, when the real estate market crashed and purchasers' lawyers started looking for ways to escape pre-crash contracts. As the recession continued, plaintiffs' lawyers began seeking out purchaser clients to file lawsuits under that act, demanding the full rescission of contracts with such Web sites as ''No-Condo.com.''

Courts generally acknowledge that ILSA has become ''an increasingly popular means of channeling buyer's remorse''; but while courts have expressed sympathy for the developers' position, many courts have felt compelled to apply the language of the statute literally, allowing buyers to escape valid contracts.

Therefore, I stand in strong support of H.R. 2600, which puts an end to the exploitation of ILSA and allows residential condominium sales to make a return to the marketplace. I want to urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I want to, once again, commend my colleague on the Financial Services Committee both for her great legislative work and her thoughtfulness in crafting this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from the Financial Services Committee, Mr. MCHENRY. This is one of many bills that we have worked together on in a bipartisan way.

The Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act, known as ILSA, was enacted in 1969 to protect consumers from being cheated in land deals. It was originally intended to protect out-of-State buyers who were sold land that was not what it was advertised to be and to provide a right of action to rescind the contract and walk away from the deal. However, due to ambiguities in the original law, courts have ruled over the years that ILSA applies to condominiums and that developers are required to file redundant paperwork and make disclosures that are completely nonsensical when applied to condo units.

This has led to absurd results. For example, ILSA requires condo developers to file a report that discloses, among other things, information about the condo unit's topography, how much of the condo is covered by water, whether there is any soil erosion, and whether the condominium has any oil and gas rights.

I, for one, don't know of any high-rise condo units that are covered by water. Requiring condo developers to file these types of nonsensical disclosures provides no consumer protection whatsoever and simply generates unnecessary paperwork.

Unfortunately, during the economic downturn in 2008, some buyers used the recording requirements of ILSA to rescind otherwise valid contracts for economic reasons, an unintended consequence of the act and its intent. The law now needs a technical fix to distinguish condominium sales from other types of land sales and to recognize the unique conditions under which these units are sold in today's market.

As the author of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, I am a strong supporter of consumer protections. I fully support the consumer protections that were enacted through ILSA, and this proposed legislation does nothing to affect those consumer protections; but I also believe that we need to make distinctions for condos in order to allow the condominium development industry to rebound from the recession. The bill would only exempt condos from ILSA's registration requirements. It will maintain the consumer protections which ensure that consumers still have the right to rescind contracts in cases of actual fraud. Developers would, of course, still be required to comply with State laws that require specific disclosures.

As we recover in this still very fragile economy, we want to encourage, not discourage, buyers and sellers to enter into real estate deals responsibly. That is why this bill is important—to ensure development and the return of an important industry in our country, that of residential condominium sales.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. We are prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the great State of New York, JERRY NADLER.

Mr. NADLER. Thank you to my colleague from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for bringing this important issue to the floor today and for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2600, a commonsense clarification to the Interstate Land Sales Full Disclosure Act, ILSA, to preserve consumer protections while keeping our economic recovery on track.

More than 40 years ago, Congress passed ILSA to prevent real estate developers from bilking unsuspecting buyers out of their life savings by selling them parcels of land in the middle of a swamp or of a desert. ILSA requires sellers to disclose critical information about the land being sold, including automobile access to the property, the availability of water on a lot, and access for emergency personnel. These disclosure requirements are

clearly necessary and appropriate for individuals who are buying land sight unseen.

They do not make sense, however, when you try to apply them to purchases of condominiums in urban high-rise developments. Clearly, a condo in downtown Manhattan or in downtown Dallas will have access to water and emergency services, and purchasers do not need to know about the risk of soil erosion or about the presence of mobile homes within their units on the 15th floor.

Although common sense would dictate otherwise, courts have interpreted the vague statutory and regulatory language of ILSA to apply to condo purchases. While that interpretation has been disputed and discussed over the years, ILSA was rarely an issue in private condo sales until the economy collapsed in 2008; and as mentioned by Mrs. MALONEY, in facing tough financial times and underwater mortgages, many condo and co-op buyers began to use a developer's failure to comply with ILSA to void otherwise valid contracts for condo purchases and receive full refunds of their pre-cash down payments. These suits slowed the housing recovery and left many large developments in New York, Florida, and in other States unfinished or unoccupied.

We can all agree that ILSA provides vital consumer protections for land purchasers, but the law should not be used to void valid contracts because of buyer's remorse. The bill before us today provides a simple clarification to explicitly exempt condominium sales from the law's disclosure requirements. To ensure that ILSA continues to provide the highest level of consumer protection, condominium developers will still be required to comply with the law's antifraud provisions. Developers will also be required to continue complying with all State and local disclosure requirements for condominiums.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is an easy fix to ensure that developers continue to comply with strict reporting requirements, that purchasers have the information they need to make informed decisions, and that our economic recovery remains on track.

I congratulate Mrs. MALONEY for bringing this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SUPPORT H.R. 2600, THE INTERSTATE LAND SALES DISCLOSURE ACT UPDATE OF 2013

DEAR COLLEAGUE: The Interstate Land Sales Disclosure Act was enacted in 1969 to protect out-of-state buyers who were sold raw, undeveloped land that was not what was advertised, and provides a right of action to rescind the contract and walk away from the deal.

Senator Harrison Williams, who introduced the original bill, noted that the land sales that ILSA was intended to address were sales of ''swamps, deserts, high arid plateaus, mountains, remote valleys, and—in some cases—actual jungles or lava beds outside the continental United States.''

However, due to ambiguity in the statute, courts have ruled over the years that ISLA applies to condominiums, and developers are now required to mate redundant disclosures that make no sense whatsoever when applied to condo units. For example, ILSA requires developers to disclose whether there is any soil erosion in the condo, whether the condo unit is covered by water, and information about the condo unit's oil, gas, and mineral rights.

During the economic downturn, some buyers have used ILSA to rescind otherwise valid contracts for economic reasons—an entirely unintended consequence of the law and its intent. The law now needs a technical fix to distinguish condominium sales from other types of land sales and to recognize the unique conditions under which these units are sold in today's market.

H.R. 2600 explicitly exempts condominiums from ILSA's registration requirements, but maintains ILSA's consumer protections by ensuring that condominiums are still subject to the statute's anti-fraud provisions. In addition, developers would still be required to comply with all of the normal state- and local-level disclosure requirements that apply to condo sales.

As we recover in this still fragile economy, we want to encourage, not discourage, buyers and sellers to enter into real estate deals responsibly. For these reasons, we hope that you will join us in voting for H.R. 2600 later today.

Sincerely,

CAROLYN B. MALONEY,
Member of Congress.
JERROLD NADLER,
Member of Congress.

Mr. MCHENRY. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2600.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 motion will be postponed.

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. 1961, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 354, 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.

FIRE-RETARDANT MATERIALS EXEMPTION EXTENSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1961) to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line, 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 Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 280, nays 89, not voting 63, as follows:

[Roll No. 484]

YEAS—280

Aderholt
Alexander
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Hinojosa
Holding
Horsford
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Jackson Lee
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce

Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Watt
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—89

Amash
Andrews
Barrow (GA)
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Broun (GA)
Capps
Carney
Castro (TX)
Cicilline
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Harris
Heck (WA)
Himes
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Israel
Jeffries
Kennedy
Kildee
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Levin
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Maloney, Carolyn
Matheson
Matsui
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Miller, George
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
O'Rourke
Pascrell
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (SC)
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schakowsky
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Titus
Tonko
Vargas
Waters

NOT VOTING—63

Buchanan
Campbell
Capuano
Carter
Cassidy
Chu
Costa
Cotton
Davis (CA)
DeGette
Dingell
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Gowdy
Grijalva
Grimm
Hall
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hultgren
Issa
Jordan
Keating
Kind
Kingston
Lipinski
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Meeks
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moore
Mulvaney
Neal
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Radel
Richmond
Roby
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schiff
Schwartz
Shimkus
Shuster
Tiberi
Tierney
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster (FL)

□ 1855

Messrs. COOPER, GENE GREEN of Texas, McNERNEY, JEFFRIES, QUIGLEY, Ms. HAHN, Messrs. HUELSKAMP and POLIS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. McCOLLUM, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Messrs. CLEAVER, DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, GALLEGO, MORAN, LEWIS, and BUTTERFIELD changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF COLORADO FLOOD VICTIMS

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, none of us ever want to be down here as Representatives and as a delegation talking about a disaster in our districts. But last week, Coloradans in an instant lost their homes and businesses, their hopes and dreams, and in some cases, tragically, their lives. Amid the despair and the disaster, people came together, helping dig one another out. Our sheriff's departments and the National Guard showed heroism, airlifting thousands of Coloradans to safety.

Today we mourn the tragic loss of life and the lives devastated by the floods. Among those confirmed dead: Evelyn Starner, a nurse and a mother of three; Gerry Boland, beloved grandfather, retired math teacher, and well-known basketball coach at the local high school in Lyons; Danny Davis, father of five, skilled carpenter and outdoorsman; James Bettner, Broncos fan and family man. Joseph Howlett operated Jamestown's Mercantile Cafe for 18 years, which I have been to, and was well known. Carroll ''CT'' White loved stock racing cars and retired from the Coors plant in Golden. Wiyanna Nelson and Wesley Quinlan, 19-year-old sweethearts. Wesley, a graduate last year of Centaurus High School in Boulder, Colorado, who was swept away trying to save his girlfriend's life when their car got stuck. And Patty Goodwine who is still missing, and we pray for her return.

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

Mr. GARDNER. In Colorado, over 2,000 homes were destroyed, over 17,000 homes were damaged, and over 200 miles of highway were washed away. The incredible work that the first responders have done, the local leaders, local elected officials, firemen, policemen, and the stories of their heroic efforts are continuing to emerge. We cannot thank them enough for the work that they have done in Colorado to save lives, to save property, and what they are doing now to rebuild their communities.

I would ask you to join us in a moment of silence in remembrance of the people who have lost their lives and for those who have forever had their lives changed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will please rise.

HELIUM STEWARDSHIP ACT OF 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 354) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 367, nays 0, not voting 65, as follows:

[Roll No. 485]

YEAS—367

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Bachmann
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Joyce
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei

Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perry
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Watt
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—65

Buchanan
Campbell
Cantor
Capuano
Carter
Cassidy
Chu
Costa
Cotton
Davis (CA)
DeGette
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey (GA)
Gosar
Gowdy
Grijalva
Grimm
Hall
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hultgren
Issa
Jordan
Keating
Kind
Kingston
Lipinski
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
Meeks
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moore
Mulvaney
Neal
Pastor (AZ)
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Radel
Richmond
Roby
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schiff
Schwartz
Shimkus
Shuster
Southerland
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Webster (FL)

□ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1508

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1508, a bill originally introduced by Representative EDWARD MARKEY of Massachusetts, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES SIGNS UNITED NATIONS ARMS TREATY THAT VIOLATES SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty signed by this administration today is an attempt by Third World countries to control guns worldwide, including personal firearms in the United States.

Under the section of ''scope,'' the treaty indicates that covered weapons include small arms and light weapons. The language is so broad that nations are expected to track all weapons movements from the time they are manufactured until the time they are destroyed.

The language is vague so that the treaty could be interpreted to restrict the ability of the United States to help its allies, like Israel.

The U.N. treaty allows government regulations to be imposed to collect data on gun owners. The treaty presents a clear and present danger to the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution.

This is another attempt by this administration to control firearms of individual Americans. The constitutional professor is letting the U.N. override the Second Amendment and destroy individual liberty.

The President took an oath to the United States Constitution, not the U.N. Charter.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DELTA QUEEN

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today that the House just passed H.R. 1961. It gives the Delta Queen another opportunity to go up and down the Mississippi River.

The Delta Queen is a national treasure that, for 80 years, took passengers up and down the river and, of course, stopped in my hometown of Memphis. On its last trip, about 3 or 4 years ago, I was there to witness the Queen's last trip. And it was an emotional time for a lot of Memphians who really revere the river and the traffic thereon.

There were issues about safety; but those issues, I think, are satisfied, the concerns of people. There were ocean standards put to a riverboat, which were improper. The unions that opposed this in the past came to be for it.

The bill passed, and it's important that it did. The Delta Queen is a safe vessel that will provide a wonderful experience for people traveling up and down the Mississippi River, America's greater river.

It's a treasure, a piece of history. It's also economic development for the region.

So I thank my colleagues for supporting both the Delta Queen and the communities along the river; and I look forward to a nice trip on the Delta Queen one time, and a julep to boot.

□ 1915

DELAY, DEFUND, REPEAL, AND REPLACE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there's been a lot of talk of delay, defund, repeal, and replace. That's what we're doing when it comes to ObamaCare. Indeed, that's what the American people want. They continue to tell us that they want protections from the harmful impact of ObamaCare and they want to make certain that we keep the Federal Government open.

The House has passed legislation that controls spending, defunds ObamaCare, and prevents a government shutdown. House Republicans are leading the fight to control spending, stop ObamaCare, and protect hardworking Americans. It's time for the Senate to join us.

Here's a great example of the harmful effects of ObamaCare:

In Nashville, Tennessee, a 27-year-old young man who's a nonsmoker currently pays $41 a month for health insurance. Under ObamaCare, guess what? That premium goes to $114 per month. Forty-one dollars versus $114 per month? That's the impact and the effect of ObamaCare.

HONORING JENSEN RANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jensen Ranch Elementary School from Castro Valley, California, in my congressional district, which was recently named as a 2013 National Blue Ribbon School by the Department of Education. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools for overall academic excellence or improved performance.

Two representatives from Jensen Ranch have been invited to travel to Washington, D.C., in November for the

recognition ceremony, where they will receive a National Blue Ribbon School plaque and flag to proudly display at their school. Jensen Ranch is just one of 15 California schools recognized with this prestigious award.

Led by Principal Melodie Stibich, Jensen Ranch has been actively working to integrate new technology into the classroom and has implemented early intervention programs for students who are struggling to read and write. Jensen Ranch's commitment to providing a top-notch education program will help its students learn, grow, and thrive in our communities.

Congratulations again to the teachers, administrators, parents, and students that helped Jensen Ranch achieve this well-deserved award.

HONORING SERGEANT EINAR H. INGMAN, JR.

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

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the valiant service of one of Wisconsin's war heroes, Einar H. Ingman, Jr., of Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Sergeant Ingman was awarded the Medal of Honor for his outstanding bravery and courage, going above and beyond the call of duty.

While serving in the Korean war, members of then-Corporal Ingman's company were pinned down by enemy fire. Corporal Ingman proceeded to charge the enemy's machine gun position by himself. After single-handedly disabling the enemy's first position with only a grenade and rifle fire, Corporal Ingman charged their second position and was seriously injured. Nevertheless, with incredible courage and stamina, Corporal Ingman rose and took out the enemy's entire gun squad, using only his rifle, before he fell unconscious because of his wounds. As a result of his actions, the defense of the enemy was broken and more than 100 hostile troops abandoned their positions and fled in disorganized retreat.

It's for his courage and unwavering devotion and duty to country that I stand here today to honor the service of Sergeant Einar Ingman.

Sir, your country is proud and grateful.

SAFE CLIMATE

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to say the evidence is clear that the Earth's climate is changing and that human actions are the primary cause.

Climate change is not something that can be addressed at the last minute. We're governing by crisis with the continuing resolution, the debt ceiling, and the farm bill. This Congress has failed to act or even consider legislation related to climate change because this Congress is stuck in a last-minute way of thinking. Governing by crisis makes it nearly impossible to undertake those actions that require a long-term perspective—those things that are important but not recognized as an immediate crisis.

But climate change is immediate. And it is a crisis. Just ask the victims of the droughts, floods, wildfires, and superstorms that are costing American lives and dollars. Ask the victims if this is a crisis. To start dealing with this crisis, we should stop emitting greenhouse gases and wean ourselves from fossil fuels.

''HATE'' IS A STRONG WORD

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, ''hate'' is a strong word that's usually meant to provoke a negative response, which is why it's so troubling when a decades-old, multibillion-dollar activist organization uses its power to smear other organizations with the label ''hate group.'' But that's exactly what the Southern Poverty Law Center does.

On its Web site, you'll find a hate map pinpointing groups like the American Family Association and the Family Research Council. The Southern Poverty Law Center does not agree with AFA or FRC on traditional marriage. And that's appropriate; that's their choice; that's their right. But rather than supporting the First Amendment rights of those groups to express their deeply held moral beliefs, SPLC brands them right alongside organizations that promote race-based violence.

Last week, a man was sentenced to 25 years in jail after he found the Family Research Council headquarters on SPLC's hate map and went there with a gun, hoping to kill as many FRC employees as possible.

Words do have consequences. It's time the Southern Poverty Law Center stop using whatever influence it has left to incite hatred towards people of faith.

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, for the past 5 years, I have been working to try and help keep the promise we made to Iraqis and Afghans who helped our soldiers in those battles that we will protect them as we leave. Because they helped America, their lives are in great peril to people who have long memories and who hate America.

The Special Immigrant Visa program that would allow them to come to the United States is a mess. It doesn't work very well. It's slow and convoluted. But now it's going to expire in 5 days.

We have a no-cost solution to at least allow the program to continue to limp along; but the House Judiciary Committee, despite broad bipartisan support for this no-cost, simple solution, has refused so far to be able to move it forward.

Every Member of the House should insist that we keep our obligation to these people who helped our soldiers and be able to protect them and their families. It's our moral obligation. I strongly urge each Member to make their views known.

NCAA SANCTIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in July of 2012, the National College Athletic Association bypassed its own enforcement rules and procedures and rescinded 40 academic scholarships from the Pennsylvania State University. The decision disqualified student athletes—academic achievers—who had nothing to do with the tragic events that transpired at the university. The NCAA's decision was misdirected and a complete contradiction of the association's goal, which is to promote access to higher education among student athletes.

This Monday, the NCAA announced that it would gradually restore the scholarships that were wrongly revoked last year. Despite this news, I stand by my initial correspondence with the NCAA suggesting the decision to take punitive action against past, present, and future students for an institutional failure and actions out of their hands was completely unjustified.

Mr. Speaker, the resilience of Penn State's students, alumni, the broader community, and especially the victims during this very challenging time has been nothing short of inspirational. I give my commitment to them to continue to push back against the arbitrary actions of the NCAA and will not back down until they correct their actions.

CAST A VOTE FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, for the last 21 hours we have heard a discourse on ''Green Eggs and Ham'' and a multitude of other commentary that spoke to the will of one person, but I believe America wants this body and the other body to stand on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

I rise to call upon this body to cast a vote for America. The soldiers that have left our soil and those who are still here, as well as their families,

need compensation. Medicare and Medicaid recipients need to have their benefits processed. We need clean air and clean water.

The Government of the United States is not frivolous or wasteful. The government is a rainy-day umbrella for those who suffer from all manner of devastation and disaster. I don't know about the thoughts of 21 hours, but I do know that I'm going to stand against a clouded and crowded continuing resolution.

Vote to keep the government open and let's start using ObamaCare on October 1. That's the American way. That's the vote for all of America, and that's the vote for the vulnerable who cannot speak for themselves.

AMERICAN SPIRIT

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, for the last few days, I have been in the southern district of New Mexico. I've had the opportunity to visit the devastation caused by the flooding in that area. We've seen houses that have been completely washed off their foundation and completely destroyed. We've had loss of life and livestock, even the ground and certain farms washed away, and the underlying roadbeds washed away 8- and 10-foot deep in some areas.

But in all of that, we see the inspirational actions of our first responders, volunteers, and people who came out and worked around the clock to provide help. In one instance, neighbors knew that a young couple was away from home so they took pickup trucks and unloaded their belongings and moved them to safety before the house washed off its foundation.

These are the things that make America great. These are the things that make New Mexico great. Any time we see calamity, we have the opportunity to see the other side of America, and it shines brightly.

WAITING FOR AN APOLOGY

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

Mr. STOCKMAN. Today, Mr. Speaker, a young man was sentenced because he listened to the propaganda of an organization that I consider a hate group. This group says: If you don't agree with us, if you don't follow the line, you deserve to be on our list. They listed the Family Research Council—godly people that have the sole purpose of reaching out to families.

Reading literature from the Southern Poverty Law Center, this young man took it upon himself to feel that the Family Research Council needed to be punished. He picked up a gun and went there to murder people whose greatest desire was to promote family values. As he unloaded his gun, someone stopped him.

Today, the man was sentenced. But to this day, we have not heard an apology from the Southern Poverty Law Center. We have not heard any words from them criticizing those actions. To this day, we don't hear any apologies or any cries for what that young man did.

The Southern Poverty Law Center continues to list an enemy list of anybody that disagrees with them politically. I'm waiting for their apology.

□ 1930

HYUNDAI HOPE ON WHEELS WORKING TO END PEDIATRIC CANCER

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the United States, a child is diagnosed with cancer every 36 minutes. Cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease for children under 15.

Now, each September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. I would just like to point out there is a program by Hyundai Motor America and Hyundai dealers. We have raised over $72 million in the fight against pediatric cancer. We have been able to turn back the clock, and at this time we can say that almost 85 percent of children diagnosed with this dreaded disease survive. So it is with great pride that I'm here this evening.

I would also like to point out that this past July, Hyundai Hope on Wheels awarded a $75,000 grant to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh at the University of Pittsburgh, which will help Dr. J. Anthony Graves continue his cancer therapies to treat children from the Third District of Pennsylvania and beyond.

DEFUND OBAMACARE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we've had August to hear from our constituents, and most of us have. And what we've been hearing is tragic. For every several hundred people that give us a story of how dramatically and badly their lives have been affected by ObamaCare, there is one or two that says: Hey, my 26-year-old got to be on our family insurance—not realizing Republicans had agreed to do that, would have done that, along with some preexisting condition fixes.

But ObamaCare is devastating families and individuals across America. It's bad for America. It's bad for people's health. It's going to prevent seniors from getting the help they need. It's time, when you know these things, to stand up and stand for the health and well-being of people and this economy.

Let's defund ObamaCare.

UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, which Secretary Kerry signed today at a U.N. ceremony on behalf of the United States.

My opposition and my colleagues' opposition is not a Republican agenda. It is the defense of all Americans' right as enshrined in our Constitution and in our Bill of Rights.

The Obama administration's participation in the Arms Trade Treaty has left a trail of broken promises, and all in the form of ''red lines'' this administration has laid out and later abandoned. I'd like to talk about a few of them right now.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit into the RECORD the State Department's Web page listing ''Key U.S. Redlines'' for the ATT.

KEY U.S. REDLINES

The Second Amendment to the Constitution must be upheld.

There will be no restrictions on civilian possession or trade of firearms otherwise permitted by law or protected by the U.S. Constitution.

There will be no dilution or diminishing of sovereign control over issues involving the private acquisition, ownership, or possession of firearms, which must remain matters of domestic law.

The U.S. will oppose provisions inconsistent with existing U.S. law or that would unduly interfere with our ability to import, export, or transfer arms in support of our, national security and foreign policy interests.

The international arms trade is a legitimate commercial activity, and otherwise lawful commercial trade in arms must not be unduly hindered.

There will be no requirement for reporting on or marking and tracing of ammunition or explosives.

There will be no lowering of current international standards.

Existing nonproliferation and export control regimes must not be undermined.

The ATT negotiations must have consensus decision making to allow us to protect U.S. equities.

There will be no mandate for an international body to enforce an ATT.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Now, one of those red lines says: ''The Second Amendment to the Constitution

must be upheld.'' But the Treaty contains only a weak, nonbinding reference to civilian ownership and fails to uphold the fundamental, individual right to keep and to bear arms that is enshrined in our Second Amendment.

Furthermore, the Treaty encourages nations to collect the identities of owners of imported firearms. It creates the core of a national gun registry. This violates existing U.S. law.

But it doesn't stop there. The Arms Trade Treaty requires nations to report the data they collect to the United Nations. If this data contains information on individual owners, it would constitute a serious, dangerous privacy violation. Now, it sounds like this administration doesn't take this Second Amendment red line very seriously.

Another red line says: ''The ATT negotiations must have consensus decisionmaking to allow us to protect U.S. equities.'' Now, in the U.N., ''consensus'' means unanimity—all members on board in totality. But when that failed, the Obama administration supported the ATT's adoption by a simple majority rule vote in the United Nations General Assembly. The administration broke its own most important red line.

Now, the U.S. regularly demands that negotiations be conducted by consensus to protect our interests and our sovereignty, which is critical when the U.S. is in the minority or when we are standing alone at the U.N. Now, by breaking their own red line, this administration has seriously reduced U.S. credibility because other countries now know that if they push hard enough, America will accept a majority rule vote.

In February 2010, Under Secretary of State Ellen Tauscher stated if the whole world does not sign on, then the ATT is ''less than useless.'' A number of key nation-states—including such stalwarts of freedom and liberty as Russia, China, and others like India, Indonesia, Iran and North Korea, among many others—do not support the Arms Trade Treaty. Therefore, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty is less than useless.

Is the ATT less than useless, or is consensus just another red line that the Obama administration doesn't take very seriously.

Today, Secretary Kerry said: ''This treaty will not diminish anyone's freedom.'' Here is yet but another promise. Do we really think it's credible?

Last month, the Obama administration took executive action to ban the import of Korean War-era, vintage, collectible M–1 Garand rifles on spurious public safety grounds. These are collectors' items. This shows how this administration's action can be used to choke off firearms imports.

The United Nations Arms Trade Treaty will only encourage more mischief. It only holds the good accountable and let's the bad do what they want.

In the real world, promises do matter. We have made strategic, moral, and legal commitments to provide arms to key allies such as the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the State of Israel. What do these promises really mean to President Obama? And what message does the ATT send to our allies? And they wonder: Is America really there for us when we need them, or is this just more talk, more empty words?

The American people have had enough of the Obama administration's broken promises and phony, nonexistent red lines on ATT. I urge my colleagues to join together to oppose the ATT.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the gentleman, my friend, a great defender of the United States Constitution, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

This is a very troubling day—very troubling day—for those of us who believe in our freedom in America and our rights under the Constitution and every day defend America's sovereignty.

Oregon's Second Congressional District is nearly 70,000 square miles. That's a lot of ground. It's home to some of the best hunting in the West, including mule deer, elk, cougar, bighorn sheep and antelope, in addition to various waterfowl and upland birds.

Oregonians' proud heritage of hunting and owning firearms for sport, protection and their livelihood dates back to the days of the Oregon Trail—a trail my ancestors crossed in 1845 when they helped settle the West.

As one hunter in Baker City, Oregon, told me earlier this year, he said: Congressman, you know why they call this the Second District? It's because we believe in our Second Amendment rights. And he's right. Yet today, about 10 hours ago, Secretary of State John Kerry signed a very vague U.N. treaty that leaves open the door to international influences trampling on our Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms. And it encourages signatory nations to collect identities of owners of imported firearms, setting the stage for a potential national gun registry. And that is wrong.

The United States is a sovereign Nation. I strongly believe that our Constitution—including our Second Amendment rights—must never be subjugated by a treaty. Now, what's worse, we understand the administration that signed this treaty may now never send it to the Senate for consideration. I view that as another blatant attempt by the Obama administration to act unilaterally—they seem to do a lot of that these days—without the consent or the approval of Congress.

So I will strongly oppose not only this treaty, but also any funding to implement any policy related to this treaty. And I will continue to uphold the oath of office that each one of us in this Chamber took to defend our rights and freedoms as enshrined in that great document, the Constitution, and to make sure that our Constitution and our sovereign rights are always above any foreign treaty, including one that never even gets sent to the Senate.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I now yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Thank you, Congressman KELLY, for hosting this important hour to share with the American people the serious problems with the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, as cochairman of the House Sovereignty Caucus, I assure you this ambiguous treaty poses serious threats to American national security, foreign policy, and economic interests, as well as our constitutional rights.

U.S. arms exports are among the safest in the world. The United States should reject the U.N.'s attempt to force us into a system that could jeopardize the safety of our citizens or those of our allies.

This treaty includes small arms and light weapons within its scope, which covers firearms owned by law-abiding Americans. It sets up a broad registration scheme that threatens the individual's firearms rights.

The Arms Trade Treaty also threatens the ability of the U.S. to protect our allies around the world since it contains questionable language that could be misused to prevent America from arming allies such as Israel or Taiwan.

President Obama knows that even members of his own party won't support this treaty in many cases. He must think that gun control must be pursued no matter what.

In my own State of Colorado, voters just recalled two State Senators who pushed gun control against the wishes of their voters. These were historic elections because no Colorado legislator had ever been recalled in the history of the State.

I urge the Members of the Senate to reject this treaty and protect our Second Amendment rights and our national sovereignty.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank my friend.

I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the dangerous U.N. Arms Trade Treaty, which was signed this morning by Secretary Kerry. This treaty will impact the United States' sovereignty, encroach upon Second Amendment rights, and drastically affect U.S. foreign and export policies.

It is common for a treaty of this kind to give definitions directly so member states can understand the treaty's meanings and implications. Instead, this agreement uses vague terms that are open for reinterpretation later. It leaves open the opportunity for current

restrictions to be tightened at a later time. This has the potential of heavily influencing our Nation's future policy without congressional consideration or approval.

Our Second Amendment liberties, articulated in the Bill of Rights, are put at significant risk by this treaty. Approximately one-third of the domestic gun market is composed of imported firearms. The Arms Trade Treaty encourages nations to collect the identities of the owners of imported firearms. This could be the beginning of a national gun registry, which would violate current U.S. law. The treaty would also impose administrative burdens on the import and export of small arms.

This treaty would directly affect how the U.S. handles foreign policy. The United States should be able to look into potential arms sales by weighing the risks, potential outcomes, and goals of each trade. Under the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty, the U.S. would have to complete a checklist of items before exporting arms, regardless of their destination—even if that destination is Israel or Taiwan.

It will come as no surprise that the Arms Trade Treaty is not being backed by Russia, China, India, Iran, North Korea, and numerous other nations—many of whom do not have our best interests in mind.

In February 2010, this was called ''less than useless'' if not supported by all nations. Why is this administration now locking the United States into a treaty that other world powers have rejected? Their unilateral decision to sign the treaty allows other nations to trade arms knowing that the U.S. will be bound by a specific set of rules.

Like the majority of the folks in Georgia's Ninth District, I cannot understand why this administration would sign a treaty with such drastic implications for our Nation's sovereignty and the right to bear arms at home. The United States should not join treaties outside the constitutionally prescribed process, which involves ratification by the Senate—this is a concept this administration just amazingly seems to not understand, especially from a constitutional law professor.

There is a reason the Constitution dictates the method and manner by which the United States may enter into treaties: it is to ensure that the treaties so harmful to our freedoms, such as this Arms Trade Treaty, are never signed or ratified.

□ 1945

I strongly oppose this administration's endorsement of the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty and will work with my colleagues to prevent this agreement from affecting the rights of our citizens. The executive branch does not and should not possess a blank check to legislate domestically via international treaties.

There is no treaty so important that it should be allowed to restrict the rights of Americans to exercise those freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. The right to keep and bear arms is not dependent on a global agreement. We don't need Russia and China giving their stamp of approval in order to speak freely in our homes and in our churches. We certainly don't need Iran and North Korea dictating our due process rights.

I strongly oppose the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty and everything it stands for. I do not and will not support the decision made by Secretary Kerry to sign the treaty.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his tireless leadership on this issue and hosting this Special Order tonight.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I now would like to yield to my friend from North Carolina, Mr. RICHARD HUDSON.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to join my colleagues to voice my strongest opposition to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty currently before the United Nations.

First and foremost, by signing this overreaching treaty, the administration is crippling one of our most fundamental rights: the Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms. The Second Amendment is our most fundamental right because it ensures that we can maintain our other rights.

Second, by their own admission, the President and his administration have said this vague treaty is difficult to interpret. Why would we engage in an ambiguous and harmful agreement like this?

Finally, the President's own State Department said this treaty will have international implications for U.S. arms sales to Israel and Taiwan. Why would we engage in an agreement that would damage our relationships with two of our strongest allies and give veto power over decisions to sell arms to our allies to other nations around the world?

Mr. Speaker, I spent the past weekend in a deer stand and cannot imagine allowing the laws of other countries to stop my ability and the ability of other Americans from enjoying this tradition that I've enjoyed my entire life. The people I represent in North Carolina can't understand why this administration is seeking to damage our personal liberty and the sovereignty of our great Nation.

We must oppose this treaty, and I encourage our colleagues in the Senate to do the same.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina. Your comments are very timely and very needed.

At this time, I would like to have Mr. STEVE STOCKMAN from Texas 36 address the situation.

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am appalled. Our friend said Republicans are in the bedroom, but we have a President who is collecting our phone records, collecting our medical records, and now wants to collect our gun records. Where in the world and when do we say stop? Even our friends in the media, he collected their records. Now we have a treaty, so-called treaty, which stomps on our individual rights, undermines our Constitution, and strips us of any kind of protection.

They said don't worry about it, the Senate will never ratify it. But in a tradition of treaties, once a treaty is signed—once a treaty is signed—our Nation typically follows that treaty. We are seeing before us a President who is not listening to the people. Time and time again, these actions are taken when there is—like a magician, he is over here, focusing over here, and he did this today when a Texas Senator was speaking.

This is all designed for us to be asleep while our rights are being stripped. When are the American people going to wake up and realize that the book ''1984'' has come about? Your rights are being stripped, and I hear nothing. My friend, Bill Murray, who is an unwilling participant in a lawsuit to take prayer out of schools, said it best. His mother was an atheist who sued. He said the greatest fear that she had was that the American people would rise up, but what happened was nothing. Not a word was said.

Today, your rights were stripped, and we hear silence. It reminds me when Jesus was praying and he turned to his disciples and they fell asleep; there was silence. Go on and sleep, America, go on and sleep. Your rights are being stripped, and you're saying nothing.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

At this time, I would like to yield to JIM BRIDENSTINE, who represents Oklahoma 51.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman KELLY from Pennsylvania, for yielding me the time. I would also like to thank my good friend, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, JIM INHOFE, who has been the upper Chamber's fiercest opponent of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. I am proud that Senator INHOFE also stands firmly with Senator CRUZ in his fight to defund ObamaCare. There seems to be some confusion about that back in Oklahoma, but he has been standing with Senator CRUZ from the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, already this year, the President tried to ban guns he thinks look scary. They don't operate any differently—they just look scary—so he tried to ban them.

Rejected by Congress, the President tried to create what is effectively a national gun registry. The American people and their representatives rejected that plan as well. In response, President Obama today had his Secretary of State sign what is effectively an international gun control treaty that will ultimately force all of us to register our guns and our names and our information into an international database.

President Obama once again demonstrated his hostility to the Constitution, to the Second Amendment, and to the U.S. sovereignty by signing the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty. This President is fundamentally antagonistic toward both our constitutional right to keep and bear arms and American independence from international bodies.

Why is the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty so dangerous? First, the treaty is ambiguously worded. Its basic terms are not even defined, which permits gun-grabbing U.N. bureaucrats the widest possible interpretive scope. We all know that the U.N. gun-grabbers will interpret this treaty just as loosely as the President interprets the Constitution of the United States.

Second, the Arms Trade Treaty is a direct shot at the Second Amendment of the Constitution. Lawful ownership and use of firearms—including for self-defense—are basic constitutional rights. The treaty does not recognize this. In fact, the Arms Trade Treaty ''encourages governments to collect the identities of individual end users of imported firearms at the national level.'' This is the core of a national gun registry.

The treaty also creates a national ''responsibility'' to prevent the ''diversion'' of firearms to illegal trade. Since illicit trade is not defined, does this mean one American selling a gun to another American counts as illegal? Who is to say? Groups like Amnesty International have already stated that the Arms Trade Treaty is a ''start'' down the path of control for ''domestic internal gun sales.'' This is international gun control, plain and simple.

Mr. Speaker, the Arms Trade Treaty is fully consistent with the President's policy of ceding more U.S. sovereignty to international bodies. He's pushed the Senate to ratify treaties that do nothing except diminish U.S. sovereignty. These treaties include the U.N. Conventions on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, the Rights of Children, and the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Does this mean that the United States finds no morally compelling interest in protecting disabled persons, children, or women? Of course not. In each of these, cases U.S. domestic law imposes far higher standards of protection than many of the countries that have ratified all three of these treaties. For example, such beacons of human freedom as Cuba, China, Nigeria, Russia, and Syria have ratified all three of these treaties. North Korea and Iran have ratified two of the three. Unlike these countries, though, the United States actually upholds its treaty obligations.

Mr. Speaker, the Arms Trade Treaty is a perfect example of a dangerous trend in international legal thinking called ''transnationalism.'' The goal of transnationalists is to ''circumvent resistant legislatures'' and ''download'' so-called ''global norms.'' We've heard the President talk about global norms ad nauseam. But the idea is to circumvent resistant legislatures and download global norms into U.S. and other domestic law. Let me say that again: the transnationalists pushing the Arms Trade Treaty, like Amnesty International, want to avoid Congress, they want to avoid us—the people's representatives—and impose international law from foreign bodies.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the pro-Arms Trade Treaty supporters need a lesson in the U.S. Constitution. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. We choose those that govern us and under which laws we live. We should not give up our God-given rights and liberties to foreign bodies such as the United Nations. The Second Amendment is not up for debate. The individual right of Americans to keep and bear arms is not a matter of discussion for foreigners.

The President will treat the Arms Trade Treaty as binding on America no matter what the Senate does. He can't impose gun control in Congress so he's going to use an international treaty instead. I pray that the Senate rips this treaty to pieces and that our next President removes America's signature and, with it, this hideous assault on our Constitution.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Thank you, Mr. BRIDENSTINE.

At this time, I would like to yield to the Member from Mississippi 1, Mr. ALAN NUNNELEE.

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding, but also for his leadership on this important issue.

I rise in strong opposition to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

The Obama administration has a disturbing tendency to favor international regulation over American sovereignty. The Arms Trade Treaty is just the latest example.

The Government of the United States was created by ''we the people.'' ''We the people'' established the Constitution in order to limit that government; but as a condition of establishing that Constitution, ''we the people'' insisted that a Bill of Rights be adopted, a Bill of Rights that would guarantee every citizen of our Nation rights. An important plank in that Bill of Rights includes the right to keep and bear arms, and it's guaranteed by our Constitution.

Under no circumstances should we ever agree to a treaty that undermines that right. This Arms Trade Treaty encourages nations to collect the identities of owners of imported firearms, which constitutes the core of a national gun registry.

The treaty also requires nations to report the data they collect to the United Nations. If that data contains information on individual gun owners, it would be a serious violation of privacy.

The treaty could also restrict the ability of the United States to conduct foreign policy and to sell arms to our allies, such as Israel.

Now, we've seen in recent months what happens when we rely on the international community to act on America's interests. Russia, China, and the rest of the United Nations should never be given veto authority over American foreign policy; and we should never, ever subject the United States Constitution to the whims of the United Nations. The Second Amendment is sacred. We should always stand up and protect it.

That is why I strongly oppose the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and urge the United States Senate to reject it forthrightly.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from a number of Members tonight. I think this is a day that we really have to reflect back and look at mixed messages.

Back in 2009 at a NATO summit in Strasbourg, France, the President said:

> I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism.

Yesterday, the President stood in front of the United Nations and said:

> Some may disagree, but I believe America is exceptional, in part because we have shown a willingness through the sacrifice of blood and treasure to stand up not only for our own narrow interest, but for the interest of all.

I would just like to suggest to the President that ''integrity'' is defined by ''saying what you mean and meaning what you say.'' Taking a moment to express something that may or may not be the true core value of who you are or what you believe is not acceptable. What makes us truly exceptional as Americans is we are there every day in every way to those who we told we would be.

The U.S. has the most sophisticated arms export control system in the world. It has commonly been called the gold standard. That term ''gold standard'' was used by then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Yet this Arms Trade Treaty does nothing at all to improve our system.

□ 2000

We not only have laws on the export of arms; we actually enforce them. People can and regularly do go to jail for breaking those laws.

Now, the Arms Trade Treaty will not improve the systems in other countries, which, in many cases, actually have no systems at all. There is a lot more to running an effective arms export control system than simply signing a piece of paper and using your signature to express something that is not truly in your heart.

There is so much vagueness with this Arms Trade Treaty. Our regulations describing what we control are the most sophisticated in the world. It is really extremely difficult to evade them with word games. We mean what we say, and we say what we mean. It's just integrity. Simple. The Arms Trade Treaty, by contrast, is so vague that it

offers many opportunities for nations to claim they are complying with the treaty while really carrying on as normal. This has the effect of legitimizing the actions of bad actors.

We have a regular system for actually making the decisions about what we will export and to whom we will export. This system takes many things into account, but it is fundamentally based on upholding the United States' national interest. It is not controlled by exporters, unlike in Europe, where exporter interests actually dominate their policies. This Arms Trade Treaty will do nothing to change that, but it will give exporter-dominated nations a shield to hide behind.

Every nation-state can control the arms trade if it is truly willing to do so—and the United States is ready to help—but few have meaningful laws about the arms trade, and even fewer make any attempt to enforce them. The United States has two major programs to help the serious countries:

First, the Export Control and Related Border Security Assistance—and it goes by the term EXBS—is run from the State Department. The second is the Humanitarian Mine Action Program, HMA, which includes stockpile conventional munitions assistance, intended to assist in the disposal, demilitarization, security, and management of explosive stockpiles, which is run by the Department of Defense.

According to the State Department, the U.S. has contributed over $2 billion to reduce the harmful effects of illicit, indiscriminately used conventional weapons through the Conventional Weapons Destruction Program, which includes the HMA. In other words, the United States actually backs its words with money and investment, and we have made that attempt throughout the whole world.

Listen, our arms export control system is the gold standard of the world. We are not greedy with our gold. We are willing to share our practical knowledge with nation-states that are serious about arms export controls. Let us not fall for the fool's gold of a treaty that truly overpromises and underdelivers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to the Members of Congress from around the country who joined me tonight in this Special Order to oppose the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty.

I would ask the citizens of the United States, as Mr. STOCKMAN said, to please wake up. We are losing our country day by day in ways that we do not recognize, in ways that we do not know, and, truly, the sacrifice that this Nation has made over the years is of our 1.4 million men and women in uniform who have died to preserve those personal freedoms and liberties.

This is not a good day for the United States. This is a day when the United States lowered its expectations in its exceptionalism to something that does not truly protect the United States and that has a dire effect on our sovereignty as a Nation.

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, as a gun owner and lifetime member of the NRA, I support the Second Amendment and every individual's right to keep and bear arms.

But today, that right is threatened by the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. I am outraged by the administration's intention to sign this treaty—a treaty that directly attacks our Second Amendment rights through subversion and bureaucratic tricks.

How does the treaty do so, you ask? I'll name two . . .

First, this treaty is purposely ambiguous. It binds the United States to a treaty that has yet to be fully written. That means that only after signing will the treaty's fine points be written. Why are we signing onto a treaty when we don't know what's in it? How many times have the American people endured thousands of regulations written into a law only after it has been signed by the administration?

Second, and most offensive, is the treaty's encouragement to signing governments to collect the identities of the ultimate owners of imported firearms. This treaty appears to give the administration the cover it needs to start a gun registry—a gun registry that I'm sure they will claim is harmless.

For those and other reasons, I am disturbed by the consequences this treaty could have on America's Second Amendment rights. And many of my constituents back home in Texas share this same concern.

No government—be it foreign or domestic—should be allowed to infringe on our constitutional Second Amendment rights.

I remain strongly opposed to the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty. I will continue to work with my like–minded colleagues in the Senate to reject this or any future treaties that would seek to barter away our Second Amendment rights and outsource American sovereignty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through September 29 on account of attending to family acute medical care and hospitalization.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 26, 2013, 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:

3078. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's March 2013 Semi-Annual Report providing the progress toward destruction of the U.S. stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) deadline of April 29, 2012, but not later than December 31, 2017; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3079. A letter from the NACIQI Executive Director, Department of Education, transmitting the annual report of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity for Fiscal Year 2012, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1145(e); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3080. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3081. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment (Transmittal No. RSAT-13-3517); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3082. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses as required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3083. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), section 505(c) of the International Security and Deveopment Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the natioal emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3084. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3085. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2015, in accordance with Section 7(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3086. A letter from the Pricipal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Transforming Today's Vision Into Tomorrow's Reality''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3087. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations; Jacksonville Dragon Boat Festival; St. Johns River; Jacksonville, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0652] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3088. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Red Bull Flugtag Miami,

Biscayne Bay; Miami, FL [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0180] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3089. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; SFOBB Demolition Safety Zone, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0654] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3090. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Baltimore Harbor, Baltimore's Inner Harbor; Baltimore, MD [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0767] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3091. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation for Marine Event Hampton Bay Days Festival, Hampton River; Hampton VA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0732] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3092. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Perry 200 Fireworks, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0792] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3093. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tall Ships Erie 2013 Fireworks Show, Holland Street Pier, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0791] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3094. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; LK Events fireworks; Lake Michigan, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0737] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3095. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tiki Swim; Oceanside Harbor, Oceanside, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0641] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3096. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Swim Around Charleston, Charleston, SC [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0322] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3097. A letter from the Chair, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2015 budget request, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437d(d)(1); jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Appropriations, and Oversight and Government Reform.

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. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3095. A bill to ensure that any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of individuals operating commercial motor vehicles for sleep disorders is adopted pursuant to a rulemaking proceeding, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–225). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROYCE: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 2848. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–226). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1804. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress semiannual reports on the cost of foreign travel made by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (Rept. 113–227). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2374. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide protections for retail customers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–228, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 992. A bill to amend provisions in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act relating to Federal assistance for swaps entities (Rept. 113–229, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. LUCAS: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 992. A bill to amend provisions in section 716 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act relating to Federal assistance for swaps entities (Rept. 113–229, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Education and the Workforce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2374 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 3172. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of severe combat injuries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 3173. A bill to clarify that volunteers at a children's consignment events are not employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. POLIS, Mr. TIPTON, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. COFFMAN):

H.R. 3174. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to obligate funds for emergency relief projects arising from damage caused by severe weather events in 2013, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 3175. A bill making appropriations for fiscal year 2014 to ensure that members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components thereof, continue to receive pay and allowances for active service performed during a Government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. CHU, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H.R. 3176. A bill to reauthorize the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 3177. A bill to extend authorities related to global HIV/AIDS and to promote oversight of United States programs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 3178. A bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical or financial assistance to Hispanic-serving institutions for the establishment of historic preservation training and degree programs; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. GARCIA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENYART, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROONEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SALMON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. COLE, and Mr. RICHMOND):

H.R. 3179. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide a specific limited exemption from the overtime pay requirements of such Act for work related to disaster or catastrophe claims adjustment after a major disaster; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. PETERS of Michigan):

H.R. 3180. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include contracts and grants for residential care for veterans in the exception to the requirement that the Federal Government recover a portion of the value of certain projects; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 3181. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to clarify the treatment of administrative expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs during sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PETERS of California (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 3182. A bill to provide grants to construct transportation and supporting infrastructure improvements at existing and new international border crossings; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. JONES, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr.

LUETKEMEYER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARR, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FINCHER, and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 3183. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide consumers with a free annual disclosure of information the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection maintains on them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BARR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BARTON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LONG, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HARPER, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. SALMON, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. OLSON):

H.J. Res. 64. A joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.J. Res. 65. A joint resolution requiring reaffirmation of the Affordable Care Act and making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on 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. HASTINGS of Washington:

H. Res. 354. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 527, with an amendment; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. FARR, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. STIVERS):

H. Res. 355. A resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Corporation for National and Community Service; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JENKINS (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KIND, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H. Res. 356. A resolution recognizing that access to hospitals and other health care providers for patients in rural areas of the United States is essential to the survival and success of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H. Res. 357. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MAFFEI):

H. Res. 358. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 23, 2013, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MULVANEY, and Mr. SCALISE):

H. Res. 359. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that tax reform should jointly address corporate and pass-through entities in a fiscally responsible manner, and that reform should reduce the current tax rate differences between corporate and pass-through entities while maintaining adequate forms of organization for businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 3172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 (Clauses 1, 14, and 18), which grants Congress the power to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; to make rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; and to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas:

H.R. 3173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. GARDNER:

H.R. 3174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8; The Congress shall have a Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay for the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 3175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution specifically empowers Congress to ''raise and support Armies'' and ''provide and maintain a Navy.'' The bill appropriates funds to support our Armed Forces.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 3176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 3178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 3179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 3180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, this legislation is authorized by Congress' power to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 3181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, this legislation is authorized by Congress' power to ''provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. PETERS of California:

H.R. 3182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 3183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Because the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (commonly referred to as CFPB) is not a constitutional agency, it is in violation of Article I, Section 7; Article II, Section 2. To return some oversight of this illegal agency back to the People of the United States of America, the Constitutional authority citation is the Preamble of the Constitution and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.J. Res. 64.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.J. Res. 65.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 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. 32: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 50: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 127: Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FLORES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 146: Mr. RUNYAN.

H.R. 148: Mr. MORAN and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 182: Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 184: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 194: Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 217: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 274: Mr. LOEBSACK and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 337: Mr. O'ROURKE.
H.R. 351: Mr. BERA of California.
H.R. 366: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 435: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 495: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 521: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 562: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 574: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 627: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 647: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PETERS of California, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 669: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 685: Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. ESTY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. TERRY, Mr. COLE, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 695: Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 705: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 721: Mr. DENT and Mr. DAINES.
H.R. 853: Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 875: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 915: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 920: Mr. TONKO, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 921: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 924: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 962: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 980: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1010: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1078: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 1094: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1095: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1105: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 1146: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1148: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1173: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 1176: Mr. FARENTHOLD.
H.R. 1179: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1199: Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1250: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1263: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1274: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 1281: Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 1333: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 1339: Mr. TONKO and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 1354: Mr. GARCIA, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 1416: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1460: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 1518: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1563: Mr. TONKO and Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 1616: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 1620: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1630: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1666: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1692: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 1695: Mr. WELCH and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1697: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1725: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1732: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1750: Mr. FLEMING and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1780: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 1878: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1884: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1905: Ms. KUSTER, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1910: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1921: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2022: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 2023: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 2055: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 2087: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2101: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2130: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2199: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2241: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2288: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 2305: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 2328: Mr. BROUN of Georgia and Mr. STOCKMAN.
H.R. 2429: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 2485: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2495: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2500: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2504: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2510: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 2512: Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 2523: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. GARCIA.
H.R. 2561: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2575: Mr. COTTON and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 2591: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2633: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2638: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2643: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2682: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 2717: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 2728: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 2767: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BARR, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. HURT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. RADEL, Mr. COTTON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. BACHMANN, and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 2772: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 2776: Mr. COTTON.
H.R. 2794: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2809: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 2831: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2835: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2841: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. CHU, and Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 2866: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2870: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 2876: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H.R. 2907: Mr. TIERNEY and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2918: Mr. HANNA, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2920: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2928: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 2936: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2939: Mr. JEFFRIES and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2959: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2997: Mr. COTTON and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 3026: Mr. KING of Iowa and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 3043: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3045: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3067: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3073: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 3076: Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 3077: Mr. RENACCI and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 3080: Mr. PETRI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MICA, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. RADEL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 3082: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 3090: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESTY, Mr. ENYART, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3093: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 3095: Mr. HUELSKAMP, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 3098: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 3111: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3121: Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. YODER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 3123: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3150: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3154: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 3160: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. RIGELL.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H. Con. Res. 51: Mr. HOLDING.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H. Con. Res. 57: Mr. ENYART.
H. Res. 109: Mr. COTTON.
H. Res. 112: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H. Res. 190: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. CONYERS.
H. Res. 247: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 254: Mr. HIMES, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 301: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. YOUNG, of Florida.
H. Res. 348: Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H. Res. 350: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Mr. MULVANEY.
H. Res. 353: Mr. VELA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COLE, and Mr. JOYCE.