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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 22, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING 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 7, 2014, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

23 IN 1—HONDO

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, today, as we continue our journey through the 23rd District, I would like to travel to a small town some 40 miles west of San Antonio. That would be Hondo, Texas.

It is about 9.6 square miles of iconic America, and as you pass the city boundary, you are kindly reminded by a sign: ''This is God's country. Please don't drive through it like hell.'' That sign, erected by the local Lions Club in 1930, deters speeders. It has been featured on postcards; it has been the subject of many photos sent home by tourists; and it even made the cover of National Geographic magazine.

I remember that sign even as a little kid, long before I–10 was built and when Highway 90, through Hondo, was still the main thoroughfare—the east-west highway—from L.A. to Florida.

Actually, the original sign just read: ''This is God's country. Don't drive through it like hell,'' but as you might imagine, it was a somewhat controversial sign for the 1930s. So, finally, in the 1940s, the word ''please'' was added to soften the tone and to placate those in town who found the sign a bit too harsh. Today, some 84 years after its installation, that sign still serves as a not-so-subtle reminder to slow down and, perhaps, to take a breath from the everyday rush of life and enjoy the little things, like family and friends and God and country.

Though settled in 1891, the Hondo area, which is now located in Medina County, was first explored by Cabeza de Vaca in 1519, only some 27 years after Columbus arrived in the New World. It displaced Castroville as the county seat, and Hondo shares a place in history with the many early Americans who built this Nation through sheer sweat and determination.

With the construction of the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway, which was built through the county from the east in 1881, Hondo quickly transformed from a small, 25-resident settlement into a trade and shipping center for agriculture and ranching. Hondo was the scene of two bank robberies in the early 1920s. The crooks were the famed Newton Gang, the most successful outlaws in American history. Interestingly, both bank heists occurred on the same night.

Hondo, itself, was incorporated as a city in 1942, and at that time, Hondo applied for a U.S. Army air training facility to be built there. When our Nation was in need, they stepped up. The Hondo Army Airfield was constructed with local funding in 89 days, and it opened on July 4, 1942. The airfield would become the largest air navigation school in the world and would eventually train over 15,000 navigators to serve in World War II.

That airfield still exists, and though it is no longer affiliated with the U.S. military, today, it is a regional facility and is one of the busiest small commercial airports in Texas. Mayor James Danner and city leadership have done a phenomenal job of developing the airfield into a center of transportation and commerce. If your business needs a small airport near San Antonio and not too far from Eagle Ford Shale country, check out the airport in Hondo.

In addition, that airfield is home to one of the largest and most fun and entertaining air shows in Central Texas—and certainly the best air show in all of Congressional District 23. Each year, thousands of airplane enthusiasts descend on Hondo for the air show, which last year featured more than 20 or so World War II-era airplanes. Another feature of the air show was an exhibition called, ''Tora, Tora, Tora,'' a smaller but incredibly well-done reenactment of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, a reenactment which was done using these vintage airplanes. It is a great event to take your kids and your grandkids to.

Hondo is a town of living history as many of its residents are descendants of the original 25 settlers. It is a town not lost in the rush of everyday life, and like much of Texas' 23rd District, its connection and commitment to the U.S. military run deep through its veins.

I invite everyone to take a trip to Hondo and experience iconic America. Remember, this is God's country. Please don't drive through it like hell.

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AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am on the floor again to talk about the waste of American taxpayers' money in Afghanistan.

Just last week, we in the House Armed Services Committee heard testimony from Deputy Secretary of Defense Robert Work, along with other DOD officials, regarding the Department's request for an additional $58.6 billion to be used overseas, primarily in Afghanistan.

While speaking to Mr. Work, I mentioned the following three headlines, which, I believe, accurately describe the American situation in Afghanistan: the headline from CBS News, ''Is the Pentagon wasting taxpayer money in Afghanistan?''; from the Center for Public Integrity, ''The U.S. military was no match for Afghanistan's corruption''; then from the World Affairs Journal, ''Money Pit: The Monstrous Failure of U.S. Aid to Afghanistan.'' All of these reports detail a shocking misuse of the American taxpayers' dollar with little to no accountability.

My question to Mr. Work was this:

> How can the Pentagon, in good conscience, request this money given the waste, fraud, and abuse that we continue to see with American resources in Afghanistan?

Mr. Speaker, this is money that we could be using right here in America to care for our many wounded veterans, to rebuild our country, our schools, our roads, our infrastructure, and yet, every day, we continue to spend billions and billions overseas with, as I said earlier, just little accountability.

As my good friend Pat Buchanan has said: ''Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?'' Let me repeat that one more time: ''Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?''

I would even insert the word ''stupidity'' instead of ''senility,'' and it would sound this way: ''Is it not a symptom of stupidity to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?''

Mr. Speaker, beside me, I have a poster of a young Army soldier who lost both legs and an arm. This was from the front page of our Raleigh paper, Mr. Speaker—the News & Observer—about 5 years ago. Why do I have it on the floor today? Four weeks ago, I went to Walter Reed at Bethesda. I saw three Army soldiers from Fort Bragg, which is not in my district, but I chatted with them. All three had lost one leg in Afghanistan. My main purpose of going to Walter Reed was to see two marines from Camp Lejeune who had been severely wounded, but I thank God I had a chance to talk to the three soldiers and to thank them for their gift of their legs for our country.

As I went over to the young marine from Camp Lejeune, who was 23, he was like this soldier in the poster. The young marine had lost both legs and an arm. I looked in the face of his father, who probably was 50 or 51 years of age, and all I saw was pain and worry and trouble in the eyes of the father because, like this young soldier who had lost both legs and an arm, you can only hope the best for their futures.

The second marine I saw from Camp Lejeune had stepped on a 40-pound IED and had lost both legs. He has a wife—I did not meet her—and an 8-month-old baby girl whom I did not meet, but he was very proud of his wife and his child. I wonder what his future is going to be? I can only hope the best—that God will look after all of these men and women who have given so much for our country.

It brings me back to this, Mr. Speaker: Congress needs to have debates and to stop wasting money in Afghanistan, because it costs our soldiers and their families so much—the lives, the limbs—and there is nothing we have to show for it but pain and a waste of money.

May God bless America.

GENOCIDE

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the international legal definition of the crime of genocide is found in article II of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

It says:

> Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

I believe that what is happening to the Christian community in Iraq is genocide. I also believe that it is a ''crime against humanity.''

Last Thursday, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, more commonly referred to as ISIS, gave the few remaining Christians in Mosul until Saturday to leave or be killed.

From The New York Times, it reads:

> Some went on foot, their cars having been confiscated. Others rode bicycles or motor scooters. Few were able to take anything of value as militants seized their money and jewelry. Some—just a few because they were not healthy enough to flee—submitted to the demands that they convert to Islam to avoid being killed.

ISIS is systematically targeting Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq for extinction.

I will submit for the RECORD the complete article from The New York Times and an editorial from today's Wall Street Journal for history to see what is happening.

[From the New York Times, July 21, 2014]

CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR IRAQI CHRISTIANS FORCED BY MILITANTS TO FLEE MOSUL

BAGHDAD.—A day after Christians fled Mosul, the northern city controlled by Islamist extremists, under the threat of death, Muslims and Christians gathered under the same roof—a church roof—here on Sunday afternoon. By the time the piano player had finished the Iraqi national anthem, and before the prayers, Manhal Younis was crying.

''I can't feel my identity as an Iraqi Christian,'' she said, her three little daughters hanging at her side.

A Muslim woman sitting next to her in the pew reached out and whispered, ''You are the true original people here, and we are sorry for what has been done to you in the name of Islam.''

The warm scene here was an unusual counterpoint to the wider story of Iraq's unraveling, as Sunni militants with the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria gain territory and persecute anyone who does not adhere to their harsh version of Islamic law. On Saturday, to meet a deadline by the ISIS militants, most Christians in Mosul, a community almost as old as Christianity itself, left with little more than the clothes they were wearing.

The major players in the Iraq and Syria crisis are often both allies and antagonists, working together on one front on one day and at cross-purposes the next.

Some went on foot, their cars having been confiscated; others rode bicycles or motor scooters. Few were able to take anything of value, as militants seized their money and jewelry. Some—just a few, and because they were not healthy enough to flee—submitted to demands that they convert to Islam to avoid being killed.

''There are five Christian families who converted to Islam because they were threatened with death,'' said Younadim Kanna, a Christian and a member of Iraq's Parliament. ''They did so just to stay alive.''

On Sunday, outrage came from many corners of Iraq, and beyond.

In a public address, Pope Francis expressed his concern for the Christians of Mosul and other parts of the Middle East, ''where they have lived since the beginning of Christianity, together with their fellow citizens, offering a meaningful contribution to the good of society.''

He continued: ''Today, they are persecuted. Our brothers are persecuted and hunted away; they have to leave their homes without being allowed to take anything with them.''

Ban Ki-moon, the United Nations secretary general, released a statement condemning ''in the strongest terms the systematic persecution of minority populations in Iraq'' and particularly the threat against Christians.

And Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, who is struggling to remain in power as Iraq's political factions negotiate to form a new government, said Sunday, ''The atrocities perpetrated by ISIS against our Iraqi citizens, the Christians in Nineveh Province and the attacks on the churches and houses of worship in the areas that fall under their control, reveal without any doubt the terrorist and criminal nature of this extremist group that poses a dangerous threat to the humanity and the heritage and legacy that has been preserved over centuries.''

He called on the ''whole world to tighten the siege on those terrorists and stand as one force to confront them.'' That was perhaps a reference to the influx of foreign fighters into Iraq, many of whom have also fought in Syria's civil war. On Sunday, ISIS issued a

statement claiming responsibility for two suicide attacks in Baghdad on Saturday, and said that one had been carried out by a German citizen, and the other by a Syrian.

The gathering on Sunday at St. George Chaldean Church, built in 1964 and situated in a Shiite Muslim neighborhood, was as much about Iraqi solidarity as it was a gesture of condemnation for the persecution of Christians. In many ways Iraq's struggle today is the same as it has been since the country was founded nearly a century ago, at the end of World War I: how to establish a national identity larger than a particular faith or ethnicity.

In the pews Muslims and Christians alike held signs that read, ''I'm Iraqi. I'm Christian.'' Muhammad Aga, who organized the event over Facebook, spoke, and listed Iraq's many narrower identities: Christians, Arabs, Kurds, Shabaks, Turkmen, Yazidis, Sunnis and Shiites. ''All of those people who carry Iraqi identity,'' he said.

The church's patriarch, Louis Raphael Sako, said, ''I carry every Iraqi in my heart.''

After the service, two men, cousins in their 60s, stood in the church courtyard. They grew up in Mosul, and moved to Baghdad as teenagers. They have witnessed much of Iraq's traumatic history of coups, revolutions, wars and sectarian cleansing, and have stayed the whole time.

''You have to be angry,'' said Faiz Faraj, 65, a retired teacher. ''You must cry.''

But, he said, ''Iraqis have suffered for a long time, but this will pass.''

His 9-year-old granddaughter, Lana Fanar, recited at the service a poem written by a well-known Iraqi poet in 2006, as Iraq was in the grip of sectarian killings. Its words could be spoken of any of Iraq's previous traumas, or today:

''I cry for my country. I cry for Baghdad. I cry for the history and the glory days. I cry for the artists, for the water, for the trees. I cry for my religion. I cry for my beliefs.''

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 21, 2014]

THE CHRISTIAN PURGE FROM MOSUL

THE ISLAMIST ATTACKS ON NON-MUSLIMS ARE A PROBLEM FOR ISLAM

Imagine if a fundamentalist Christian sect captured the French city of Lyon and began a systematic purge of Muslims. Their mosques were destroyed, their crescents defaced, the Koran burned and then all Muslims forced to flee or face execution. Such an event would be unthinkable today, and if it did occur Pope Francis and all other Christian leaders would denounce it and support efforts by governments to stop it.

Yet that is essentially what is happening in reverse now in Mosul, as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham drives all signs of Christianity from the ancient city. Christians have lived in Mosul for nearly 2,000 years, but today they are reliving the Muslim religious wars of the Middle Ages.

They have been given a choice either to convert to Islam or flee. They were warned before a weekend deadline that if they remained and didn't convert, they would be killed. Thousands—often entire families—have had to leave the city with nothing more than their clothes as militants robbed them of money or jewelry. Crosses have been destroyed across the city.

That such violent bigotry in the name of religion can exist in the 21st century is hard for many in the Christian world to believe, but that is part of the West's problem. Jews know all too well that anti-Semitism can inspire murderous behavior. But Christians or post-Christian secularists who are content in their modern prosperity often prefer to turn their heads or blame all religions as equally intolerant.

Today's religious extremism is almost entirely Islamic. While ISIS's purge may be the most brutal, Islamists in Egypt have driven thousands of Coptic Christians from homes they've occupied for centuries. The same is true across the Muslim parts of Africa. This does not mean that all Muslims are extremists, but it does mean that all Muslims have an obligation to denounce and resist the extremists who murder or subjugate in the name of Allah. Too few imams living in the tolerant West will speak up against it.

As for the post-Christian West, most elites may now be nonbelievers. But a culture that fails to protect believers may eventually find that it lacks the self-belief to protect itself.

Mr. WOLF. With the exception of Israel, the Bible contains more references to the cities, regions, and nations of ancient Iraq than any other country. The patriarch Abraham came from a city in Iraq called Ur. Isaac's bride, Rebekah, came from northwest Iraq. Jacob spent 20 years in Iraq, and his sons—the 12 tribes of Israel—were born in northwest Iraq. A remarkable spiritual revival as told in the Book of Jonah occurred in Nineveh. The events of the Book of Esther took place in Iraq, as did the account of Daniel in the Lions' Den.

Monday's New York Times' piece also quotes a Muslim woman at a prayer service on Sunday at a church in Baghdad, whispering to a Christian woman sitting in the pew next to her: ''You are the true original people here. We are so sorry for what has been done to you in the name of Islam.''

On June 16, for the first time in 1,600 years, there was no mass said in Mosul.

Pope Francis on Sunday expressed concern about what was unfolding in Mosul and in other parts of the Middle East, noting that these communities since the beginning of Christianity have ''coexisted there alongside their fellow citizens, making a significant contribution to the good of society. Today, they are persecuted,'' the Pope said. ''Our brothers are persecuted. They are cast out. They are forced to leave their homes without having the chance to take anything with them.''

The United Nations released a statement attributed to Ban Ki-moon that, in part, said: ''The Secretary General reiterates that any systematic attack on the civilian population or segments of the civilian population because of their ethnic background, religious beliefs or faith may constitute a crime against humanity, for which those responsible must be held accountable.''

Where is the Obama administration?

In June, 55 Members of Congress—Republicans and Democrats—urged the Obama administration to actively engage with the Iraqi central government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to prioritize additional security support for especially vulnerable populations, notably Iraq's ancient Christian community, and provide emergency humanitarian assistance to these communities.

□ 1215

I want to read the last lines of our letter: ''Absent immediate action, we will most certainly witness the annihilation of an ancient faith community from the lands they have inhabited for centuries.''

It is happening, Mr. Speaker. They are almost all gone, just as we predicted.

The Obama administration has to make protecting this ancient community a priority. It needs to encourage the Kurds to do what they can to protect those fleeing ISIS and provide safe refuge.

It needs to ensure that, of the resources going to the region, a portion be guaranteed to help the Christian community. It needs to have the same courage as President Bush and former Secretary of State Colin Powell when they said genocide was taking place in Darfur.

The United Nations has a role too. It should immediately initiate proceedings in the International Criminal Court against ISIS for crimes against humanity.

The time to act is now.

IMMIGRATION TAKES AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the June jobs report says America's unemployment rate dropped to 6.1 percent. While 1,115,000 new part-time jobs were created, a staggering, 827,000 full-time jobs were lost, and America's labor participation rate remained at 62.8 percent, the worst since President Carter.

A recent Center for Immigration Studies report, based on data from the Census Bureau and Homeland Security and Labor Departments, offers a startling and sobering insight concerning people in the 16–65 age bracket, so startling that I instructed my staff to double-check the report's data, and it checked out as factually accurate.

First, the report determined the American economy created 5.6 million new jobs in the 16–65 age bracket over the past 14 years.

Second, ''the total number of working-age immigrants (legal and illegal) holding a job increased 5.7 million from 2000 to 2014, while declining 127,000 for American-born citizens.''

Over the past 14 years, although the American economy created 5.6 million net new jobs in the 16–65 age bracket, American-born citizens lost 127,000 jobs. All job gains, and more, went to immigrants.

Third, even though the American economy created 5.6 million net new jobs over the past 14 years, population growth and job losses caused 17 million more American citizens to not be working in 2014 than in 2000.

Fourth, and contrary to what amnesty proponents and their media allies would have you believe, ''Immigrants have made gains across the labor market, including lower-skilled jobs such

as maintenance, construction, and food services; middle-skilled jobs like office support and health care support; and higher-skilled jobs, including management, computers, and health care practitioners.''

Immigrants swept the jobs field and had jobs gains in virtually every segment of the American economy. The argument that immigrants only do jobs Americans won't do is not supported by the facts.

Immigrants gained jobs while Americans lost jobs in each of the following high paying industries: architecture and engineering; transportation and material moving; installation, maintenance, and repair; sales; construction and excavation; office and administrative support.

Fifth, Americans of all major races lost ground. Black Americans lost, Hispanic Americans lost, White Americans lost. The percentage of working Black American-born citizens dropped 9.2 percentage points. The percentage of working Hispanic Americans dropped 7.7 percentage points, and the percentage of working White Americans dropped 6.1 percentage points.

Sixth, America's immigration policies over the past 14 years have been both a war on women and a war on men. The percentage of working female American-born citizens dropped 5.5 percentage points, while male American-born citizens did even worse, dropping 9.1 percentage points.

Mr. Speaker, I have two comments on the Center for Immigration Studies report. First, lawful immigrants have done well. Everyone would do well to learn from lawful immigrants' work and study habits.

Second, President Obama must start vigorously enforcing America's immigration laws. A Pew Hispanic Center study determined that illegal aliens hold roughly 8 million jobs in America. That is 8 million job opportunities illegally taken from Americans, thereby suppressing wages, causing unemployment, and creating income inequality among far too many struggling American families.

Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for anyone else but me, but as for me, MO BROOKS, the Congressman from Alabama's Fifth Congressional District, I will fight for the economic interests of American citizens as Washington works its way through the immigration debate.

VETERANS' CLINICS IN THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge House and Senate conferees to send bipartisan veterans' legislation to the President's desk before we break for August. This legislation would authorize new community-based outpatient clinics for Lake Charles, Lafayette, and others around the country.

Our veterans have waited long enough. They have waited since 2008, and they have been blocked because of bureaucratic roadblocks. This is unacceptable. And now we are even closer to honoring this promise, because the House and Senate have passed legislation.

It is time to act on behalf of our veterans who have served this country. If Congress fails to act, we will continue forcing veterans to drive hours to Houston or Alexandria, Louisiana, for specialty care or even primary care or, even worse, they will be forced to go without care.

This is just unacceptable, and I will not stand until we get this legislation done. That is not the standard of care and accessibility these men and women deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman JEFF MILLER for his strong leadership on this issue. He has fought beside me and others to get these clinics.

I urge conferees to work together. Put veterans' medical care ahead of election-year politics, and let's get this done.

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 22 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. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

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

We ask Your special blessing upon the Members of this people's House. They face difficult decisions in difficult times, with many forces and interests demanding their attention.

Give them generosity to enter into their work. May they serve You in the work they do as You deserve; give of themselves and not count the cost; fight for what is best for our Nation and not count the political wounds; toil until their work is done and not seek to rest; and labor without seeking any reward, other than knowing that they are doing Your will and serving the people of this great Nation.

Bless them, O God, and be with them and with us all this day and every day to come. May all that is done 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 California (Mr. COSTA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COSTA 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.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF DEFENSE

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, each of us, as Americans, has a God-given right to defend ourselves. Those rights should apply to all people everywhere, including Israel.

I visited Israel last year and saw, firsthand, the life-and-death reality ordinary Israelis face every day. Prime Minister Netanyahu impressed upon us the very real possibility that Israel could cease to exist if it failed to respond forcefully to violence and threats from those that seek its destruction.

That is why I rise today to share my support for Israel's efforts to defend itself from the existential threat it faces from Hamas. History has shown that Israel has been America's most steadfast ally in a very dangerous part of the world.

Let's pray for peace and for the innocent lives lost on both sides of this conflict. But let's never waver from supporting our friend and ally, Israel, in its fight for freedom.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELI SETENCICH

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Eli Setencich, a captain in the American Army Air Corps during World War II, a journalist, and a friend to so many of us.

Eli was an unsung American hero, a veteran of America's Greatest Generation. Eli hardly ever discussed, nor did he brag about, his World War II experiences, like many of those who served at that time.

However, he flew 142 combat missions in P–49s during the war. Eli's amazing courage and heroism was recognized with two Distinguished Flying Cross awards.

When the war ended, like most American veterans of that era, Eli returned

to his hometown to begin his career, in this case, Sanger, California.

For 41 years, Eli worked for The Fresno Bee, a major paper in the West, first as a reporter, and then a columnist. His insightfulness and biting humor always made the point.

Eli was a mentor to many young writers and a friend to all who knew him. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Yvonne; his daughter, Amy; and his two grandchildren.

It is with great respect that I ask my colleagues of the United States House of Representatives to honor the life of Eli Setencich, a true American hero and a distinguished journalist.

CONGRESS SHOULD REPEAL OBAMACARE

(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, breaking news. This morning the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit upheld a challenge to the ObamaCare health insurance subsidies being granted in Federal exchanges.

So what does this mean?

The Affordable Care Act was written so that tax subsidies for insurance premiums were only allowed in State-based exchanges. But so far, 14 of the 50 States have set up State-based exchanges. Many others, including Texas, are in Federal fallback exchanges.

Today's ruling said that these States are getting subsidies illegally. This means that 7½ million people could potentially owe the Federal Government thousands of dollars that they would have to pay back.

Mr. Speaker, this law was a disaster from the start. It was a rough draft written in a Senate committee, came over here and was rubberstamped by the House, and then it went to rulemaking at the Federal agency.

So is it really any surprise that it is being dialed back by the courts?

Between this and the Hobby Lobby decision 2 weeks ago, it is clear that the drafting was all wrong, and 7½ million people are now paying the consequences.

OBAMACARE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today's D.C. Court of Appeals decision in Halbig v. Burwell held that the text of ObamaCare clearly ''makes tax credits available as a form of subsidy to individuals who purchase health insurance through exchanges established by the State.''

Since 36 States have declined to establish exchanges, and many policies offered in the Federal exchange are untenable without subsidy, this ruling creates more problems for the already catastrophic implementation of ObamaCare.

The poorly reasoned and partisan drafting of this law has led to massive hardship, disruption, and waste. I wish my colleagues across the aisle had worked with Republicans on sensible health care reforms that we could have passed, amended, and implemented on a bipartisan basis. But they chose not to do that, and today's ruling is yet more bitter fruit of that choice.

ObamaCare, as implemented, is dramatically at odds with ObamaCare as written and is, thus, at odds with the rule of law. I commend the court for recognizing this.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COUNCILMAN AL BRADLEY

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness to remember an outstanding public servant and a model citizen, and a good personal friend of mine, Orange Beach City Councilman Al Bradley.

Councilman Bradley, or Al, as he always asked to be called, passed away at the hospital in Foley, Alabama, on July 17 due to health complications. Al was 64 years old.

A native of Texas but a huge University of Alabama football fan, Al and his family and his wife, Linda, owned a house in Orange Beach, Alabama, since 1993.

He was a certified public accountant, and often was described as the financial rock of Orange Beach, serving as the chairman of the city's finance committee for 6 years.

But Al had a true servant's heart. I saw it myself. He put in more time and effort on things for Orange Beach than just about anyone I know, and he never sought any recognition in return.

So to his wife, Linda, his three children, his grandchildren, whom I know he loved very much, I want you to know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of thousands of people in southwest Alabama. We will miss Al very much.

CONDITIONS IN ISRAEL

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, in Israel right now, there is a battle for peace. They are being embattled by a group who teach their children, in the educational materials we help pay for, to hate Jews, to hate Israelis. They teach the people to hate Israelis as well. They name streets and holidays after people who kill innocent people.

It is time to cut off every dime of American money going to anyone who has any kind of relationship with Hamas or those killing in the Middle East, and especially in Israel.

It is time to bomb Iran's nuclear capabilities. It is time for the United States, if we are not going to stop Iran's nukes, then let Israel do it. A friend will not put another friend in this kind of jeopardy.

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

(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, this week, House Republicans are introducing tax bills that can change the lives of thousands of American families. The Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014 and the Student and Family Tax Simplification Act will directly impact American families.

Helping families pay for everyday costs is essential if we want to build a stronger America. This is how we do it, not through mandated health care or required taxes, but by cutting costs for those who need it most.

This is another example, another way that House Republicans are working for Americans. Americans are looking for us to bring change to them and bring hope to them, and this is how we can make it happen.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

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

□ 1504

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATTA) at 3 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON H. RES. 646, DIRECTING ATTORNEY GENERAL TO TRANSMIT EMAILS TO OR FROM LOIS LERNER BETWEEN JANUARY 2009 AND APRIL 2011

Mr. HOLDING, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–545) directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Justice that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). 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.

STELA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4572) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4572

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. No additional appropriations authorized.

TITLE I—COMMUNICATIONS PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Extension of authority.
Sec. 102. Retransmission consent negotiations.
Sec. 103. Delayed application of JSA attribution rule in case of waiver petition.
Sec. 104. Deletion or repositioning of stations during certain periods.
Sec. 105. Repeal of integration ban.
Sec. 106. Report on communications implications of statutory licensing modifications.
Sec. 107. Local network channel broadcast reports.
Sec. 108. Report on designated market areas.
Sec. 109. Definitions.

TITLE II—COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Reauthorization.
Sec. 202. Termination of license.

SEC. 2. NO ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out this Act, or the amendments made by this Act. This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized or appropriated.

TITLE I—COMMUNICATIONS PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.

Section 325(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking ''December 31, 2014'' and inserting ''December 31, 2019''; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking ''January 1, 2015'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2020''.

SEC. 102. RETRANSMISSION CONSENT NEGOTIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(3)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) prohibit a television broadcast station from coordinating negotiations or negotiating on a joint basis with another television broadcast station in the same local market (as defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code) to grant retransmission consent under this section to a multichannel video programming distributor, unless such stations are directly or indirectly under common de jure control permitted under the regulations of the Commission.''.

(b) MARGIN CORRECTION.—Section 325(b)(3)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(3)(C)) is further amended by moving the margin of clause (iii) 4 ems to the left.

(c) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 103. DELAYED APPLICATION OF JSA ATTRIBUTION RULE IN CASE OF WAIVER PETITION.

In the case of a party to a joint sales agreement (as defined in Note 2(k) to section 73.3555 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) that is in effect on the effective date of the amendment to Note 2(k)(2) to such section made by the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Report and Order adopted by the Commission on March 31, 2014 (FCC 14–28), and who, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submits to the Commission a petition for a waiver of the application to such agreement of the rule in such Note 2(k)(2) (as so amended), such party shall not be considered to be in violation of the ownership limitations of such section by reason of the application of such rule to such agreement until the later of—

(1) the date that is 18 months after the date on which the Commission denies such petition; or

(2) December 31, 2016.

SEC. 104. DELETION OR REPOSITIONING OF STATIONS DURING CERTAIN PERIODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 614(b)(9) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 534(b)(9)) is amended by striking the second sentence.

(b) REVISION OF RULES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall revise section 76.1601 of its rules (47 CFR 76.1601) and any note to such section by removing the prohibition against deletion or repositioning of a local commercial television station during a period in which major television ratings services measure the size of audiences of local television stations.

SEC. 105. REPEAL OF INTEGRATION BAN.

(a) NO FORCE OR EFFECT.—The second sentence of section 76.1204(a)(1) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, shall have no force or effect after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REMOVAL FROM RULES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall complete all actions necessary to remove the sentence described in subsection (a) from its rules.

SEC. 106. REPORT ON COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS OF STATUTORY LICENSING MODIFICATIONS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study that analyzes and evaluates the changes to the carriage requirements currently imposed on multichannel video programming distributors under the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and the regulations promulgated by the Commission that would be required or beneficial to consumers, and such other matters as the Comptroller General considers appropriate, if Congress implemented a phase-out of the current statutory licensing requirements set forth under sections 111, 119, and 122 of title 17, United States Code. Among other things, the study shall consider the impact such a phase-out and related changes to carriage requirements would have on consumer prices and access to programming.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including any recommendations for legislative or administrative actions. Such report shall also include a discussion of any differences between such results and the results of the study conducted under section 303 of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (124 Stat. 1255).

SEC. 107. LOCAL NETWORK CHANNEL BROADCAST REPORTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the 270th day after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on each succeeding anniversary of such 270th day, each satellite carrier shall submit an annual report to the Commission setting forth—

(A) each local market in which it—

(i) retransmits signals of 1 or more television broadcast stations with a community of license in that market;

(ii) has commenced providing such signals in the preceding 1-year period; and

(iii) has ceased to provide such signals in the preceding 1-year period; and

(B) detailed information regarding the use and potential use of satellite capacity for the retransmission of local signals in each local market.

(2) TERMINATION.—The requirement under paragraph (1) shall cease after each satellite carrier has submitted 5 reports under such paragraph.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms ''local market'' and ''satellite carrier'' have the meaning given such terms in section 339(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 339(d)); and

(2) the term ''television broadcast station'' has the meaning given such term in section 325(b)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(7)).

SEC. 108. REPORT ON DESIGNATED MARKET AREAS.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing an analysis of—

(1) the extent to which consumers in each local market (as defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code) have access to broadcast programming from television broadcast stations (as defined in section 325(b)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 325(b)(7))) located outside their local market, including through carriage by cable operators and satellite carriers of signals that are significantly viewed (within the meaning of section 340 of such Act (47 U.S.C. 340)); and

(2) whether there are technologically and economically feasible alternatives to the use of designated market areas (as defined in section 122(j) of title 17, United States Code) to define markets that would provide consumers with more programming options and the potential impact such alternatives could have on localism and on broadcast television locally, regionally, and nationally.

SEC. 109. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on

the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

TITLE II—COPYRIGHT PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. REAUTHORIZATION.

Chapter 1 of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(d)(3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''clause'' and inserting ''paragraph''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''clause'' and inserting ''paragraph''; and

(2) in section 119—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)(E), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2019''; and

(B) in subsection (e), by striking ''2014'' and inserting ''2019''.

SEC. 202. TERMINATION OF LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 119 of title 17, United States Code, as amended in section 201, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) TERMINATION OF LICENSE.—This section shall cease to be effective on December 31, 2019.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 107(a) of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (17 U.S.C. 119 note) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Today, we are offering a bill that will ensure that 1.5 million subscribers in hard-to-reach areas, including many in my home State of Oregon, will continue to receive vital news and information through the television. The STELA Reauthorization Act extends the copyright and retransmission consent provisions for distant signals retransmitted by commercial satellite providers for 5 years.

Our committee has worked hard on this bill. We have engaged members of industry and consumer groups, and we have talked about the difficult policy matters that affect all consumers when it comes to video programming. Every member of our committee, on both sides of the aisle, has engaged with industry and consumers to figure out the right policy and to get to the right outcome, which we bring to you today.

Our bill not only reauthorizes the compulsory copyright and retransmission exemption for 5 years, but it also targets and, in some areas, gives much-needed reforms to our communications law.

Specifically, this bill repeals the FCC's integration ban on cable-leased set-top boxes. That clears the way for innovation and investment by lifting an unnecessary regulatory burden that has cost the cable industry and its consumers who pay the $1 billion—$1 billion, Mr. Speaker—since 2007.

I especially want to thank my friend, the extraordinary, terrific vice chair of the Telecommunications Subcommittee, Mr. LATTA of Ohio, and my Democratic colleague from Texas, GENE GREEN, who brought this issue to our attention and helped us in this bipartisan lift to get rid of the integration ban.

Our bill also evens the playing field for cable operators and broadcasters during sweeps weeks by removing a government restriction on cable's ability to drop broadcast signals during the Nielsen sweeps.

Additionally, broadcast stations in a single market will no longer be able to negotiate jointly with pay-TV providers. Pay-TV subscribers will no longer have to worry about losing more than one signal should a programming distributor be unable to reach its retransmission consent agreement with a broadcast station.

These can be very contentious matters, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to say that the STELA Reauthorization Act is yet another example of working together, getting true bipartisanship, with support from all sectors of the communications industry.

This type of collaboration has long been the hallmark of our subcommittee and full committee, and I am pleased to see this legislative result. I can only urge the Senate to act swiftly and pass this bill into law before the end of the year.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act, a bill that allows satellite providers to continue to offer broadcast television programming to their subscribers.

Americans across the country will benefit from reauthorizing the expiring communications and copyright statute that allows satellite customers to have access to broadcast content, but it particularly benefits rural communities, a concern of many of us in this body. Folks from Vermont are going to benefit by this. They rely heavily on satellite for access to video programming.

The STELA Reauthorization Act is the work product of two committees, the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee. Because of the bill's complexity, both substantively and procedurally, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee held a series of hearings starting early last year to examine the various issues affecting our Nation's ever-evolving video marketplace. As a result, H.R. 4572 includes several targeted provisions designed to improve regulatory parity in the video marketplace.

One, the bill prohibits two noncommonly owned broadcasters from jointly negotiating for retransmission consent with cable and satellite companies.

Two, the bill also includes a compromise on the deadline for broadcasters to unwind certain joint sales agreements in an attempt to keep intact the FCC's local broadcast ownership rules.

The final provision we are voting on today strengthens the waiver process both for the broadcasters seeking to maintain their joint sales agreements, as well as for the FCC looking to streamline waiver applications.

In addition, the bill eliminates the FCC's integration ban for cable set-top boxes, a rule that was designed to help promote a retail market for cable set-top boxes that regrettably is not working as intended.

To allow independent manufacturers of set-top boxes a chance to compete, the FCC requires both cable companies and third-party set-top box manufacturers to rely on the same piece of technology to decrypt their signals, called the CableCARD.

Not only has this regime not resulted in the kind of competition Congress envisioned, energy experts told us that the CableCARD actually creates significant energy inefficiencies. So our bill takes this rule off the books, but does not place any forward-looking restrictions on the FCC's authority to continue to promote retail competition for set-top boxes.

These narrow changes only begin to scratch the surface of the broken video marketplace. In my view, Congress should revisit the entire video regime and update the corresponding laws to better represent the 21st century marketplace, to drive competition, and, most importantly, to provide more benefits to consumers.

The various stakeholders, from distributors to programmers to broadcasters and content providers, have all been able to reap financial rewards, as they should, in this video marketplace, but my concern and the concern of many of us is that the consumer has been left out of the equation.

They have paid, on average, twice the rate of inflation annually for cable over the past 20 years. I understand there are a lot of costs that go into the overall rate to consumers, but it is time for the consumers' concerns to be heard and responded to.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman WALDEN for working with Ranking Members WAXMAN and ESHOO and Democrats—thank you, gentlemen—on the bipartisan compromise on this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill today, but I do hope that this is only the beginning, and we can work together on a more comprehensive bill to address the broken aspects of the video marketplace.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the leader of our Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, the STELA Reauthorization Act is a very important piece of must-pass legislation that ensures that millions of satellite TV subscribers continue to receive broadcast TV programming from their chosen satellite provider.

The bill represents the best of what our committee does—work together to produce a bipartisan bill that does indeed strengthen our economy and streamline our laws for the innovation age.

In addition to extending the laws that permit satellite providers to bring broadcast signals to hard-to-reach customers, the bill also makes targeted reforms to our Nation's woefully outdated communications laws.

As our committee prepares for an updated Communications Act, these reforms are small examples of some of the deregulatory changes that we can make to spur investment and communications networks and promote competition.

□ 1515

The bill eliminates the costly cableCARD integration ban that has increased the cost of cable-leased set-top boxes and made them less energy efficient, evens the playing field for cable and satellite providers when it comes to protecting broadcast signals during Nielsen sweeps, brings fairness to retransmission consent negotiations by barring broadcast stations from jointly negotiating with programing distributors, and ensures that broadcasters who have had their business models upended by recent FCC actions indeed have adequate time to make the changes necessary to comply with the new rules.

This bill is good policy, and we hope that the Senate will take quick action to enact this must-pass law for the millions depending on satellite television.

I want to particularly thank Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chairman WALDEN from Oregon, Ranking Members HENRY WAXMAN and ANNA ESHOO, and our respective staffs for their bipartisan work from the start on this very important legislation.

I am proud of this product. As we work toward the Comm Act update to modernize our Nation's communications law for the innovation era, continued cooperation will be very critical to our success. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. WALDEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank the gentleman for his generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleague from New York (Mr. NADLER), rise in support of this bipartisan legislation for several reasons.

To begin with, section 119 of the Copyright Act expires on December 31. It is particularly important for unserved households, namely, customers who can't receive an over-the-air-signal of a local network. Thus, if Congress fails to act, millions of Americans stand to lose access to their broadcast television service.

H.R. 4572 responds to this problem, in pertinent part, by extending for 5 years the section 119 license authorization, thereby ensuring continued service to millions of Americans.

The other reason that I support this bill is that it is a good example of how Congress can work on a bipartisan basis and produce legislation offering effective solutions.

There are many issues regarding the relationship between broadcast television stations and distributors that would benefit from similar efforts by stakeholders working together to see if consensus can be obtained. In particular, I have long argued that content creators should be compensated appropriately for their works. Negotiations in the free market can often best ensure that artists and content creators are fairly compensated. In some cases, we have seen consumers pulled into the middle of such negotiations. No one wants this to happen. It is not good for consumers, nor is it good for the parties involved.

Finally, this legislation comports with two important guiding principles: consumers should be protected, and competition should be safeguarded.

All of us consumers benefit from increased competition because it typically facilitates lower prices, while also generating more innovation, variety, and options. Consumers want the flexibility to watch programming on their choice of television sets, phones, and tablets, no matter where they are.

We should also recognize that many consumers very much value local news and sports programming and the need for local channels to deliver community service and emergency information. Thus, we should continue to consider ways to increase programming options for subscribers to cable or satellite television.

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

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

Mr. CONYERS. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the House is considering joint Judiciary and Energy and Commerce Committee legislation to ensure that our rural constituents continue to have access to network channels on America's two satellite carriers.

Title II of the legislation extends the expiring section 119 copyright license for another 5 years, as this committee has done on previous occasions, most recently in 2010. This license ensures that when our constituents do not have access to a full complement of local network television stations, they can have access, through satellite television carriers, to distant network television stations. This helps ensure that consumers in rural areas, like my congressional district, have the same access to news and entertainment options that consumers in urban areas enjoy.

Without enactment of this legislation, many of our constituents would potentially lose access to certain networks altogether on December 31 when the current license expires. I would like to point out that, although numerous stakeholders interested in video issues have contacted the Judiciary Committee on a variety of issues, they all agree that this license should not expire at the end of this year.

Other issues of interest in this area will be the subject of further discussions as the Judiciary Committee continues its ongoing review of our Nation's copyright laws.

I want to express my appreciation to the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. UPTON, and the chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee, Mr. WALDEN, for their efforts on this reauthorization as well, and I look forward to continuing to work with them on this issue that is important to all of our constituents.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, as amended, which renews for another 5 years the statutory license that allows satellite providers to retransmit distance signals into a local broadcast area in certain circumstances.

The satellite distant-into-local license contained in section 119 of the Copyright Act is set to expire on December 31 of this year. Among other things, that license allows satellite carriers to provide an out-of-market station to customers who are not served by local television broadcasts.

Enacted in 1988 when the satellite industry was in its infancy, the section 119 license was intended to foster competition with the cable industry and also to increase service to unserved households, those subscribers who cannot receive an over-the-air signal of a local network. In 2010, as was the case on three prior occasions, Congress extended the section 119 license for another 5 years.

In granting cable and satellite providers the statutory right to retransmit copyrighted content at a government-regulated rate, Congress created an exception to the general rule that creators have exclusive rights to their works, including the right to determine when and how to distribute them.

This licensing system replaces the free market, something that we are generally reluctant to do. When we did so for cable and satellite providers, these industries were just starting up and the licenses were intended to encourage growth, foster competition, and enhance consumer access.

On these fronts, the system has been a tremendous success. It is estimated that nearly 90 percent of American households now subscribe to a pay-TV service provided by multichannel video programming distributors, in most cases, cable or satellite operators. Nearly all households have a choice of at least three different providers.

Nonetheless, the dramatic recent changes in marketplace dynamics, as well as technological advantages that revolutionize ways of distributing video content, raise legitimate questions about whether the statutory licensing system in the Copyright Act is still needed or should be changed.

I support this 5-year reauthorization of the section 119 distant-into-local satellite license. We still need answers as to how many households would actually lose one or more of the four major network channels if section 119 were not renewed. I, nonetheless, support this 5-year reauthorization because it will ensure that consumers who are receiving service by virtue of the section 119 license retain that service when the agreements providing for that service expire at the end of the year.

I hope we use the time afforded by this renewal to make the modifications to see if we have to keep the statutory license and keep away from the free market or modify the statutory license in the future. For the time being, we ought to extend it and renew this license now.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4572.

Mr. WALDEN. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the vice chair of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Mr. LATTA. I thank the gentleman, the chairman of the subcommittee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act.

For the last several months, Members of Congress have been earnestly engaged in collaborative discussions and a great deal of work regarding the reauthorization of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act. This must-pass legislation is key to ensuring that over 1.5 million consumers of satellite television service do not lose access to programming they rely on when the current measure is set to expire at the end of this year.

Through Chairmen UPTON'S and WALDEN'S thoughtful leadership, the STELA Reauthorization Act also includes a few discrete and narrow reforms to laws governing the video marketplace. These reforms represent a critical step forward in modernizing our communications laws to reflect the rapidly evolving, dynamic, and competitive communications marketplace we have today.

I am especially pleased that a provision from my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3196, with Congressman GENE GREEN was included in this measure to eliminate the current set-top box integration ban. Repealing this outmoded technological mandate will foster greater investment and innovation in the set-top box market but, more importantly, will help decrease the cost of delivery to consumers.

Since the FCC adopted the integration ban, we have seen a tremendous amount of progress and competition in the video marketplace organically developed outside the set-top box retail market, all absent government regulation. Now, given the myriad devices and means through which consumers can access video content, the integration ban is an unnecessary regulation that does not reflect the state of competition, technological advancements, or consumer demands of today.

The elimination of the integration ban, along with the few other targeted reforms included in STELA, underscores the bipartisan commitment to ensuring that our communication laws maximize the potential for investment, innovation, and consumer choice.

I once again commend Chairmen UPTON and WALDEN for their leadership in this effort.

Our priority in reauthorizing STELA has long been to ensure a continuity of service for satellite subscribers, and today's vote marks a critical step toward fulfilling that responsibility.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' and support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. LATTA and Mr. GREEN for their very good work in making a good bill better. I want to also salute Mr. UPTON and Mr. WALDEN for their good work, working closely in partnership with Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. ESHOO.

We have no further speakers, so I urge a ''yes'' vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Vermont for his kind words and his good work on this legislation. Certainly, I recognize our counterparts on the Democratic side, Mr. WAXMAN and Ms. ESHOO, who have worked tirelessly on this bill, as well as their staff: Shawn Chang, Margaret McCarthy, and David Grossman. Also, our staff, David Redl; my senior policy adviser, Ray Baum; and Grace Koh, all of whom have spent a lot of time working this through.

It seems interesting that we get to this point and it kind of goes naturally, but there is a lot of work that went in to getting it to this point. So I thank our staff and the Members who worked with us in a very good-spirited way.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to approve this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014.

Seventeen months ago, the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology embarked on a process to reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (STELA), a law ensuring that approximately 1.5 million satellite subscribers can continue accessing broadcast television signals. By reauthorizing STELA for a period of five years, H.R. 4572 ensures that these mostly rural households do not lose access to broadcast programming when the statute expires on December 31, 2014.

H.R. 4572 also offers several meaningful reforms to the video marketplace. First, the legislation ensures broadcasters cannot team up against pay-TV providers for leverage during retransmission consent negotiations. As retrans revenue is projected to rise to an estimated $7.6 billion by 2019, this provision is an important step toward rebalancing the playing field and ultimately protecting consumers from unacceptable blackouts and increased rates.

Second, the bill eliminates a provision dating back to the 1992 Cable Act which has prevented a cable operator from dropping a broadcast signal during a Nielsen ratings ''sweeps week.'' With no such prohibition for a broadcaster that pulls their signal during a retrans dispute, H.R. 4572 creates regulatory parity and ensures a more level playing field for cable operators and broadcasters.

Finally, while I support provisions intended to modernize the video marketplace, I continue to have deep concerns about repealing the cable set-top box integration ban prior to the industry-wide adoption of a successor to the CableCARD. With an eye to the future, we can fulfill a goal I set out to achieve nearly 20 years ago and that is to give consumers an alternative to renting a set-top box from their local cable company each month.

I thank Chairman UPTON and Chairman WALDEN for their leadership in bringing H.R. 4572 to the House floor and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4572, the STELA Reauthorization Act.

The Energy and Commerce Committee worked several months to put together this bipartisan legislation that will reauthorize the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act through the end of this decade. It is necessary that the House and Senate reauthorize STELA, which governs our nation's retransmission regulations, before it expires at the end of this year.

Included in this bipartisan bill is language that closely resembles legislation that I introduced with my Republican colleague, Rep. BOB LATTA, that will repeal the FCC's integration ban.

Once enacted, this provision will end the burdensome integration ban, which has cost

consumers and businesses over $1 billion since 2007 and has impeded innovation and energy efficiency.

Section 6 of this legislation is a surgical approach that will end this antiquated tech mandate while preserving FCC's authority in the retail set-top box market.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 4572 today. It balances the needs of competing stakeholders and most importantly, protecting what's in the best interest of the American people, while reauthorizing must-pass legislation and waiting for a more appropriate vehicle to address our nation's retransmission consent laws and regulations.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the STELA.

First, I would like to thank Chairman COBLE and Ranking Member NADLER for holding two Judiciary Committee hearings in the past year where we have examined the laws in the satellite television arena in Title 17 of the United States Code (U.S.C.), and related issues.

The relevant part of STELA expires at the end of the year but I am sure that those in the industry would have us do something before then and preferably before the lame duck session after November.

I would note the inclusion of a provision in this bill which some consumer groups find objectionable because it repeals the integration ban which deprives consumers of choice. This is from the Energy and Commerce Committee—though hopefully it will be worked out before the President signs—because consumers must not be deprived of choices.

And now that the Supreme Court has decided the Aereo case, we have another set of variables on the table.

I mention the Aereo case because it is the seminal case due to its timing but it also reminds us of how ephemeral our work can be in this Committee and this Congress.

Back in 1992 and through all of the other reauthorizations of STELA and the concurrent surge of innovation from the late 1990's until present day—who could have contemplated the existence of an Aereo, HULU, Netflix, or Pandora?

In doing so we are able to take a walk down the memory lane of analog and digital television, the role of cable and satellite providers, vis-à-vis their network partners.

It is useful to note that in the 18th Congressional District my constituents are able to avail themselves of DISH, Comcast, ATT, and even Phonoscope which I believe is one of the oldest in the nation and a Houston, Texas company since 1953.

In looking at these laws, we must note the role of the Copyright Office which released a widely-read report on the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act in August 2011 as ordered by the last reauthorization, and the GAO report which focused on consumer issues.

Americans from Houston, Texas, Chicago, New York, the Bay Area, and all across this great nation benefit from a broadcast system which consists of the laws which undergird the system, buffeted by the policy and practices by which transmitters, providers, artists, writers, musicians, and other creators of all stripes benefit.

The system stands on principles of balance and fairness which allow for continued innovation while not infringing on the property rights of others.

In my state, I see satellite dishes in urban and rural areas but it seems like a higher percentage of rural homes have DISH or DIRECTV than in the cities and towns. Is that an accurate observation and if so, why?

What is the justification for a 30 foot outdoor rooftop antenna being the standard for measuring whether a home can get a broadcaster over-the-air signal?

Who has 30 foot antennas on their rooftops these days? Can folks even go out and buy those and install them easily?

Shouldn't the standard reflect the consumer realities and be changed to a regular indoor antenna that can be picked up at most electronics stores?

What are the criteria for a household to be considered 'unserved'? Does the current definition of unserved households adequately account for those homes that do not receive over-the-air signals?

This will be the 6th reauthorization of STELA but to my knowledge there has never before been a discussion of these blackouts, because they simply didn't happen in the past like they do today. We've gone from zero blackouts to 12 in 2010 and now 127 in 2013.

Viewers in my state have experienced their fair share of blackouts and I stand with them in saying: we don't like them.

We must all agree that blackouts must stop.

The statutory framework for the retransmission of broadcast television signals has been based on a distinction between local and distant signals.

The signals of significantly viewed stations and the signals of in-state, out-of-market stations in the four states that satellite operators were allowed to import into orphan counties under the exceptions in SHVERA, originate outside the market into which they are imported; in that regard, they are distant signals and they have been subject to the Section 119 distant signal statutory copyright license.

Since significantly viewed stations and the "exception" stations can be presumed to be providing programming of local or state-wide interest to counties in particular local markets, arguably that content could be viewed as local to the counties into which they are imported and should be treated accordingly.

STELA modified the Copyright Act to treat those signals as local, moving the relevant provisions from Section 119 to Section 122.

If a broadcaster opts to negotiate a retransmission consent agreement, cable companies are no longer required to broadcast that signal pursuant to the must-carry requirement. Furthermore, if negotiations for retransmission consent fail, cable companies are not permitted to retransmit the broadcast signals that they have not been granted a license to retransmit. This is precisely what has happened in the dispute between Time Warner Cable and CBS Broadcasting.

My concern is that when retransmission consent negotiations fail, consumers often look to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to mediate the dispute. However, the FCC actually has very little authority over retransmission consent negotiations. The Communications Act requires that programming be offered on a non-discriminatory basis, and that the negotiations be conducted in good faith.

The FCC has the authority to enforce both of these requirements, but does not appear to have the authority to force the companies to reach an agreement, or the ability to order the companies to continue to provide programming to consumers who have lost access while the dispute is being resolved. Therefore, as was seen in the debacle that was the TWC-CBS negotiation, unless negotiations are not occurring in "good faith" the FCC has little power over retransmission consent agreements.

STELA clarified that a significantly viewed signal may only be provided in high definition format if the satellite carrier is passing through all of the high definition programming of the corresponding local station in high definition format as well; if the local station is not providing programming in high definition format, then the satellite operator is not restricted from providing the significantly viewed station's signal in high definition format.

Studying What the Impact Would Be If the Statutory Licensing System for Satellite and Cable Retransmission of Distant Broadcast Signals Were Eliminated

The United States Copyright Office has proposed that Congress abolish Sections 111 and 119 of the Copyright Law, arguing that the statutory licensing systems created by these provisions result in lower payments to copyright holders than would be made if compensation were left to market negotiations. According to the Copyright Office, the cable and satellite industries no longer are nascent entities in need of government subsidies, have substantial market power, and are able to negotiate private agreements with copyright owners for programming carried on distant broadcast signals.

Congress must have a role in the broadcasting space but whether that is doing away with compulsory licensing or becoming even more involved is what needs to be discussed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4572, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

SECURING ENERGY CRITICAL ELEMENTS AND AMERICAN JOBS ACT OF 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1022) to develop an energy critical elements program, to amend the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1022

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate Congressional committees'' means the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) CENTER.—The term ''Center'' means the Critical Materials Information Center established under section 102(b).

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Energy.

(4) ENERGY CRITICAL ELEMENT.—The term ''energy critical element'' means any of a class of chemical elements that have a high risk of a supply disruption and are critical to one or more new, energy-related technologies such that a shortage of such element would significantly inhibit large-scale deployment of technologies that produce, transmit, store, or conserve energy.

(5) HUB.—The term ''Hub'' means the Critical Materials Energy Innovation Hub authorized in section 102(a).

(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(7) PROGRAM.—The term ''program'' means the program authorized in section 101(a).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

TITLE I—ENERGY CRITICAL ELEMENTS

SEC. 101. ENERGY CRITICAL ELEMENTS PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized in the Department a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to assure the long-term, secure, and sustainable supply of energy critical elements sufficient to satisfy the national security, economic well-being, and industrial production needs of the United States. This program may be carried out primarily by the Critical Materials Energy Innovation Hub authorized in section 102(a).

(2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The program shall focus on areas that the private sector by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical and financial uncertainty and support activities to—

(A) improve methods for the extraction, processing, use, recovery, and recycling of energy critical elements;

(B) improve the understanding of the performance, processing, and adaptability in engineering designs using energy critical elements;

(C) identify and test alternative materials that can be substituted for energy critical elements and maintain or exceed current performance; and

(D) engineer and test applications that—

(i) use recycled energy critical elements;

(ii) use alternative materials; or

(iii) seek to minimize energy critical element content.

(3) EXPANDING PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall encourage multidisciplinary collaborations of participants, including opportunities for students at institutions of higher education.

(4) CONSISTENCY.—The program shall be consistent with the policies and programs in the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

(5) INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall collaborate, to the extent practicable, on activities of mutual interest with the relevant agencies of foreign countries with interests relating to energy critical elements.

(b) PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate Congressional committees a plan to carry out the program.

(2) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The plan required under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

(A) the research and development activities to be carried out by the program during the subsequent 2 years;

(B) the expected contributions of the program to the creation of innovative methods and technologies for the efficient and sustainable provision of energy critical elements to the domestic economy; and

(C) how the program is promoting the broadest possible participation by academic, industrial, and other contributors.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In preparing each plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with appropriate representatives of industry, institutions of higher education, Department of Energy national laboratories, professional and technical societies, other Federal agencies, and other entities, as determined by the Secretary.

(c) COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that the activities carried out under this title are coordinated with, and do not unnecessarily duplicate the efforts of, other programs within the Federal Government.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act the following sums:

(A) For fiscal year 2015, $25,000,000.

(B) For fiscal year 2016, $25,000,000.

(C) For fiscal year 2017, $25,000,000.

(D) For fiscal year 2018, $25,000,000.

(E) For fiscal year 2019, $25,000,000.

(2) Availability. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 102. CRITICAL MATERIALS ENERGY INNOVATION HUB.

(a) CRITICAL MATERIALS ENERGY INNOVATION HUB.—To carry out the program, the Secretary is authorized to maintain a Critical Materials Energy Innovation Hub.

(b) CRITICAL MATERIALS INFORMATION CENTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To collect, catalogue, disseminate, and archive information on energy critical elements, the Hub shall establish and maintain a Critical Materials Information Center.

(2) CENTER ACTIVITIES.—

(A) In general. The Center shall—

(i) serve as the repository for scientific and technical data generated by the research and development activities funded under this section;

(ii) assist scientists and engineers in making the fullest possible use of the Center's data holdings;

(iii) seek and incorporate other information on energy critical elements to enhance the Center's utility for program participants and other users;

(iv) provide advice to the Secretary concerning the program; and

(v) host conferences, at least annually, for participants in the program and other interested parties to promote information sharing and encourage new collaborative activities.

(B) RESTRICTION.—Not more than 2.5 percent of the amounts made available pursuant to this section may be used for hosting conferences under subparagraph (A)(v).

(c) REVIEW AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—An award made to operate the Hub shall be for a period not to exceed 5 years, after which the award may be renewed, subject to a rigorous merit review. A Hub already in existence on the date of enactment of this Act may continue to receive support for a period of 5 years beginning on the date of establishment of that Hub. Following this process, if the Secretary determines that award renewal for the Hub is justified, then the Secretary must submit a report to the appropriate Congressional committees at least 30 days prior to the award renewal which explains the Secretary's determination and describes the Department's review process.

(d) PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION.—No funds provided pursuant to this section may be used for construction of new buildings or facilities for the Hub. Construction of new buildings or facilities shall not be considered as part of the non-Federal share of a Hub costsharing agreement.

SEC. 103. SUPPLY OF ENERGY CRITICAL ELEMENTS.

The President, acting through the Critical Material Supply Chain Subcommittee of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability of the National Science and Technology Council, shall—

(1) coordinate the actions of applicable Federal agencies to promote an adequate and stable supply of energy critical elements necessary to maintain national security, economic well-being, and industrial production with appropriate attention to a long-term balance between resource production, energy use, a healthy environment, natural resources conservation, and social needs;

(2) identify energy critical elements and establish early warning systems for supply problems of energy critical elements;

(3) establish a mechanism for the coordination and evaluation of Federal programs with energy critical element needs, including Federal programs involving research and development, in a manner that complements related efforts carried out by the private sector and other domestic and international agencies and organizations;

(4) promote and encourage private enterprise in the development of an economically sound and stable domestic energy critical elements supply chain;

(5) promote and encourage the recycling of energy critical elements, taking into account the logistics, economic viability, environmental sustainability, and research and development needs for completing the recycling process;

(6) assess the need for and make recommendations concerning the availability and adequacy of the supply of technically trained personnel necessary for energy critical elements research, development, extraction, and industrial production, with a particular focus on the problem of attracting and maintaining high quality professionals for maintaining an adequate supply of energy critical elements; and

(7) report to the appropriate Congressional committees on activities and findings under this section.

TITLE II—NATIONAL MATERIALS AND MINERALS POLICY, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 201. AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL MATERIALS AND MINERALS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1980.

(a) PROGRAM PLAN.—Section 5 of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1604) is amended—

(1) by striking ''date of enactment of this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''date of enactment of the Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2014'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''Federal Coordinating Council for Science, Engineering, and Technology'' and inserting ''National Science and Technology Council'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''the Federal Emergency'' and all that follows through ''Agency, and'';

(B) by striking ''appropriate shall'' and inserting ''appropriate, shall'';

(C) by striking paragraph (1);

(D) in paragraph (2), by striking ''in the case'' and all that follows through ''subsection,'';

(E) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (1);

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

(G) by amending paragraph (2), as redesignated, to read as follows:

''(2) assess the adequacy and stability of the supply of materials necessary to maintain national security, economic well-being, and industrial production.'';

(4) by striking subsection (d); and

(5) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively.

(b) POLICY.—Section 3 of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1602) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The Congress declares that it'' and inserting ''It''; and

(2) by striking ''The Congress further declares that implementation'' and inserting ''Implementation''.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The matter before paragraph (1) of section 4 of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1603) is amended

(1) by striking ''For the purpose'' and all that follows through ''declares that the'' and inserting ''The''; and

(2) by striking ''departments and agencies,'' and inserting ''departments and agencies to implement the policies set forth in section 3''.

SEC. 202. REPEAL.

The National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1022, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1022, the Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2014, addresses the supply of energy critical elements in the United States.

I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), the ranking member of the Energy Subcommittee, for his diligent work on this legislation.

I also want to thank Mr. HULTGREN, who introduced his own critical elements bill in the last Congress, for his initiative on this subject.

Energy critical elements are important to energy-related technologies, communications technologies, and America's weapons systems. These technologies range from photovoltaic cells and fluorescent lighting to fiber optics, aircraft engines and turbines, computers, and electric vehicles. Energy critical elements encompass a broad set of the elements, including rare earth elements.

Growth in demand for rare earths in a volatile market warrants particular attention and concern. China currently produces more than 90 percent of the global supply of rare earths. This is a result of a deliberate and decades-long strategy to develop its geologic reserves, undercut market prices, and drive out competition. Testimony before the Science, Space, and Technology Committee indicated that China has manipulated the market in recent years. It has reduced its export quotas and increased levies on rare earth oxides. This has caused wild price swings, market instability, and supply uncertainty.

This behavior is a potential threat to the United States' ability to acquire many rare earths that both our energy sector and military rely upon. While a responsive market will continue to move towards solutions, there are reasonable and proper steps that the Federal Government can and should pursue in this area. These are reflected in this bipartisan bill.

This bill establishes a program under the Department of Energy that supports activities to improve the methods of extraction, use, and recycling of energy critical elements. It improves the understanding of performance, processing, and adaptability in the engineering of these elements, and it identifies and tests alternative materials that could replace energy critical elements. However, the legislation stipulates that the program shall only focus on areas where the private sector is unlikely to undertake these activities because of technical or financial uncertainty.

It also authorizes the Secretary of Energy to establish a Critical Materials Energy Innovation Hub that maintains a critical materials information center. This center collects, stores, and disseminates information on energy critical elements for scientists and researchers. In carrying out this program, the Secretary is directed to ensure that the activities are coordinated and do not duplicate other programs within the Federal Government.

Finally, the legislation requires the President, through the National Science and Technology Council, to coordinate the actions of involved Federal agencies. The administration also will identify and monitor the supply of energy critical elements, encourage private sector development, and promote the recycling of these elements.

This bill helps ensure that the United States remains globally and economically competitive and that our energy sector and military have the critical elements that they need.

Once again, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) for their efforts on this legislation.

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1022, the Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act of 2014.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH for working with me on this bill for over a year. We introduced this in March 2013. We have talked a number of times about this bill, and I appreciate the attention the majority staff has shown to get this bill to the floor. I also appreciate the work of our ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON, on the minority side, and that of Congressman HULTGREN, as well as the work of Mrs. LUMMIS, the chair of the Energy Subcommittee. We have truly worked in a bipartisan manner to move this bill to the floor.

Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that energy critical elements are crucial to powering our cell phones? to powering our airplanes and to producing renewable energy?

They include elements, many of which I never learned about in my chemistry class in high school, like cobalt, lanthanum, and helium. These elements are critical to the innovation economy and to our national defense, but here is the problem. Today, almost entirely all of them are imported from other countries like China. It is time to get America into the game.

I introduced this bill to help ensure that the United States continues to have access to materials that are essential to technologies we rely upon every day. These materials are also crucial to developing new technologies that will help make us leaders in the clean energy economy of the future, helping to create good jobs here in America.

I also want to note an important distinction from this bill and a bill that passed in the House in the 111th Congress in 2010. There are three big differences: one, this bill does not have any loan guarantees; two, this bill does not spend a single new dollar; and three, this bill does not create a new program. Those are important distinctions from the bill that passed in the 111th Congress.

Many Americans may not realize just how dependent we are upon energy critical elements. One of these elements, No. 3 on the periodic table and represented here on this poster, is lithium. The cell phones, laptops, and other mobile devices upon which we all greatly rely and use—not to mention the energy storage systems for many commercial aircraft—all require lithium to function effectively. To make

these products here in America and not cede leadership across the world, we need to have access to lithium.

We also can't lose sight of how important these elements are in enabling a new era of energy production and use. From advanced solar energy technologies to natural gas and wind turbines, nuclear reactors, and state-of-the-art batteries for electrical and hybrid vehicles, a series of specific elements in limited supply are currently irreplaceable, and we need to ensure continued access to them even as we work to develop substitute materials wherever possible.

It is not just about commercial products and explicit energy production. Rhenium, No. 75 on the periodic table, which is represented here on this poster, is used to make parts for jet engines, including the jets that provide America's air superiority for our Air Force and Navy. Having access to this metal, thus, has an important national security component.

A subset of these critical elements, with names like neodymium and terbium, is what are considered rare earth elements. Incidentally, there is nothing rare about these elements in the sense that they are only found in one or two places in the world but, rather, that, in many instances, they aren't found in sufficient quantities to make them minable and, where they are, doing so would be cost prohibitive and a very long-term endeavor.

As one example, I have a poster here representing terbium, No. 65 on the periodic table. It is a silvery metal. Most people probably have never heard of it, but it is used in high-efficiency lighting and, as exemplified on this poster, in wind turbines, among many other energy uses.

One country, China, has recognized the importance of these rare earth elements, and it has put vast amounts of resources into becoming the world's leading supplier of them. As a result, China is currently responsible for the mining and distribution of 97 percent of rare earth elements. Predictably, China hasn't been shy about using this monopoly as leverage against its international competitors. In fact, just a few years ago, China temporarily cut off rare earth supplies to Japan, the European Union, and the United States, further highlighting the potential consequences of relying so heavily upon a single nation for rare earth production and driving up the costs for American manufacturers.

The bipartisan version that we are discussing here today, H.R. 1022, provides a strong and sustainable path forward for helping ensure that the United States maintains a sufficient, reliable supply of energy critical elements. It explicitly authorizes in law the Critical Materials Energy Innovation Hub—a collaboration among national laboratories, universities, research institutes, and private companies that has been up and running since early last year—and subjects this hub to a rigorous merit review process prior to renewal for an additional 5 years. Essentially, there are tight controls in place to make sure we always have the oversight of this hub.

Let me pause here and emphasize this point as there seems to be some confusion. There are tight controls that will be in place in authorizing this hub. Again, I want to remind the Speaker that there are no new programs, no loan guarantees, and not a new dollar spent.

My bill requires the Department of Energy to develop and regularly update a strategic plan in this area, and it authorizes the hub to maintain a critical materials information center to aid in the collection and dissemination of data to ensure that all of our Nation's researchers in the public and private sectors have access to the most up-to-date information. Finally, my bill charges the National Science and Technology Council with ensuring the appropriate interagency coordination with research activities.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at this time, there are no other individuals on this side who wish to speak on this bill, so I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1022 and two other Science, Space, and Technology bills being considered today.

Earlier this year, all of my Democratic committee colleagues joined me in introducing H.R. 4159, the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2014. Two of the bills being considered today are similar or identical to provisions we included in our COMPETES bill, and the third bill similarly reflects a longstanding bipartisan effort, and I will speak briefly about each of the three bills.

First, I would like to speak in support of H.R. 1022, a bill that would authorize a research and development program to explore ways to sustain our supply of materials that is critical to a wide range of advanced energy technologies.

According to a recent study by the American Physical Society and the Materials Research Society, the U.S. is currently dependent on other countries for more than 90 percent of most of these types of materials. We are particularly dependent on China, which has demonstrated a willingness to at least temporarily cut off our supply of these energy critical elements in the recent past, so this bill is a timely contribution to our national, economic, and energy security.

I would like to thank my colleague and friend, Mr. SWALWELL, for introducing this important piece of legislation, as well as Chairman SMITH and his staff for working diligently with us to bring it to the floor today.

□ 1545

Next, I want to thank Mr. BUCSHON for introducing H.R. 5035, a bill to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

NIST is our Nation's oldest science agency and plays a very important role in U.S. innovation and competitiveness through advancing measurement science and providing unique measurement facilities to industry.

While we don't often think about measurement science, it is critically important. Anytime a technology is developed, measurement science is needed to ensure that the technology is working as intended and is compatible with existing systems. NIST plays a role in fields from bioscience to forensics to automobile safety technology.

NIST has also taken leadership roles in crosscutting Federal efforts in cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing.

H.R. 5035 reauthorizes and makes important updates to the program at NIST, including the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, which helps small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies create and retain American jobs.

My one concern with H.R. 5035 is the low authorization level. I hope that when this bill goes to conference with the Senate we can agree to give NIST an authorization level that allows it to fully realize its critical role in U.S. innovation and competitiveness. In the meantime, because the policy changes in this bill are good and important, I support it.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. KILMER for introducing H.R. 5120, a bill to provide important new tools to accelerate commercialization of new technologies developed by DOE laboratories and programs in partnership with the private sector.

This bill closely mirrors several critical provisions in the America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2014, as well as the Senate's bipartisan America INNOVATES Act sponsored by Senators COONS and RUBIO.

It also reflects a number of recommendations found in a recent report produced by the Center for American Progress, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, and The Heritage Foundation, three groups that you don't often find in the same line of authors.

I want to thank Chairman SMITH and many other colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as well as the other side of the Capitol, for working with us to produce a strong bill that we can support. All three of these bills are products of strong bipartisan efforts, and I urge my colleagues to support them.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I yield back, I would like to

thank the gentlewoman from Texas, the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for the comments that she just made. They are much appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, but I am prepared to yield back.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker I will include an article from The Wall Street Journal in support of H.R. 1022 in the RECORD. This is a December 5, 2013, Wall Street Journal article titled, ''China Still Dominates Rare-Earth Processing.''

[From the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 5, 2013]

CHINA STILL DOMINATES RARE-EARTH PROCESSING

(By James T. Areddy)

SHENZHEN, China.—When U.S. Rare Earths Inc. begins mining on the border of Montana and Idaho about two years from now, the U.S. will gain a new domestic, non-Chinese source of minerals essential to making electronic devices and weaponry components.

But at the moment, there's virtually no place for these minerals to be processed into something useful—except China.

China's share of global rare-earth output has been shrinking recently as miners elsewhere capitalized on fears the country controls too much global supply. Even so, China still dominates the complex—and often polluting—middle steps that turn mined material into useful ingredients, including metals and magnets. For example, China supplies about 80% of the specialized magnets produced with rare-earth ingredients like neodymium that are used in everything from elevators to cruise missiles.

''It's amazing people haven't connected these dots,'' said U.S. Rare Earths Chief Executive Kevin Cassidy. His company plans to build facilities in the U.S. to handle difficult middle-stage processes, but that will be expensive and require numerous regulatory approvals.

Three years ago China shocked high-technology industries by tightening export controls on a group of 17 elements called rare earths that sent their prices rising as much as tenfold, prompting then-U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to dub the scare a ''wake up call.''

Miners responded by racing to find new rare-earth sources in the U.S. and elsewhere. Industry authority Dudley Kingsnorth says those new sources already cut China's share of global supply to 86% from 93% between 2011 and 2012. China's export policies are the subject of a continuing dispute between Beijing, Washington and others before the World Trade Organization. The WTO in October ruled illegal certain restrictions on Chinese rare-earth exports, though Beijing is expected to appeal the largely symbolic decision.

But when it comes to processing rare earths, China faces little competition—and Wang Qin's greasy hands illustrate why. The 45-year-old machinist for Feller Magnets Corp. in the southern city of Shenzhen runs dozens of machines that slice magnetic blocks made with rare earth into razor-thin discs that his company says will be installed in mobile phones.

While his computerized saws can meet precision specifications for Feller's high-technology customers, the machines also slick its factory floors with oil. Basins of acids and extreme heat feature in other parts of the facility. The company, which says half its output is sold in China compared with only 30% in recent years, didn't respond to a request for comment on factory conditions.

China's dominance in a field with a poor environmental record illustrates one way it plays key roles more generally in global manufacturing. China tops world output of chemicals and fertilizers, as well as making lead-acid batteries and harvesting of scrap computer parts for metal. Business executives say that China's backbone in intermediate industries, including rare-earth processing, allows it to draw in related businesses that depend on the products and thereby deepening its importance to production supply chains from computers to automobiles.

In 2010 Beijing significantly crimped exports of rare-earth minerals citing environmental reasons to clean up a chaotic industry. Seeing prices of the elements soar, investors funded dozens of mine exploration projects around the world.

Since then, a California mine and one in Australia have ramped up, with others in South Africa, Vietnam, India and Kazakhstan now in the construction phase, according to Gareth Hatch, an industry investor and principal at Illinois-based Technology Metals Research LLC. But he said many prospectors who rushed after 2010 to bring new supplies to market wrongly assumed, ''if you build the mine, the downstream supply chain will magically appear outside of China.''

A number of U.S. defense contractors declined to comment on industry trends. Northrop Grumman Corp. and Lockheed Martin Corp. referred questions to the Aerospace Industries Association, which pointed to a September report from the U.S. Congressional Research Service that said ''most rare earth materials' processing is performed in China, giving it a dominant position that could affect world-wide supply and prices.''

A Defense Department spokesman said the military continually monitors the situation while citing an ''increasingly diverse and robust domestic and global supply chain for rare earth materials.'' A March 2012 military report highlighted positive trends ''for a market capable of meeting future U.S. Government demand.''

While Mr. Kingsnorth, executive director of Industrial Minerals Company of Australia, estimates China's share of world production could slide to 63% by 2016, he points out that China continues to dominate the nine steps between mining rare earths and producing something with the material.

After ore is pried from the ground and unwanted minerals are sifted away to make a concentrate of minerals, complex acid and chemical treatments are required to separate individual rare earths into quantities that are useful. Many of the 17 rare earths share such similar physical properties that separating individual elements can require several months and 1,000 chemical treatments.

Outside China, few places have the industrial capacity to separate the elements. Companies in the U.S., Russia, France, Japan and elsewhere handle some of these steps, but China is the only place that has the industrial capacity to do them all.

Among those producing fresh output is U.S.-based Molycorp Inc. Yet Molycorp exports some of the neodymium and samarium from its giant deposit in California's Mojave Desert to its processing facilities in China.

''The downstream does take longer to develop,'' says Constantine Karayannopoulos, who until this month was Molycorp's interim chief executive officer and is now vice chairman.

Molycorp said it spent $1.5 billion to build a separation facility in California, and Mr. Karayannopoulos estimates a quarter to a third of that cost is related to ensuring the plant operates to high environmental standards, which include recycling wastewater. Still, Molycorp says it is cheaper to make some of its materials at its facilities in China. Mr. Karayannopoulos also estimates around 60% of that output is sold to multinational companies already in China.

''I can't overemphasize how complex supply chains are,'' said Mr. Karayannopoulos.

A big effort to reduce China's role in the intermediate steps of processing rare earths is being undertaken by Australia's Lynas Corp. with a plant opened last year in Malaysia to handle separation processes. But local environmentalists decry the facility as dangerous, and Lynas says it has processed only a fraction of its output there this year. Lynas says none of its material is being sent to China for separation.

Increasingly, China is taking steps to expand into more profitable aspects of the rare-earth business that follow the separation processes, instead of exporting those raw materials. Mr. Kingsnorth likens such efforts to European winemakers: ''France doesn't sell any grapes,'' he said.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, efforts that went into bringing this bill to the floor reflect what our constituents at home want to see from us here in Washington, a bill that was introduced in March of 2013, a bill where revisions were made, compromises were made. The loan guarantee part of the bill was taken out at the request of the majority staff so that we could bring this bill to the floor in a bipartisan way.

I am proud that I can go home and tell my constituents I was able to work with my colleagues on a bill that will advance American innovation, American energy security, and national security.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. If you want to go home and tell your constituents that you were part of a bipartisan bill that protects American innovation, manufacturing, energy security, and national security, vote for this bill.

If you want to go home and tell your constituents that you are a part of seeing jobs go over to China and ceding leadership in energy, critical elements, then you should vote against this bill.

But I think this Congress wants to take back leadership when it comes to where we get our energy. That is why I am supporting this bill. That is why I am grateful that the chairman brought this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan H.R. 1022.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1022, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MULVANEY. 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.

NIST REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5035) to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5035

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''NIST Reauthorization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2014.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $850,000,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal year 2014.

(2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount authorized by paragraph (1)—

(A) $651,000,000 shall be for scientific and technical research and services laboratory activities;

(B) $56,000,000 shall be for the construction and maintenance of facilities; and

(C) $143,000,000 shall be for industrial technology services activities, of which $128,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l).

(b) FISCAL YEAR 2015.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $855,800,000 for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for fiscal year 2015.

(2) SPECIFIC ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount authorized by paragraph (1)—

(A) $670,500,000 shall be for scientific and technical research and services laboratory activities;

(B) $55,300,000 shall be for the construction and maintenance of facilities; and

(C) $130,000,000 shall be for industrial technology services activities, of which $130,000,000 shall be for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l).

SEC. 3. STANDARDS AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.

Section 2 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''authorized to take'' and inserting ''authorized to serve as the President's principal adviser on standards policy pertaining to the Nation's technological competitiveness and innovation ability and to take'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''compare standards'' and all that follows through ''Federal Government'' and inserting ''facilitate standards-related information sharing and cooperation between Federal agencies''; and

(C) in paragraph (13), by striking ''Federal, State, and local'' and all that follows through ''private sector'' and inserting ''technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities of Federal, State, and local governments with private sector''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (21), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (22) as paragraph (24); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (21) the following:

''(22) participate in and support scientific and technical conferences;

''(23) perform pre-competitive measurement science and technology research in partnership with institutions of higher education and industry to promote United States industrial competitiveness; and''.

SEC. 4. VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

Section 10 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''15 members'' and inserting ''not fewer than 11 members'';

(B) by striking ''at least 10'' and inserting ''at least two-thirds''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: ''The Committee may consult with the National Research Council in making recommendations regarding general policy for the Institute.''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking '', including the Program established under section 28,''.

SEC. 5. POLICE AND SECURITY AUTHORITY.

Section 15 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278e) is amended—

(1) by striking ''of the Government; and'' and inserting ''of the Government;''; and

(2) by striking ''United States Code.'' and inserting ''United States Code; and (i) for the protection of Institute buildings and other plant facilities, equipment, and property, and of employees, associates, visitors, or other persons located therein or associated therewith, notwithstanding any other provision of law.''.

SEC. 6. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by striking sections 18, 19, and 19A and inserting the following:

''SEC. 18. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may support, promote, and coordinate activities and efforts to enhance public awareness and understanding of measurement sciences, standards, and technology by the general public, industry, and academia in support of the Institute's mission.

''(b) RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may award research fellowships and other forms of financial and logistical assistance, including direct stipend awards, to—

''(A) students at institutions of higher education within the United States who show promise as present or future contributors to the mission of the Institute; and

''(B) United States citizens for research and technical activities of the Institute.

''(2) SELECTION.—The Director shall select persons to receive such fellowships and assistance on the basis of ability and of the relevance of the proposed work to the mission and programs of the Institute.

''(3) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, financial and logistical assistance includes, notwithstanding section 1345 of title 31, United States Code, or any contrary provision of law, temporary housing and local transportation to and from the Institute facilities.

''(c) POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—The Director shall establish and conduct a post-doctoral fellowship program, subject to the availability of appropriations, that shall include not fewer than 20 fellows per fiscal year. In evaluating applications for fellowships under this subsection, the Director shall give consideration to the goal of promoting the participation of underrepresented students in research areas supported by the Institute.''.

SEC. 7. PROGRAMMATIC PLANNING REPORT.

Section 23(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278i(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The 3-year programmatic planning document shall also describe how the Director is addressing recommendations from the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology established under section 10.''.

SEC. 8. ASSESSMENTS BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

(a) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a single, comprehensive review of the Institute's laboratory programs. The review shall—

(1) assess the technical merits and scientific caliber of the research conducted at the laboratories;

(2) examine the strengths and weaknesses of the 2010 laboratory reorganization on the Institute's ability to fulfill its mission;

(3) evaluate how cross-cutting research and development activities are planned, coordinated, and executed across the laboratories; and

(4) assess how the laboratories are engaging industry, including the incorporation of industry need, into the research goals and objectives of the Institute.

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.—Section 24 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278j) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 24. ASSESSMENTS BY THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Institute shall contract with the National Research Council to perform and report on assessments of the technical quality and impact of the work conducted at Institute laboratories.

''(b) SCHEDULE.—Two laboratories shall be assessed under subsection (a) each year, and each laboratory shall be assessed at least once every 3 years.

''(c) SUMMARY REPORT.—Beginning in the year after the first assessment is conducted under subsection (a), and once every two years thereafter, the Institute shall contract with the National Research Council to prepare a report that summarizes the findings common across the individual assessment reports.

''(d) ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENTS.—The Institute, at the discretion of the Director, also may contract with the National Research Council to conduct additional assessments of Institute programs and projects that involve collaboration across the Institute laboratories and centers and assessments of selected scientific and technical topics.

''(e) CONSULTATION WITH VISITING COMMITTEE ON ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.—The National Research Council may consult with the Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology established under section 10 in performing the assessments under this section.

''(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of each assessment, the Institute shall transmit the report on such assessment to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.''.

SEC. 9. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 25. HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Director and, if appropriate, through other officials, shall provide assistance for the creation and support of manufacturing extension centers, to be known as the 'Hollings Manufacturing Extension Centers', for the transfer of manufacturing technology and best business practices (in this Act referred to as the 'Centers'). The program under this section shall be known as the 'Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership'.

''(2) AFFILIATIONS.—Such Centers shall be affiliated with any United States-based public or nonprofit institution or organization, or group thereof, that applies for and is awarded financial assistance under this section.

''(3) OBJECTIVE.—The objective of the Centers is to enhance competitiveness, productivity, and technological performance in United States manufacturing through—

''(A) the transfer of manufacturing technology and techniques developed at the Institute to Centers and, through them, to manufacturing companies throughout the United States;

''(B) the participation of individuals from industry, institutions of higher education, State governments, other Federal agencies, and, when appropriate, the Institute in cooperative technology transfer activities;

''(C) efforts to make new manufacturing technology and processes usable by United States-based small and medium-sized companies;

''(D) the active dissemination of scientific, engineering, technical, and management information about manufacturing to industrial firms, including small and medium-sized manufacturing companies;

''(E) the utilization, when appropriate, of the expertise and capability that exists in Federal laboratories other than the Institute;

''(F) the provision to community colleges and area career and technical education schools of information about the job skills needed in small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses in the regions they serve; and

''(G) promoting and expanding certification systems offered through industry, associations, and local colleges, when appropriate.

''(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Centers shall include—

''(1) the establishment of automated manufacturing systems and other advanced production technologies, based on Institute-supported research, for the purpose of demonstrations and technology transfer;

''(2) the active transfer and dissemination of research findings and Center expertise to a wide range of companies and enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturers; and

''(3) the facilitation of collaborations and partnerships between small and medium-sized manufacturing companies and community colleges and area career and technical education schools to help such colleges and schools better understand the specific needs of manufacturers and to help manufacturers better understand the skill sets that students learn in the programs offered by such colleges and schools.

''(c) OPERATIONS.—

''(1) FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary may provide financial support to any Center created under subsection (a). The Secretary may not provide to a Center more than 50 percent of the capital and annual operating and maintenance funds required to create and maintain such Center.

''(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall implement, review, and update the sections of the Code of Federal Regulations related to this section at least once every 3 years.

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any nonprofit institution, or consortium thereof, or State or local government, may submit to the Secretary an application for financial support under this section, in accordance with the procedures established by the Secretary.

''(B) COST SHARING.—In order to receive assistance under this section, an applicant for financial assistance under subparagraph (A) shall provide adequate assurances that non-Federal assets obtained from the applicant and the applicant's partnering organizations will be used as a funding source to meet not less than 50 percent of the costs incurred. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the costs incurred means the costs incurred in connection with the activities undertaken to improve the competitiveness, management, productivity, and technological performance of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies.

''(C) AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—In meeting the 50 percent requirement, it is anticipated that a Center will enter into agreements with other entities such as private industry, institutions of higher education, and State governments to accomplish programmatic objectives and access new and existing resources that will further the impact of the Federal investment made on behalf of small and medium-sized manufacturing companies.

''(D) LEGAL RIGHTS.—Each applicant under subparagraph (A) shall also submit a proposal for the allocation of the legal rights associated with any invention which may result from the proposed Center's activities.

''(4) MERIT REVIEW.—The Secretary shall subject each such application to merit review. In making a decision whether to approve such application and provide financial support under this section, the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum, the following:

''(A) The merits of the application, particularly those portions of the application regarding technology transfer, training and education, and adaptation of manufacturing technologies to the needs of particular industrial sectors.

''(B) The quality of service to be provided.

''(C) Geographical diversity and extent of service area.

''(D) The percentage of funding and amount of in-kind commitment from other sources.

''(5) EVALUATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Center that receives financial assistance under this section shall be evaluated during its third year of operation by an evaluation panel appointed by the Secretary.

''(B) COMPOSITION.—Each such evaluation panel shall be composed of private experts, none of whom shall be connected with the involved Center, and Federal officials.

''(C) CHAIR.—An official of the Institute shall chair the panel.

''(D) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT.—Each evaluation panel shall measure the involved Center's performance against the objectives specified in this section.

''(E) POSITIVE EVALUATION.—If the evaluation is positive, the Secretary may provide continued funding through the sixth year.

''(F) PROBATION.—The Secretary shall not provide funding unless the Center has received a positive evaluation. A Center that has not received a positive evaluation by the evaluation panel shall be notified by the panel of the deficiencies in its performance and shall be placed on probation for one year, after which time the panel shall reevaluate the Center. If the Center has not addressed the deficiencies identified by the panel, or shown a significant improvement in its performance, the Director shall conduct a new competition to select an operator for the Center or may close the Center.

''(G) ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT.—After the sixth year, a Center may receive additional financial support under this section if it has received a positive evaluation through an independent review, under procedures established by the Institute.

''(H) EIGHT-YEAR REVIEW.—A Center shall undergo an independent review in the 8th year of operation. Each evaluation panel shall measure the Center's performance against the objectives specified in this section. A Center that has not received a positive evaluation as a result of an independent review shall be notified by the Program of the deficiencies in its performance and shall be placed on probation for one year, after which time the Program shall reevaluate the Center. If the Center has not addressed the deficiencies identified by the review, or shown a significant improvement in its performance, the Director shall conduct a new competition to select an operator for the Center or may close the Center.

''(I) RECOMPETITION.—If a recipient of a Center award has received financial assistance for 10 consecutive years, the Director shall conduct a new competition to select an operator for the Center consistent with the plan required in this Act. Incumbent Center operators in good standing shall be eligible to compete for the new award.

''(J) REPORTS.—

''(i) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the NIST Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan as to how the Institute will conduct reviews, assessments, and reapplication competitions under this paragraph.

''(ii) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.—The Director shall contract with an independent organization to perform an assessment of the implementation of the reapplication competition process under this paragraph within 3 years after the transmittal of the report under clause (i). The organization conducting the assessment under this clause may consult with the MEP Advisory Board.

''(iii) COMPARISON OF CENTERS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the NIST Reauthorization Act of 2014, the Director shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report providing information on the first and second years of operations for centers operating from new competitions or recompetition as compared to longstanding centers. The report shall provide detail on the engagement in services provided by Centers and the characteristics of services provided, including volume and type of services, so that the Committees can evaluate whether the cost-sharing ratio has an effect on the services provided at Centers.

''(6) PATENT RIGHTS.—The provisions of chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code, shall apply, to the extent not inconsistent with this section, to the promotion of technology from research by Centers under this section except for contracts for such specific technology extension or transfer services as may be specified by statute or by the Director.

''(7) PROTECTION OF CENTER CLIENT CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply to the following information obtained by the Federal

Government on a confidential basis in connection with the activities of any participant involved in the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership:

''(A) Information on the business operation of any participant in a Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program or of a client of a Center.

''(B) Trade secrets possessed by any client of a Center.

''(8) ADVISORY BOARDS.—Each Center's advisory boards shall institute a conflict of interest policy, approved by the Director, that ensures the Board represents local small and medium-sized manufacturers in the Center's region. Board Members may not serve as a vendor or provide services to the Center, nor may they serve on more than one Center's oversight board simultaneously.

''(d) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to such sums as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Director to operate the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Secretary and Director also may accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies and, under section 2(c)(7), from the private sector for the purpose of strengthening United States manufacturing.

''(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

''(A) FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM OTHER FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES.—The Director shall determine whether funds accepted from other Federal departments or agencies shall be counted in the calculation of the Federal share of capital and annual operating and maintenance costs under subsection (c).

''(B) FUNDS ACCEPTED FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—Funds accepted from the private sector under section 2(c)(7), if allocated to a Center, may not be considered in the calculation of the Federal share under subsection (c) of this section.

''(e) MEP ADVISORY BOARD.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Institute a Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board (in this subsection referred to as the 'MEP Advisory Board').

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The MEP Advisory Board shall consist of not fewer than 10 members broadly representative of stakeholders, to be appointed by the Director. At least 2 members shall be employed by or on an advisory board for the Centers, at least 1 member shall represent a community college, and at least 5 other members shall be from United States small businesses in the manufacturing sector. No member shall be an employee of the Federal Government.

''(B) TERM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C) or (D), the term of office of each member of the MEP Advisory Board shall be 3 years.

''(C) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed for the remainder of such term.

''(D) SERVING CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—Any person who has completed two consecutive full terms of service on the MEP Advisory Board shall thereafter be ineligible for appointment during the one-year period following the expiration of the second such term.

''(3) MEETINGS.—The MEP Advisory Board shall meet not less than 2 times annually and shall provide to the Director—

''(A) advice on Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership programs, plans, and policies;

''(B) assessments of the soundness of Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership plans and strategies; and

''(C) assessments of current performance against Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program plans.

''(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In discharging its duties under this subsection, the MEP Advisory Board shall function solely in an advisory capacity, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the MEP Advisory Board.

''(5) REPORT.—The MEP Advisory Board shall transmit an annual report to the Secretary for transmittal to Congress within 30 days after the submission to Congress of the President's annual budget request in each year. Such report shall address the status of the program established pursuant to this section and comment on the relevant sections of the programmatic planning document and updates thereto transmitted to Congress by the Director under subsections (c) and (d) of section 23.

''(f) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish, within the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, under this section and section 26, a program of competitive awards among participants described in paragraph (2) for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

''(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving awards under this subsection shall be the Centers, or a consortium of such Centers.

''(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program under this subsection is to add capabilities to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, the MEP Advisory Board, and small and medium-sized manufacturers. One or more themes for the competition may be identified, which may vary from year to year, depending on the needs of manufacturers and the success of previous competitions. Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred under the program.

''(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under this subsection shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board.

''(5) SELECTION.—Awards under this subsection shall be peer reviewed and competitively awarded. The Director shall endeavor to have broad geographic diversity among selected proposals. The Director shall select proposals to receive awards that will—

''(A) improve the competitiveness of industries in the region in which the Center or Centers are located;

''(B) create jobs or train newly hired employees; and

''(C) promote the transfer and commercialization of research and technology from institutions of higher education, national laboratories, and nonprofit research institutes.

''(6) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of awards under this subsection shall not be required to provide a matching contribution.

''(7) GLOBAL MARKETPLACE PROJECTS.—In making awards under this subsection, the Director, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and the Secretary, may take into consideration whether an application has significant potential for enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized United States manufacturers in the global marketplace.

''(8) DURATION.—Awards under this subsection shall last no longer than 3 years.

''(g) EVALUATION OF OBSTACLES UNIQUE TO SMALL MANUFACTURERS.—The Director shall—

''(1) evaluate obstacles that are unique to small manufacturers that prevent such manufacturers from effectively competing in the global market;

''(2) implement a comprehensive plan to train the Centers to address such obstacles; and

''(3) facilitate improved communication between the Centers to assist such manufacturers in implementing appropriate, targeted solutions to such obstacles.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'area career and technical education school' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302); and

''(2) the term 'community college' means an institution of higher education (as defined under section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) at which the highest degree that is predominately awarded to students is an associate's degree.''.

SEC. 10. ELIMINATION OF OBSOLETE REPORTS.

(a) ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION STANDARDIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES REPORT.—Section 3 of the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 278g–5) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively.

(b) TIP REPORTS.—Section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g); and

(2) in subsection (k), by striking paragraph (5).

SEC. 11. MODIFICATIONS TO GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

Section 8(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended by striking ''The total amount of any such grant or cooperative agreement may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the program.''.

SEC. 12. INFORMATION SYSTEMS STANDARDS CONSULTATION.

Section 20(c)(1) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–3(c)(1)) is amended by striking ''the National Security Agency,''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5035, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Technology, I would like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. SMITH, the full committee ranking member, Ms. JOHNSON, and the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. LIPINSKI, for their bipartisan work on this bill.

This bill reauthorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology, also known as NIST. Whether contributing to the technology of the smoke detector or developing X-ray standards for mammograms, NIST has had a substantial impact on our Nation's scientific and technological developments, industry, and economy for over 100 years.

H.R. 5035 authorizes $850 million for NIST in fiscal year 2014 and $855.8 million in fiscal year 2015. This bill implements changes and updates to ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds during tight fiscal times, while still maintaining a competitive edge in the United States.

H.R. 5035 adds language to emphasize NIST's role in advancing our Nation's technological competitiveness and innovation ability, and enables more information sharing related to technological standards. Additionally, this legislation codifies NIST's outreach and education efforts.

Another critical program in this legislation is the Hollings Manufacturing Partnership, or MEP. This program provides assistance to small, U.S.-based manufacturing companies to help identify and adopt new technologies and manufacturing techniques.

This bill answers a need expressed by the manufacturing community and changes the existing cost share structure within the MEP program so that a 1–1 ratio of Federal and matching funds is held throughout the life of the center.

The bill also includes language to ensure centers are reevaluated and face a new competition every 10 years.

In my State of Indiana, Purdue University serves as the MEP of our region. Clabber Girl, a small business I visited in the Eighth District of Indiana, is a prime example of the important impact MEPs have on our economy. This manufacturer of baking powder, baking soda, and cornstarch has utilized Purdue University's Technical Assistance Program, which has assisted over 12,000 organizations and trained over 26,000 employees since 1986.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, as NIST is an agency critical to the advancement of the United States technology and scientific industries.

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5035, legislation that would reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology, also known as NIST.

NIST, founded in 1901, is a nonregulatory Federal agency within the Department of Commerce. Its mission is to promote U.S. innovation and competitiveness by advancing measurement science.

H.R. 5035 makes important changes and updates to NIST programs, including the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or MEP, program. MEP centers work with small- and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers and help them create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save money.

In my district, the 15th Congressional District of California, the California MEP center helped Plastikon, a plastic and contract manufacturing company that provides service to medical, automotive, and electronics industries, revisit its business model after one of its largest customers shut down. The MEP center supported market research, strategic planning and training, and lean manufacturing for Plastikon. The project increased the company sales by 20 percent.

The MEP program has proven to be a very successful public-private partnership for districts across the country. For every dollar of investment, the MEP program generates almost $19 in new sales and $21 in new client investment. This totals more than $2 billion in new sales every year.

H.R. 5035 helps ensure that the MEP program will continue partnering with the full range of small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies, helping them to innovate and create jobs here in America.

I was pleased that when this bill was considered as a section of the FIRST Act in the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, we worked in a bipartisan manner to make improvements to it. That section, as improved, is what we are considering today as a stand-alone bill. I appreciate the majority working with us in this new way.

Although I support the important policy provisions contained in this bill, I am also a little disappointed by the low authorization level. NIST is the one of our Nation's most important, yet least known, agencies. Because of its unrivaled expertise in measurement science, its unique research facilities, and its strong industry partnerships, NIST has been asked by Congress and by one administration after another to take on leadership roles in a number of crosscutting Federal efforts, from cybersecurity to advanced manufacturing.

To adequately support their mission and work in these critical areas, the authorization level for NIST should be closer to the President's fiscal year 2015 budget request and the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations fiscal year 2015 bill. My hope is that when this bill goes to conference with the Senate we can work on a higher authorization level for NIST.

That said, H.R. 5035 is an important bill that contains sound policy provisions that were developed, again, on a bipartisan basis and that will help ensure NIST's ability to promote U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5035, a bill to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

I thank Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of the Science, Space, and Technology House Committee for their work in advancing innovation and technology that will keep America strong and competitive into the future.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and former member of the House Committee on Science, where I served for many years, I am well acquainted with the important work done by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

NIST is the nation's premier entity for development of standards that govern the level of reliability, security, and operation of most products sold in the United States and around the world.

Standards development is critical to our nation's leadership in many manufacturing areas. Businesses large and small look to NIST for leadership in coordinating the development of voluntary standards in a wide range of areas that include office equipment, manufacturing materials, and encryption.

Founded in 1901, NIST is a non-regulatory federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. NIST's mission is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology in ways that enhance economic security and improve our quality of life.

NIST carries out its mission through the following programs through research conducted at:

NIST Laboratories that advance the nation's technology infrastructure and helps U.S. companies continually improve products and services;

The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a nationwide network of local centers offering technical and business assistance to smaller manufacturers to help them create and retain jobs; and

The Baldrige Performance Excellence Program, which promote performance excellence among U.S. manufacturers, service companies, educational institutions, health care providers, and nonprofit organizations.

Houston benefits from NIST's work in a wide range of areas.

Houston is known as the ''Energy Capital of the World'' with almost half of its economic activity driven by the energy industry. Houston is home to 40 of the nation's 145 publicly traded oil and gas exploration and production firms, including 11 of the top 25 as ranked by 2011 total assets.

NIST's fossil fuel Standard Reference Materials (SRMs) continue to be in high demand by the petroleum industry and the fossil fuel-based electric utility industries.

The fossil fuel SRM program is now 40 years old, and the current inventory of fossil fuel reference materials includes coals, cokes, residual fuel oils, distillates and gasolines.

To support regulatory and industry requirements for reference materials and standards, NIST produces and maintains a large inventory of fossil fuel SRMs that are certified for crude oils, gasolines, fuel oils, and diesel fuels. The program is continually adapting to meet the rapidly changing needs of the energy sector.

Houston's diverse workforce boasts a variety of skills and occupations. From medical professionals and engineers to production managers and accountants, Houston's labor force fills 2.7 million jobs and counting.

Houston has a world class medical center that serves the health care needs of residents and brings to our city people from around the world for health care.

NIST is responsible for leading the development of the core health IT testing infrastructure that will provide a scalable, multi-partner, automated, remote capability for current and future medical technology testing needs.

The objective of the NIST Health IT Testing Infrastructure Project is to harmonize the efforts of healthcare standards test development and delivery to meet the demands for conformance and interoperability within the healthcare domain.

NIST works in collaboration with health care providers, IT stakeholders such as vendors, implementers, standards organizations and certification bodies to establish a testing infrastructure that will:

Provide a variety of testing services;

Support a broad range of test environments;

Support numerous health data standards;

Provide a component-based user interface;

Support changing user requirements;

Leverage existing testing initiatives;

Provide a method for feedback so that health standards can be improved; and

Roll out tools and resources incrementally.

Houston also hosts universities, research institutions and agencies that rely upon NIST's core areas of work including:

Bioscience Health;

Building and Fire Research;

Chemistry;

Electronics & Communications;

Energy;

Environment and Climate;

Information Technology;

Manufacturing;

Mathematics;

Nanotechnology;

Neuro Research; and

Physics.

NIST's work touches the lives of every person in the United States from the smart electric power grid and electronic health records to atomic clocks, advanced nanomaterials, and computer chips, innumerable products and services rely in some way on the work of this small agency.

I ask that my colleagues join me in support this reauthorization of NIST and that we work together to end the impact on Sequestration on NIST programs.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Chairman of the Research and Technology Subcommittee, LARRY BUCSHON, in support of the reauthorization of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Measurement science conducted at NIST contributes to industrial competitiveness by supporting the technical infrastructure for advancements in nanotechnology, global positioning systems, materials sciences, cybersecurity, health information technology, and a variety of other fields.

Research conducted at NIST laboratories has been lauded by independent review panels as being among the best in the world. NIST researchers have been awarded four Nobel prizes in Physics in the last 15 years.

H.R. 5035 codifies education and outreach efforts at NIST and requires a comprehensive review of the NIST laboratory programs by the National Academy of Sciences.

This bill authorizes just over $855 million dollars for NIST in Fiscal Year 2015, this funding level is consistent with the House passed Appropriations bill.

NIST works alongside industry and is recognized as a provider of high-quality information utilized by the private sector. H.R. 5035 reauthorizes the work of this important agency at responsible funding levels.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5035.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LABORATORY MODERNIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACT OF 2014

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5120) to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, facilitate public-private partnerships, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5120

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Savings clause.

TITLE I—INNOVATION MANAGEMENT AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Sec. 101. Under Secretary for Science and Energy.
Sec. 102. Technology transfer assessment.
Sec. 103. Sense of Congress.

TITLE II—CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANT COMPETITIVENESS

Sec. 201. Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot program.
Sec. 202. Public-private partnerships for commercialization.
Sec. 203. Inclusion of early-stage technology demonstration in authorized technology transfer activities.
Sec. 204. Funding competitiveness for institutions of higher education and other nonprofit institutions.
Sec. 205. Participation in the Innovation Corps program.

TITLE III—ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Sec. 301. Report by Government Accountability Office.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Energy.

(2) NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—The term ''National Laboratory'' means a Department of Energy nonmilitary national laboratory, including—

(A) Ames Laboratory;

(B) Argonne National Laboratory;

(C) Brookhaven National Laboratory;

(D) Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory;

(E) Idaho National Laboratory;

(F) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;

(G) National Energy Technology Laboratory;

(H) National Renewable Energy Laboratory;

(I) Oak Ridge National Laboratory;

(J) Pacific Northwest National Laboratory;

(K) Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory;

(L) Savannah River National Laboratory;

(M) Stanford Linear Accelerator Center;

(N) Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility; and

(O) any laboratory operated by the National Nuclear Security Administration, but only with respect to the civilian energy activities thereof.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 3. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act or an amendment made by this Act abrogates or otherwise affects the primary responsibilities of any National Laboratory to the Department.

TITLE I—INNOVATION MANAGEMENT AT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SEC. 101. UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7132(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Under Secretary for Science'' each place it appears and inserting ''Under Secretary for Science and Energy''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (G) the following:

''(H) establish appropriate linkages between offices under the jurisdiction of the Under Secretary; and

''(I) perform such functions and duties as the Secretary shall prescribe, consistent with this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 3164(b)(1) of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381a(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''Under Secretary for Science'' and inserting ''Under Secretary for Science and Energy''.

(2) Section 641(h)(2) of the United States Energy Storage Competitiveness Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17231(h)(2)) is amended by striking ''Under Secretary for Science'' and inserting ''Under Secretary for Science and Energy''.

SEC. 102. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ASSESSMENT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report which shall include—

(1) an assessment of the Department's current ability to carry out the goals of section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391), including an assessment of the role and effectiveness of the Technology Transfer Coordinator position; and

(2) recommended departmental policy changes and legislative changes to section

1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391) to improve the Department's ability to successfully transfer new energy technologies to the private sector.

SEC. 103. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the establishment of the independent Commission to Review the Effectiveness of the National Energy Laboratories under section 319 of title III of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, is an important step towards developing a coordinated strategy for the National Laboratories in the 21st century;

(2) Congress looks forward to—

(A) receiving the findings and conclusions of the Commission; and

(B) engaging with the Administration—

(i) in strengthening the mission of the National Laboratories; and

(ii) to reform and modernize the operations and management of the National Laboratories; and

(3) the Secretary should encourage the National Laboratories and federally funded research and development centers to inform small businesses of the opportunities and resources that exist pursuant to this Act.

TITLE II—CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS AND GRANT COMPETITIVENESS

SEC. 201. AGREEMENTS FOR COMMERCIALIZING TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the Agreements for Commercializing Technology pilot program of the Department, as announced by the Secretary on December 8, 2011, in accordance with this section.

(b) TERMS.—Each agreement entered into pursuant to the pilot program referred to in subsection (a) shall provide to the contractor of the applicable National Laboratory, to the maximum extent determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, increased authority to negotiate contract terms, such as intellectual property rights, payment structures, performance guarantees, and multiparty collaborations.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any director of a National Laboratory may enter into an agreement pursuant to the pilot program referred to in subsection (a).

(2) AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—To carry out paragraph (1) and subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall permit the directors of the National Laboratories to execute agreements with a non-Federal entity, including a non-Federal entity already receiving Federal funding that will be used to support activities under agreements executed pursuant to paragraph (1), provided that such funding is solely used to carry out the purposes of the Federal award.

(3) RESTRICTION.—The requirements of chapter 18 of title 35, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Bayh-Dole Act'') shall apply if—

(A) the agreement is a funding agreement (as that term is defined in section 201 of that title); and

(B) at least 1 of the parties to the funding agreement is eligible to receive rights under that chapter.

(d) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.—Each affected director of a National Laboratory shall submit to the Secretary, with respect to each agreement entered into under this section—

(1) a summary of information relating to the relevant project;

(2) the total estimated costs of the project;

(3) estimated commencement and completion dates of the project; and

(4) other documentation determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(e) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall require the contractor of the affected National Laboratory to certify that each activity carried out under a project for which an agreement is entered into under this section—

(1) is not in direct competition with the private sector; and

(2) does not present, or minimizes, any apparent conflict of interest, and avoids or neutralizes any actual conflict of interest, as a result of the agreement under this section.

(f) EXTENSION.—The pilot program referred to in subsection (a) shall be extended for a term of 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) REPORTS.—

(1) OVERALL ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date described in subsection (f), the Secretary, in coordination with directors of the National Laboratories, shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that—

(A) assesses the overall effectiveness of the pilot program referred to in subsection (a);

(B) identifies opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the pilot program;

(C) assesses the potential for program activities to interfere with the responsibilities of the National Laboratories to the Department; and

(D) provides a recommendation regarding the future of the pilot program.

(2) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary, in coordination with directors of the National Laboratories, shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an annual report that accounts for all incidences of, and provides a justification for, non-Federal entities using funds derived from a Federal contract or award to carry out agreements pursuant to this section.

SEC. 202. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary shall delegate to directors of the National Laboratories signature authority with respect to any agreement described in subsection (b) the total cost of which (including the National Laboratory contributions and project recipient cost share) is less than $1,000,000.

(b) AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a) applies to—

(1) a cooperative research and development agreement;

(2) a non-Federal work-for-others agreement; and

(3) any other agreement determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, in collaboration with the directors of the National Laboratories.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The director of the affected National Laboratory and the affected contractor shall carry out an agreement under this section in accordance with applicable policies of the Department, including by ensuring that the agreement does not compromise any national security, economic, or environmental interest of the United States.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—The director of the affected National Laboratory and the affected contractor shall certify that each activity carried out under a project for which an agreement is entered into under this section does not present, or minimizes, any apparent conflict of interest, and avoids or neutralizes any actual conflict of interest, as a result of the agreement under this section.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS.—On entering an agreement under this section, the director of a National Laboratory shall submit to the Secretary for monitoring and review all records of the National Laboratory relating to the agreement.

(4) RATES.—The director of a National Laboratory may charge higher rates for services performed under a partnership agreement entered into pursuant to this section, regardless of the full cost of recovery, if such funds are used exclusively to support further research and development activities at the respective National Laboratory.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately;

(B) by striking ''Each Federal agency'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each Federal agency''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in accordance with section 202(a) of the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014, approval by the Secretary of Energy shall not be required for any technology transfer agreement proposed to be entered into by a National Laboratory of the Department of Energy, the total cost of which (including the National Laboratory contributions and project recipient cost share) is less than $1,000,000.''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''subsection (a)(1)'' each place it appears and inserting ''subsection (a)(1)(A)''.

SEC. 203. INCLUSION OF EARLY-STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION IN AUTHORIZED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES.

Section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16391) is amended by—

(1) redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) EARLY-STAGE TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION.—The Secretary shall permit the directors of the National Laboratories to use funds authorized to support technology transfer within the Department to carry out early-stage and pre-commercial technology demonstration activities to remove technology barriers that limit private sector interest and demonstrate potential commercial applications of any research and technologies arising from National Laboratory activities.''.

SEC. 204. FUNDING COMPETITIVENESS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.

Section 988(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3)'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) EXEMPTION FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND OTHER NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a research or development activity performed by an institution of higher education or nonprofit institution (as defined in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703)).

''(B) TERMINATION DATE.—The exemption under subparagraph (A) shall apply during the 6-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph.''.

SEC. 205. PARTICIPATION IN THE INNOVATION CORPS PROGRAM.

The Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Director of the National Science Foundation to enable researchers

funded by the Department to participate in the National Science Foundation Innovation Corps program.

TITLE III—ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

SEC. 301. REPORT BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report—

(1) describing the results of the projects developed under sections 201, 202, and 203, including information regarding—

(A) partnerships initiated as a result of those projects and the potential linkages presented by those partnerships with respect to national priorities and other taxpayer-funded research; and

(B) whether the activities carried out under those projects result in—

(i) fiscal savings;

(ii) expansion of National Laboratory capabilities;

(iii) increased efficiency of technology transfers; or

(iv) an increase in general efficiency of the National Laboratory system; and

(2) assess the scale, scope, efficacy, and impact of the Department's efforts to promote technology transfer and private sector engagement at the National Laboratories, and make recommendations on how the Department can improve these activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5120, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 5120, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act, ensures that the Department of Energy has the tools it needs to allow new start-ups, small businesses, universities, and the general public at large to do what they do best: react to market signals and innovate.

The Federal Government and the national labs fill a vital role doing the basic research needed to maintain America's role as an innovation nation. Far too often, however, the discoveries made in our labs get stuck in our labs. This is due to a number of reasons, and this bill seeks to break down many of those purely bureaucratic barriers.

By extending the pilot for ACT agreements within DOE, the labs are given the ability to negotiate more flexible contracts with non-Federal entities that would like to take the lab's research and turn it into a viable product.

This legislation would also grant the directors of the national labs the signature authority for many agreements with non-Federal entities. Currently, the Secretary of Energy must make these decisions, so decisions a lab director can make over a phone call in the course of a day must weave their way through unnecessary bureaucracy before they land on the Secretary's desk. This bill would streamline that process.

H.R. 5120 also seeks to improve the Department's relationship with small businesses that can take part in the SBIR/STTR program, and it encourages the Secretary to enter into agreements with the I-Corps program at the National Science Foundation.

Our national labs have been at the cutting edge of technological development, and we must always ensure that development is in the national interest. A discovery lost in the lab is a discovery wasted.

That is why I would like to thank my good friend from Washington (Mr. KILMER) for partnering with me in this effort, as well as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. NUNNELEE), who were founding members with me in creating the House Science and National Labs Caucus.

Chairmen SMITH and LUMMIS, as well as Ranking Members JOHNSON and SWALWELL, were also key in this legislation coming together and bringing it to the floor. This is a true bipartisan, bicameral effort, as Senators COONS and RUBIO have a similar companion bill on the other side of the Hill.

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5120, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014.

In the report, ''Rising above the Gathering Storm,'' Paul Otellini, the former CEO of Intel, challenged Congress and challenged the Nation to step up the innovation challenge to grow our economy.

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George Will wrote, ''Without a change in U.S. Government policy, the next big thing will not be invented here. Jobs will not be created here, and wealth will not accrue here.''

I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together to produce a bipartisan bill targeted at stepping up to that challenge.

Our national labs are currently doing innovative research that can hit roadblocks on the path to commercialization, on the path to helping small business run with those innovations, so this bill provides important tools to spur and accelerate the transfer of new technologies developed at our national laboratories and to the private sector.

It significantly broadens the range of companies that can participate in a new pilot program with our Federal labs and allows for more flexible partnership agreement terms between the public and private sectors.

The bill also allows labs to use their technology transfer funds for activities that identify and demonstrate potential commercial opportunities for their research and technologies.

These partnerships between our national labs and the business community will help eliminate gaps in funding by facilitating a path for innovative ideas from basic research to commercial application.

Let me tell you why this matters to me. The region I represent is home to the Pacific Northwest National Lab facility, and I have seen firsthand the innovative research being done there.

I have also worked closely with our premier research universities to find ways to enable exciting new partnership opportunities. So going beyond just the labs, this bill removes burdens that currently prevent many universities and other nonprofit research institutions from working with the Department of Energy.

This bill also streamlines management and coordination of DOE's full spectrum of energy activities, from basic research through commercial application, by establishing a single Under Secretary for Science and Energy.

The bill authorizes DOE to partner with the National Science Foundation, so that its researchers can participate in NSF's groundbreaking Innovation Corps program, which matches grant recipients with entrepreneurs to help get their ideas out of the lab and into the marketplace.

Lastly, the bill includes important reporting and accountability measures, so that we will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of each of these new tools and determine any additional steps that we should be taking down the road.

DOE's national laboratories have been the birthplace of some of our most revolutionary technologies. When this research is harnessed by entrepreneurs and business leaders, start-ups with only one or two employees can grow into companies that create hundreds of quality jobs.

We want to make sure that our national labs, our universities, and all federally-funded institutions and initiatives remain an important foundation of our knowledge-based economy.

That is why I was proud to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation, to give scientists and researchers in both the public and private sectors the tools and the freedom that they need to unlock a new wave of great discoveries.

I would like to close by noting that this is the kind of bipartisan, cooperative work Congress needs to do if we are going to bolster our global competitiveness. Countries around the world are working to recruit and develop the next generation of innovators. If we are going to have any chance of keeping up, we absolutely

have to make research and development a top priority.

I am hopeful that we can renew the bipartisan spirit and commitment to making sure tomorrow's cutting-edge technology is developed here, not someplace else.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, our national labs, like Fermilab and Argonne, have been primary drivers of American innovation since the Manhattan Project, but many of their most important discoveries have been made in the past decade.

Research produced there has enormous economic potential, but many times, their discoveries remain stuck in the labs. It is essential that we update cold war-era policies, acknowledge the rapid pace of technological change, and improve the lab's capacity to partner with private enterprise and convert their cutting-edge research into marketplace innovation. This bill does that.

I am so grateful again for the cosponsors, especially Mr. KILMER, for his work on this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILMER. Once again, I would like to thank Mr. HULTGREN, Chairman SMITH, and Ranking Member JOHNSON.

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time either, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5120, the Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014, enables the Department of Energy (DOE) to more efficiently form partnerships with non-federal entities and transfer research to the private sector.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois, Rep. RANDY HULTGREN, for his leadership on this issue. I also thank the Science Committee's Energy Subcommittee Chair, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, for her support for this bill.

The DOE's national laboratory complex, often called "the crown jewels" of our federal research and development infrastructure, comprises 17 labs across the United States.

These labs execute basic and applied research that keeps us on the cutting edge of global technological capabilities. This innovative early stage research is often not well understood by the private sector.

Ideas and products created in the national labs are often slow to reach the market due to a communication gap between the labs and the private sector. Additionally, federal government red tape can discourage the private sector from utilizing these unique state-of-the-art facilities.

This legislation modernizes the labs for today's market by granting operators increased flexibility. This bill:

extends a pilot program to enable more flexible contract terms between lab operators and non-federal entities;

grants lab directors signature authority for agreements with non-federal entities valued at less than $1 million; and

enables labs to demonstrate research for private sector adoption.

This legislation represents bipartisan, bicameral agreement to optimize the performance of the DOE national lab system. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5120, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4803) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4803

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Consistent with Federal law and regulations, for law enforcement officers to qualify for premium pay as criminal investigators, the officers must, in general, spend on average at least 50 percent of their time investigating, apprehending, or detaining individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States.

(2) According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS IG), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does not ensure that its cadre of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection are meeting this requirement, even though they are considered law enforcement officers under TSA policy and receive premium pay.

(3) Instead, TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection primarily monitor the results of criminal investigations conducted by other agencies, investigate administrative cases of TSA employee misconduct, and carry out inspections, covert tests, and internal reviews, which the DHS IG asserts could be performed by employees other than criminal investigators at a lower cost.

(4) The premium pay and other benefits afforded to TSA criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection who are incorrectly classified as such will cost the taxpayer as much as $17,000,000 over 5 years if TSA fails to make any changes to the number of criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection, according to the DHS IG.

(5) This may be a conservative estimate, as it accounts for the cost of Law Enforcement Availability Pay, but not the costs of law enforcement training, statutory early retirement benefits, police vehicles, and weapons.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term ''Inspector General'' means the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security

SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall analyze the data and methods that the Assistant Secretary uses to identify employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17) and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, and provide the relevant findings to the Assistant Secretary, including a finding on whether the data and methods are adequate and valid.

(b) PROHIBITION ON HIRING.—If the Inspector General finds that such data and methods are inadequate or invalid, the Administration may not hire any new employee to work in the Office of Inspection of the Administration until—

(1) the Assistant Secretary makes a certification described in section 5 to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(2) the Inspector General submits to such Committees a finding, not later than 30 days after the Assistant Secretary makes such certification, that the Assistant Secretary utilized adequate and valid data and methods to make such certification.

SEC. 5. TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION WORKFORCE CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—The Assistant Secretary shall, by not later than 90 days after the date the Inspector General provides its findings to the Assistant Secretary under section 4(a), document and certify in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that only those employees of the Administration who meet the requirements of sections 8331(20), 8401(17), and 5545a of title 5, United States Code, are classified as criminal investigators and are receiving premium pay and other benefits associated with such classification.

(b) EMPLOYEE RECLASSIFICATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall reclassify criminal investigator positions in the Office of Inspection as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law enforcement positions if the individuals in those positions do not, or are not expected to, spend an average of at least 50 percent of their time performing criminal investigative duties.

(c) PROJECTED COST SAVINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall estimate the total long-term cost savings to the Federal Government resulting from the implementation of subsection (b), and provide such estimate to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) CONTENTS.—Such estimate shall identify savings associated with the positions reclassified under subsection (b) and include, among other factors the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate, savings from—

(A) law enforcement training;

(B) early retirement benefits;

(C) law enforcement availability pay; and

(D) weapons, vehicles, and communications devices.

SEC. 6. INVESTIGATION OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL SERVICE USE OF FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSE.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, or as soon as practicable, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

(1) any materials in the possession or control of the Department of Homeland Security associated with the Office of Inspection's review of

the use of a Federal firearms license by Federal Air Marshal Service officials to obtain discounted or free firearms for personal use; and

(2) information on specific actions that will be taken to prevent Federal Air Marshal Service officials from using a Federal firearms license, or exploiting, in any way, the Service's relationships with private vendors to obtain discounted or free firearms for personal use.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

Mr. HUDSON. I thank the gentleman for his work on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4803, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014. Again, I would like to commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) for developing this commonsense bill, which increases accountability within TSA and saves precious taxpayer dollars by requiring the agency to correctly designate criminal investigators within the Office of Inspection.

According to the Department of Homeland Security inspector general, TSA does not ensure that its criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection are meeting the Federal workload requirements for law enforcement officers, even though they are considered law enforcement officers and are receiving premium pay and other benefits.

If nothing is done to correct this problem, the misclassification will cost taxpayers roughly $17 million over the next 5 years. This type of waste is simply unacceptable.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I held a hearing on this topic and was both surprised and encouraged to hear the head of the Office of Inspection admit that his office would reduce the number of criminal investigator positions based on the office's workload.

Although an acknowledgement is a step in the right direction, TSA needs to go one step further. It is time for them to take real action on this issue and achieve tangible results, which is precisely what this legislation requires.

In addition to ensuring that the proper classification is placed on criminal investigators, the Committee on Homeland Security agreed to an amendment offered by the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, that would require TSA to submit to Congress any materials associated with the Office of Inspection's review of the Federal firearms license by Federal Air Marshals Service officials to obtain discounted or free firearms for their own personal use, as well as specific actions that will be taken to prevent air marshals from exploiting their positions to obtain free or discounted firearms from vendors for their personal use.

I have been concerned with TSA's failure to notify Congress of the ongoing Office of Inspection investigations into potential unethical activity related to the acceptance of free and discounted firearms for personal use among FAMS employees, including senior officials.

I am pleased that this bill would ensure the committee receives access to information that is necessary to carry out its important oversight role, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4803, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014. The Committee on Homeland Security is tasked with conducting oversight over the various components within the Department of Homeland Security.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I have a particular interest in ensuring that the Transportation Security Administration is operating both effectively and efficiently.

Thanks to the Department of Homeland Security inspector general, we learned late last year that the Office of Inspection is not operating efficiently.

Specifically, we learned that this office was designating some personnel as criminal investigators who did not perform investigative duties to justify such a classification or the salary and benefits conferred a person with that title.

H.R. 4803 seeks to address this problem by requiring the TSA to certify that all persons designated as criminal investigators are working on criminal investigations at least 50 percent of their time.

There is no justification for providing personnel with the enhanced benefits and pay associated with criminal investigators when they are not doing the job of a criminal investigator.

This legislation is not intended to punish the entire Office of Inspection. It recognizes that there are legitimate criminal investigators within the office that have undoubtedly helped to thwart plots and other criminal enterprises that put our Nation at risk. This legislation simply encourages good government and the careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

We need to ensure that the resources are used effectively, so that we can keep citizens safe while operating at maximum efficiency. This legislation is a step in the right direction.

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

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

I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his leadership on the subcommittee. I would say the same to my colleague from Louisiana, for their respective pieces of work on this important bill.

As has already been noted by both of my colleagues, H.R. 4803 calls for, I guess, the institution of a fairly simple premise, and that is, we pay for what we get in government.

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That is what they do in the private sector. That is what individuals do in the household. And if you stop and think about it, you wouldn't pay somebody who could run a backhoe or a bulldozer—heavy equipment, if you will—if all you needed was somebody who could run a shovel. You wouldn't pay a chemical engineer to come and clean your pool or mix the chemicals in the pool. You wouldn't hire Wolfgang Puck to come over and fix you a piece of grilled cheese. It may be the greatest piece of grilled cheese you could find, but it isn't what you would be paying for.

So this bill incorporates that commonsense notion of, in government, we ought to get what we pay for. And as has already been noted, criminal investigators in this case do not meet Federal standards with regard to the 50 percent threshold.

This bill does a couple of very, very simple things. It sets in place a standard by which to track whether or not they are doing so. And for the work that isn't to that standard, it eliminates this additional pay, the so-called LEAP pay. LEAP pay is law enforcement availability pay. As has already been noted, again, there is a 25 percent premium, but in many cases, this is the tip of the iceberg, because if you look at additional benefits in terms of early retirement or enhanced training, there is a real cost to the taxpayer that goes with continuing the road that we have been on.

This bill attempts to change that. It has teeth, and it freezes any hiring in the Office of Inspection going forward if these changes aren't made. As my colleague from North Carolina just noted, there are real savings: $17 million. It is small by Federal standards, but think about how many neighborhoods it takes to accumulate $17 million in taxes. It is a step in the right direction in saving taxpayer money.

Mr. Speaker, for all those reasons, I urge additional support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just like to thank the gentleman from

South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) for introducing this piece of legislation and the chairman of the subcommittee, Chairman Hudson, and, of course, our ranking member, Mr. BENNIE THOMPSON, for the bipartisan work on this bill.

What this bill stands for is just a commonsense approach to government and making sure that we pay for what we get, and it is that very simple premise. So I am honored to be standing here today with my colleagues from the other side of the aisle to do something that just makes common sense.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), my chairman.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, again, thank you to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) for this commonsense legislation. Also, I would like to thank the ranking member of the committee, Mr. RICHMOND, for not only his work on this bill, but in the way we have worked together to make a difference for the American people.

The American people sent us to Congress to get things done, to make their lives better, and to make sure we are scrutinizing every tax dollar that is spent here. I think this piece of legislation, as my colleague from Louisiana said, is a commonsense piece of legislation that does just that.

So I am proud to stand here in support of it. I am proud of the work that Mr. SANFORD put into this bill, and I would urge my colleagues to vote for this piece of legislation.

Mr. SANFORD. All that could be said has been said, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4803, the TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014, sponsored by the Gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. SANFORD.

The DHS Inspector General has reported that TSA's Office of Inspection does not operate efficiently and could save significant tax dollars by reclassifying criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection to other less costly positions while still performing the same work. The DHS IG specifically found that criminal investigators in the Office of Inspection primarily monitor the results of criminal investigations conducted by other agencies, investigate administrative cases of TSA employee misconduct, and carry out inspections, covert tests, and internal reviews.

While each of these functions is important, and in many cases a criminal investigator may be well suited to perform them, they do not represent the equivalent of a criminal investigation and should therefore not be the primary functions of those employees who receive premium pay and other benefits associated with being a criminal investigator.

This bill addresses this issue by requiring a review of these positions by TSA and the DHS Inspector General to determine how many employees should be reclassified.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this common-sense bill, and would like to thank the Congressman from South Carolina, Mr. SANFORD, both for his work on this issue and his strong participation in the Committee's oversight and legislative efforts this Congress. I would also like to commend the Gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON, for his leadership as well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 4803.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4803, the "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014".

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from South Carolina, Representative SANFORD, for his leadership on this legislation.

Upon its creation, TSA was given broad authority to hire, fire, and set the terms of employment of its personnel.

This has resulted in employees, such as Transportation Security Officers, lacking the due process rights afforded other Federal employees.

It has also resulted, in some cases, of abuses of the system for the gain of a few.

According to the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, TSA's Office of Inspection has been gaming the system by employing a bloated number of personnel as "criminal investigators" for years.

Those who are designated as "criminal investigators" receive additional compensation and are afforded the right to retire early.

H.R. 4803 will put an end to these abuses by requiring the Inspector General to approve the method used by TSA to designate personnel as criminal investigators and by requiring TSA to certify to Congress that only those individuals performing the requisite criminal investigation work are designated as "criminal investigators".

According to the Inspector General, properly classifying individuals within TSA's Office of Inspection could save taxpayers as much as $17 million over five years.

During Committee consideration of this measure, I offered an amendment on behalf of Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ that addresses revelations about misuse of Federal Air Marshal Service official's relationships with private vendors to obtain discounted or free firearms by TSA personnel.

Specifically, in April, the Committee became aware that the former director of the Federal Air Marshal Service bought several guns from an employee who is under investigation for using his position to obtain free and discounted firearms.

Unfortunately, TSA was less than forthcoming with Congress regarding this investigation, leaving many questions unanswered about how the investigation was conducted and the number of FAMs officials involved.

The exploitation of official relationships for personal gain is a serious matter.

Such misuse occurring within the Federal Air Marshal Service, the Law Enforcement component within TSA is unacceptable.

To address the lack of transparency regarding the investigation, the Committee accepted language I offered to require TSA to provide information and materials associated with the Office of Inspection's review of the allegations to Congress.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4803.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and a former chair of the Transportation Security Subcommittee, I rise in support of H.R. 4803, the "TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014."

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 4803 will save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands dollars annually by requiring the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to conform its personnel classification practices to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions.

According to a report by the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General (IG), about half of the employees in the Office of Inspection (OII) are classified as criminal investigators even though their duties do not involve responsibilities that can be characterized as criminal investigation activities.

Instead, the responsibilities of these employees primarily consist of administrative duties such as duties of such investigating cases of TSA employee misconduct and conducting internal reviews.

Classifying these employees as "law enforcement" personnel, however, makes them eligible for premium pay and other significant economic benefits.

If TSA fails to reclassify criminal investigator positions as noncriminal investigator positions or non-law-enforcement positions, this will cost taxpayers as much as $17,000,000 over 5 years.

This money could be utilized to ensure that law enforcement agencies, which identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals, have the tools, resources, and training necessary to do their job efficiently, effectively, and economically.

Mr. Speaker, I have always strongly supported providing the resources needed by law enforcement and first responders and will continue to do in future.

But we have an obligation to the American people to be responsible stewards of the public fisc and it is not responsible to provide premium pay and benefits intended for law enforcement personnel to employees who do not perform the dangerous duties of law enforcement officers.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 803, which directs the Office of Inspection to reclassify its current criminal investigator positions to conform to the requirements of applicable law and save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4803, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GERARDO HERNANDEZ AIRPORT SECURITY ACT OF 2014

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4802) to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4802

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Transportation Security Administration.

SEC. 3. SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE AT AIRPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, conduct outreach to all airports in the United States at which the Administration performs, or oversees the implementation and performance of, security measures, and provide technical assistance as necessary, to verify such airports have in place individualized working plans for responding to security incidents inside the perimeter of the airport, including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints.

(b) TYPES OF PLANS.—Such plans may include, but may not be limited to, the following:

(1) A strategy for evacuating and providing care to persons inside the perimeter of the airport, with consideration given to the needs of persons with disabilities.

(2) A plan for establishing a unified command, including identification of staging areas for non-airport-specific law enforcement and fire response.

(3) A schedule for regular testing of communications equipment used to receive emergency calls.

(4) An evaluation of how emergency calls placed by persons inside the perimeter of the airport will reach airport police in an expeditious manner.

(5) A practiced method and plan to communicate with travelers and all other persons inside the perimeter of the airport.

(6) To the extent practicable, a projected maximum timeframe for law enforcement response.

(7) A schedule of joint exercises and training to be conducted by the airport, the Administration, other stakeholders such as airport and airline tenants, and any relevant law enforcement, airport police, fire, and medical personnel.

(8) A schedule for producing after-action joint exercise reports to identify and determine how to improve security incident response capabilities.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the findings from its outreach to airports under subsection (a), including an analysis of the level of preparedness such airports have to respond to security incidents, including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints.

SEC. 4. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES.

The Assistant Secretary shall—

(1) identify best practices that exist across airports for security incident planning, management, and training; and

(2) establish a mechanism through which to share such best practices with other airport operators nationwide.

SEC. 5. CERTIFICATION.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall certify in writing to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate that all screening personnel have participated in practical training exercises for active shooter scenarios.

SEC. 6. REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.

Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an analysis of how the Administration can use cost savings achieved through efficiencies to increase over the next 5 fiscal years the funding available for checkpoint screening law enforcement support reimbursable agreements.

SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, and this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

SEC. 8. INTEROPERABILITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, conduct a review of the interoperable communications capabilities of the law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel responsible for responding to a security incident, including active shooter events, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints, at all airports in the United States at which the Administration performs, or oversees the implementation and performance of, security measures.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the review, the Assistant Secretary shall report the findings of the review to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4802, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2014. As chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I introduced this bipartisan bill to improve the state of preparedness at our Nation's airports in response to the shooting that occurred at Los Angeles International Airport in November of last year.

The shooting that occurred at LAX, which took the life of Transportation Security Officer Gerardo Hernandez and wounded three other people, served as a tragic wake-up call to the relative ease with which someone can wreak havoc in one of our Nation's busiest airports.

In March of this year, the Subcommittee on Transportation Security conducted a site visit and field hearing at LAX to examine the response to the incident and better understand the actions that have been taken to improve incident response in the wake of this tragedy. Subsequently, my subcommittee held a followup hearing to receive testimony from additional representatives of the law enforcement and airport communities on security incident response.

Over the course of these activities, through this process, the subcommittee found that while the Federal, State, and local response to the LAX shooting was heroic and swiftly executed, there is room for improvement in how airport operators, TSA, and other stakeholders coordinate the response and communicate in the crucial moments after a major security incident like this.

Based on months of careful review and stakeholder input by the subcommittee, as well as detailed after-action reports by the Los Angeles World Airports and TSA, H.R. 4802 would require the Transportation Security Administration to provide assistance to all airports where TSA performs or oversees screening to verify that each airport has detailed, practiced plans for responding to security incidents. This includes plans for evacuating travelers, establishing unified command, testing radio equipment, and conducting joint exercises among responding agencies.

This legislation would also make TSA a clearinghouse for security incident response and communications best practices, which was a key recommendation from testimony the subcommittee received in May. In addition, the bill would require TSA to certify to Congress that all screening personnel have participated in an active shooter training, which is a requirement TSA appropriately instituted on its own following the LAX shooting.

The bill will also require TSA to assess whether interoperable communications capabilities exist among responding agencies at airports where TSA performs or oversees screening. We know interoperability is an ongoing challenge among many first responders, despite billions being spent to achieve better communications since 9/11, but, at this point, no one has done an overall assessment to determine what weaknesses exist in terms of communications at our Nation's airports.

Finally, the bill requires TSA to examine how it can increase its reimbursement of law enforcement officers who protect the screening checkpoints.

These men and women are the front line of defense in protecting the traveling public. While TSA's funding for law enforcement reimbursement has decreased in recent years, the critical role these officers play at our airport checkpoints has never been more important.

This bill is a necessary step towards countering the threats facing our Nation's airports, without placing an undue burden on airport operators, law enforcement, or the taxpayers. In fact, according to TSA, the cost of providing assistance to airports will be incidental and would not require additional appropriations. This bill, nonetheless, makes it clear to TSA that no new funding is being authorized to carry out any of the provisions of this bill and that existing appropriations should be used to carry out this act.

I want to thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. MIKE MCCAUL, for his support of this bill and for moving it through the full committee, as well as the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. THOMPSON, and the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. RICHMOND, for cosponsoring this legislation and for working with us to produce this important legislation.

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

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4802, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2013, an armed gunman entered Los Angeles International Airport with the intent to target and kill transportation security officers.

Tragically, on that day, Officer Hernandez, for whom the bill before us is named, became the first TSA employee to die in the line of duty. After shooting Officer Hernandez, the gunman proceeded past the checkpoint and entered the terminal where he shot and wounded two other transportation security officers and one passenger. The two TSA employees who were shot and wounded selflessly remained at the checkpoint after the shooting began, helping passengers escape to safety.

Despite communications challenges, the men and women of the Los Angeles World Airports' Police Department responded to the incident swiftly, taking the shooter down, and preventing the loss of more innocent lives.

Through our committee's oversight work, we have identified some commonsense steps that could be taken to mitigate any similar incident in the future.

H.R. 4802 embodies these commonsense steps. The bill does so by requiring airports to have plans in place for responding to active shooter scenarios and TSA to: provide information to airports on best practices for responding to a security incident at checkpoints, provide transportation security officers practical training for responding to active shooter scenarios, and conduct a nationwide assessment of the interoperable communications capabilities of the law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel responsible for responding to an active shooter event at an airport.

The requirements contained in H.R. 4802 were informed by post-incident reviews of the LAX shooting conducted by TSA and the airport itself, along with the oversight work of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Transportation Security.

In March, the Subcommittee on Transportation Security held a site visit and field hearing at LAX to see firsthand how the tragedy unfolded and hear from TSA, airport officials, and the American Federation of Government Employees about how the response to a similar incident could be improved going forward.

In May, the subcommittee held a followup hearing on the shooting here in Washington and heard from a diverse array of airport operators and law enforcement to inform us of how a nationwide template for preparedness and response at airports could be most effectively crafted.

I am proud of the product before the House today. It is the result of intense review of the tragic LAX shooting and, if enacted, would result in airports across the Nation being more prepared to respond to a similar incident in the future.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend Subcommittee Chairman HUDSON for the bipartisan and inclusive manner in which he has led the Subcommittee on Transportation Security's oversight and legislative efforts in response to the shooting at LAX.

I was pleased to join Ranking Member THOMPSON and Chairman MCCAUL as a cosponsor of H.R. 4802. I would also like to acknowledge Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, whose district LAX is in, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California, who were both at the subcommittee hearing in California to provide oversight and give their input as to how we can prevent these incidents from happening and give support, of course, to Mr. HUDSON.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. RICHMOND, for his kind comments and for the great working relationship we enjoy on this committee. It is a privilege to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, with the threats to our Nation's transportation system constantly evolving, we must work to ensure that airport security is prepared to respond effectively and efficiently to a variety of security threats. The shooting at LAX was a tragedy that will not soon be forgotten by those of us who are committed to enhancing security at our Nation's airports and protecting the traveling public. This bill will provide for more extensive collaboration and coordination between airports, law enforcement, first responders, and TSA, which will result in safer airports across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor the memory of Transportation Security Officer Hernandez and support this important, bipartisan legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4802, a bill I am pleased to cosponsor.

The shooting at LAX last November not only took the life of Officer Hernandez but also served as a stark reminder of the dangers that the men and women on the front lines of securing our aviation sector face.

Unarmed and exposed, Transportation Security Officers perform the often thankless task of screening 1.8 million passengers per day.

They do so with limited workplace protections and the great responsibility of preventing another terrorist attack on the scale of 9/11.

Given their vulnerability and the critical role they play in protecting our homeland, it is essential that airports and the law enforcement agencies that protect them have the resources, training, and plans in place to ensure a swift and effective response to a security incident.

In March, as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I had the opportunity to participate in a site visit and field hearing at Los Angeles International Airport that focused on the tragic November 1, 2013 shooting.

We learned that while the response of the individual police officers was heroic, the overall response at LAX left much to be desired.

Panic buttons at the checkpoint were not in working order.

The emergency phone Transportation Security Officers have been trained to use did not display the location of the incident to the command center.

Police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel responding could not communicate via interoperable radios.

The bill before us today represents a bipartisan effort to remedy many of these issues.

Additionally, during Committee consideration of the bill last month, Representative PAYNE offered an amendment to the bill requiring TSA to conduct a nationwide assessment of the interoperability capabilities of emergency responders at airports.

I am pleased that the amendment was adopted and is included in the bill before the House today.

Such an assessment will help inform future efforts to address communications gaps at airports.

Before yielding back, I am compelled to point out that it has been over eight months since Officer Hernandez was shot and killed, leaving his wife without a husband and his children without a father.

Members on both sides of the aisle have expressed their condolences to the Hernandez family for their loss.

Indeed, we did so in person during our visit to LAX in March.

What we have not done, however, is provided the Hernandez family with all the potential benefits due when an officer dies in the line of duty.

Under current law, the families of individuals serving a public agency in an official capacity as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or chaplain receive compensation if their loved one is killed in the line of duty.

The same is true for families of employees of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and members of rescue squads or ambulance crews.

Unfortunately, the law has not been updated to include Transportation Security Officers within the definition of what constitutes a public safety officer.

As a result, the families of TSOs who are killed in the line of duty are not eligible for funds from the Public Safety Officer's Benefits Program.

While I am pleased the Appropriations Committee has included language in its Homeland Security bill addressing this issue for the Hernandez family, I would note that the legislation has not come to the House floor.

There is another, more direct effort underway. H.R. 4026, a bill introduced by Representative BROWNLEY of California, would address this issue directly by designating Officer Hernandez, and his fellow Transportation Security Officers as public safety officers.

That bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, has thirty-seven cosponsors.

Unfortunately, not a single Republican has signed on to support the measure.

I implore my colleagues to support that legislation so that the families of the men and women on the front lines of protecting our aviation sector are properly compensated should tragedy strike.

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 4802.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4802, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2014. As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation, which builds on some of the most important lessons from the tragic shooting at LAX last November, by helping airports nationwide learn from what happened and make improvements to their own security and emergency response plans.

Having traveled to LAX in March for the site visit and field hearing held by my good friend from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON, and having had the opportunity to meet with the widow of Officer Hernandez during that trip, I strongly believe we owe it to the traveling public, emergency first responders, law enforcement, and our TSA screening personnel to ensure that the airport environment is as secure as possible and is adequately prepared to respond to security incidents within the airport perimeter.

I would like to commend the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. HUDSON, for his diligent efforts to address this important issue, and his dedication to strengthening the state of airport security nationwide. I also wish to commend the bipartisan efforts of both the Ranking Member of the Full Committee, Mr. THOMPSON, and the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, Mr. RICHMOND, whose support of this legislation is greatly appreciated. I also commend the hard work done by TSA Administrator Pistole to learn from the shooting, honor the victims, and engage with the TSA workforce and airport community to ensure we are constantly improving our ability to respond to these types of tragic events.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time. I would also like to thank Homeland Security Committee Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL, Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON, Transportation Security Subcommittee Chairman RICHARD HUDSON, and Ranking Member CEDRIC RICHMOND for introducing this bill and bringing it to the floor.

I rise to support the passage of H.R. 4802, the Hernandez Airport Security Act.

This bipartisan bill was introduced in response to last year's horrific November 1st shooting incident at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in my congressional district. The bill was named in honor of Gerardo Hernandez, the Transportation Security Officer (TSO) who was killed in the line of duty on that tragic day. As we debate this bill, we offer our deepest condolences to the family of Gerardo Hernandez, and we honor all of the TSO's, police officers, and other first responders who risked their lives to stabilize the situation and protect the public during that terrible incident.

Following the shooting, Congress conducted several congressional hearings, including a field hearing in my district on March 28, 2014. These hearings revealed serious security lapses at LAX, which interfered with incident response efforts. For example, there were emergency phones and panic buttons that did not work properly, problems in coordination between various police and fire departments, and incompatible radio systems. These security failures are unacceptable.

The Hernandez Airport Security Act requires the Department of Homeland Security to conduct outreach to airports to verify that they have working plans to respond to security incidents, including active shooter incidents, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints like the one where Officer Hernandez was killed.

It is imperative that major airports like LAX have a state-of-the-art emergency response system. The safety and security of our nation's airports and all of the workers and travelers who pass though them is of paramount importance.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send it to the President's desk.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. R. 4802, The Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2014, which improves intergovernmental planning and communication during security incidents at domestic airport.

As a former chair and ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee Transportation Security Subcommittee, I understand how important this bill will be in enhancing safety and protection in the air transit industry, not just for our citizens but for our Transportation Security Officers working in the line of duty.

This legislation, which requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to devote more resources for planning and communication during and in case of threats or emergencies, is prompted by the tragic death of Gerardo I. Hernandez, a Transportation Security Officer who was killed in the line of duty at Los Angeles International Airport in November of 2013.

At just 39 years old, Gerardo Hernandez was the first TSA officer to lose his life in the line of duty in the 12 year history of the agency.

He died from several gunshot wounds inflicted by an assailant while on duty at the Los Angeles International Airport

Gerardo Hernandez was among those thousands of TSA employs carrying out their mission to keep the airways safe for traveling citizens, and their work across the nation cannot be understated.

On average, TSA officers screen 1.7 million air passengers at more than 450 airports across the nation, which averaged over 637.5 million passengers in 2012.

H.R. 4802 will help ensure that all screening personnel have received training in how to handle potential shooting threats.

The bill also requires TSA to verify that all airports have plans in place to respond to any security threats, and provide technical assistance as necessary to improve those plans.

The bill also directs the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Cybersecurity and Communication to report to Congress the capacity of law enforcement, fire, and medical response teams' communication and response to security threats at airports.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the implementation of H.R. 4802 would cost about $2.5 million in 2015. Of the $2.5 million, an estimated $1.5 million would serve to provide additional technical assistance to airports, and the remaining $1 million would be used to evaluate the interoperability of communication systems used by emergency response teams.

Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 13 years since our country suffered the tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

We will never forget how that day changed our lives, and the lives of every American generation to follow.

Security measures in airports across the country have been enhanced dramatically, and the resulting inconvenience is a small price to pay for the protective measures needed to keep the travelling public safe.

It is people like Gerardo Hernandez who do their best to make the necessary screening as least intrusive and burdensome as possible, consistent with the mission of ensuring the security of all members of the flying public.

TSA officers willingly risk their lives to make sure the job gets done, and for that we owe these men and women a debt of gratitude.

In honor of Gerardo Hernandez's contribution to his country, I strongly support this bill and urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4802, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONOR FLIGHT ACT

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4812) to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security

Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4812

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Honor Flight Act''.

SEC. 2. HONOR FLIGHT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 44927 the following new section:

''§ 44928. Honor Flight program

''The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall establish, in collaboration with the Honor Flight Network or other not-for-profit organization that honors veterans, a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling on an Honor Flight Network private charter, or such other not-for-profit organization that honors veterans, to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor the service of such veterans.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 44927 the following new item:

''44928. Honor Flight program.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act. This bill would improve the airport screening processes for veterans traveling to visit our war memorials by providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services.

I am pleased TSA is currently implementing the requirements outlined in this bill by working with the Honor Flight Network to expedite the screening process for veterans visiting war memorials here in Washington, D.C. Codifying this commonsense policy will ease airport access for our Nation's heroes, who have made incredible sacrifices and deserve our utmost respect.

Not only will this legislation help to simplify their passage through airports, it will also improve efficiency by freeing up TSA screeners to focus on real threats. This is a positive step for our veterans and ultimately our transportation and national security.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) for his work on this issue, as well as Chairman MCCAUL for moving this bill through the committee.

The Committee on Homeland Security has long advocated for less burdensome airport screening for our men and women in uniform and our veterans. In fact, this bill builds upon previous bipartisan legislation promoted by the committee and signed into law requiring TSA to provide expedited screening to Active Duty military traveling on official orders, as well as severely injured or disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

Each and every day, we are humbled and inspired by the incredible sacrifices of all our veterans. This should serve as a powerful reminder of our duty to do all we can to honor the sacrifices they have made for our freedoms and treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. HUDSON, for cosponsoring and supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The Honor Flight Act is a measure that seeks to pay a debt of gratitude to a group of Americans who were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we are able to enjoy the freedoms that we have today. Although we may never be able to fully repay our veterans for their bravery, sites such as the National World War II Museum, which we are proud to have in the city of New Orleans, bring into focus their lasting contribution and their impact on American history.

The Honor Flight Network is a nonprofit organization that works with airlines and other nonprofits to transport veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifice. The organization was created in 2005 by Earl Morse, a former physician's assistant with the Department of Veterans Affairs and a private pilot who saw his patients' desire to visit the newly built World War II Memorial and recognized that many of them lacked the resources or support to make the trip on their own.

By the end of 2013, the Honor Flight Network had transported approximately 117,000 of our Nation's heroes to visit their memorials. Estimates from the Honor Flight Network show that number to be well over 120,000 people today. The Honor Flight Network currently prioritizes transporting World War II veterans and veterans who are terminally ill but intends to expand the program to transport veterans of subsequent wars in the future.

Presently, the Transportation Security Administration, under the leadership of Administrator Pistole, expedites the screening process for veterans visiting their memorials in Washington, D.C., via the Honor Flight Network private charter flights, saving them time and showing them the due respect and appreciation they deserve.

This legislation will authorize the collaboration between TSA and the Honor Flight Network in law, thereby ensuring that it becomes a permanent practice.

Before yielding back, I would note that I am especially proud of the bipartisan manner in which this legislation has come to the floor, from its inception and its handling in the subcommittee to today, and I am especially proud that this legislation received unanimous support in committee. I am sure it received unanimous support because it wasn't a political thing to do, it was the right thing to do, and truly bestowing honor on people in this country who truly deserve this honor. But for them, we would not be here today in the capacity that we are. We have to understand and we recognize that it is their sacrifice and their shoulders that we stand upon as a Nation. With that, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as we walk around our Nation's Capital and visit the numerous war memorials, we are reminded of the incredible sacrifices that have been made by our veterans over many decades. H.R. 4812 is a simple and commonsense way to recognize and honor those sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to commend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) for his work authoring this legislation. I am proud that we moved this forward in a bipartisan way. As the gentleman said earlier, this is not a political issue, this is not a partisan issue; this is an issue of right or wrong, and it is right for us to honor our veterans and it is right for us to expedite their travel when they visit Washington, D.C. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the ''Honor Flight Act.''

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from Louisiana, the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Mr. RICHMOND, for introducing this bipartisan legislation.

We owe a great debt to the men and women of this country who have served to defend our liberty and freedom.

The Honor Flight Network is one organization that attempts to repay these veterans, by bringing them to Washington, DC, to visit the war memorials commemorating their dedication and sacrifice.

I have seen how these trips have enriched the lives of veterans. In my district, fifty (50) servicemen and women registered with the Honor Flight-Mid South in Tunica, Mississippi.

Enactment of this legislation will, in some small way, express the tremendous appreciation and gratitude that we have for these veterans and their families.

We are all aware of the steps that the Transportation Security Administration takes to ensure the security of the flying public, as well as the amount of time that this process can consume.

We are also aware that the veterans that the Honor Flight Network currently serves are mostly World War II veterans.

These heroes, who in some instances require additional assistance, are often wheelchair-bound, and have other ailments that can make security screening very time-consuming.

To provide these veterans with the dignity and respect they deserve, since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has partnered with TSA to expedite the screening for veterans.

The legislation before us today will ensure that these veterans continue to receive the respect and consideration they deserve when traveling to the capital.

H.R. 4812 represents one of many pieces of legislation that Democratic members of the Committee on Homeland Security have proposed to support veterans.

Former Representative Hochul's ''Clothe a Homeless Hero Act'', signed into law last Congress, ensures that unclaimed clothes that TSA collects at airports is provided to homeless or needy veterans.

Earlier this Congress, Representative GABBARD's ''Helping Heroes Fly Act'' was signed into law by President Obama.

That legislation ensures that severely-injured service members and veterans are provided expedited screening by TSA.

Now we have the opportunity to extend such treatment to our veterans of World War II and, in years to come, to the other selfless men and women who served our country.

Mr. Speaker, we recently commemorated the seventieth anniversary of the D-Day invasion as well as 238 years of American independence.

Let us continue to support and honor the men and women who made these commemorations possible by enacting the ''Honor Flight Act.''

With that Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this measure.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act. This bill would require TSA to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified screening for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service.

As the son of a World War II veteran, I'd like to commend the Congressman from Louisiana, Mr. RICHMOND for his work on this issue, as well as the important work of the Congressman from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON, Chairman of the Transportation Security Subcommittee.

Having recently witnessed the arrival of an honor flight at Reagan National Airport, I can honestly say that there is nothing more inspiring than seeing these heroic men and women who have made a tremendous sacrifice arriving in our Nation's capital to visit war memorials that are dedicated to their service.

This bill codifies current TSA policy and ensures that TSA continues to take a proactive approach to expediting screening for veterans traveling on Honor Flights. In doing so, it would ensure that TSA spend less time scrutinizing this lower-risk population and more time and energy screening higher-risk passengers and focusing on the real threats to our aviation sector.

As Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am pleased to support such a bipartisan, commonsense effort.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act, which honors our World War II veterans, who have sacrificed much for this country, with a small but significant token of gratitude.

H.R. 4812 requires the Administrator of the Transportation Security Authority to ensure expedited and dignified screening for veterans travelling through airports on special chartered flights to visit war memorials built in their honor.

The Honor Flight program was created in 2005 by Earl Morse, a private pilot and former physician's assistant at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Morse realized the depth of his patients' desire to visit the newly-built World War II Memorial. However, he realized many of these patients lacked the financial resources to pay for the long trip on their own. Mr. Morse understood what seeing this memorial meant to his patients, so he found a way to facilitate them having that opportunity.

The average soldier in World War II was 26 years old, making many of them in their nineties today. Long airport lines and invasive TSA procedures are tiring for anyone. For our soldiers who fought in war 40, 50, and 60 years ago, especially those now in wheel chairs, it is arduous. Sadly, these long and frustrating security protocols often discourage veterans from making these wonderful and meaningful journeys. Mr. Speaker, our World War II veterans have done their duty. It is our duty now to reduce the hardship they might face in any way we can.

The TSA is doing a wonderful job of ensuring that our airports are secure and safe. Nothing in the Honor Flight Act would change that. The bill seeks to work entirely within their security requirements to ensure safety while minimizing the stress felt by our veterans when visiting a memorial through the Honor Flight program. It is a simple, low cost way to recognize our veterans' service.

I want to thank the Homeland Security Committee for bringing this bill before us today and offer my strong support.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the former ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act of 2014.

H.R. 4812 authorizes the collaboration between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Honor Flight Network, as well as other non-profit organizations that transport veterans to visit memorials, to ensure continued expedited and dignified passenger screening for veterans travelling to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials and other tributes to their bravery, heroism, and sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of veterans across the country fought to protect the freedoms we take for granted and to keep our nation safe. They are deserving of our gratitude for the valor and courage they displayed in risking their lives to keep us free and to liberate captive peoples in other lands.

They are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars—Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

With each passing day, the number of World War II and Korea veterans declines by the hundreds. For many of these heroes, one of their last wishes is to visit the national war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Honoring and facilitating that request is the least we can do for those who did so much for us.

TSA works with the Honor Flight Network in expediting the screening process for veterans visiting the national war memorials, saving the veterans' time and showing them their due respect and appreciation.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting veterans on charter flights operated by commercial airlines to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials built in honor of their service.

Currently, the Honor Flight Network gives priority to WWII veterans and those from any war who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

The Honor Flight Network plans to expand the program in the future to include the veterans who served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, followed by veterans of the wars in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, my home state of Texas has the second largest number of veterans of any state in the nation, with just over 1.6 million veterans. My home city of Houston is proud to be the residence of more than 300,000 veterans.

I strongly support the bill before us because I strongly support the efforts of TSA and the Honor Flight Network in making real the dreams, and in many cases the last wishes, of thousands of veterans who wish to visit the memorials dedicated by the nation in their honor.

I urge all members to join me in supporting H.R. 4812 so that our veterans continue to receive the security accommodations they need and deserve as they travel to Washington, D.C. to view the national memorials consecrated by their sacrifice in defense of our country.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4812, the Honor Flight Act.

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting our military veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials of their respective wars. The brave men and women who have fought for our country deserve the chance to see the memorials erected in honor of their sacrifices and contributions, and the Honor Flight Network provides that chance.

I have had the opportunity to greet Honor Flights a few times, most recently last October. It truly is a privilege to shake hands with our nation's heroes as they arrive to see their memorials, and I was honored to participate in greeting them. These men and women put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms, and they deserve our deepest gratitude. I believe one small measure we can take to show that gratitude is to make the travel process for

Honor Flight participants as smooth and easy as possible.

The commonsense legislation before us today is a step to achieving that goal. It sets in motion a process for expedited passenger screening services by TSA for veterans traveling on an Honor Flight Network charter. It simply makes sense to authorize and facilitate collaboration between TSA and the Honor Flight Network to ensure that our veterans are treated with the respect they have earned and deserve when they come to visit the memorials dedicated to their service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4812 as a token of appreciation for our veterans' service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4812, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER CONTRACT EXTENSION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4508) to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4508

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

SECTION 1. EAST BENCH IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONTRACT EXTENSION.

Section 2(1) of the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act (Public Law 112–139; 126 Stat. 390) is amended by striking ''4 years'' and inserting ''10 years''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Hearing that water services delivery could be in jeopardy for 60,000 acres of some of the most productive farmland in my home State of Montana, I was happy to introduce this legislation that ensures that irrigation in southwest Montana is protected.

H.R. 4508 protects irrigation and water supplies in the Beaverhead Valley by extending the district's contract while an updated contract is pending approval by the Montana Water Court. This contract extension is necessary since the Montana court system is in the middle of conducting a necessary State-required review of the new contract between the irrigation district and the United States. This bill does not prejudice the outcome of that examination but keeps in place the existing 1958 contract so area farmers and ranchers in the Beaverhead Valley of Montana have water supply certainty for nearly 60,000 acres.

The legislation has no cost to the Federal Government and is based on congressional precedent. In fact, Congress has extended this 1958 contract a number of times, since an extension provides an irrigation district with an absolute right under Federal law to negotiate a new contract with the Bureau of Reclamation. This bill simply adds 6 additional years to the last extension, thereby extending the 1958 contract until December 31, 2019, or until a new contract is executed.

This bill is the result of hard work that is being done in Montana. I especially want to thank Mr. Bill Hritsco and the East Bench Irrigation District for their leadership and for working with me on this legislation to provide Montana farmers and Montana ranchers with much-needed certainty about their water supply.

Mr. Hritsco, the Dillon, Montana-based attorney representing the Irrigation District, provided expert testimony on this bill before the House Natural Resources Committee earlier this year. The Irrigation District's work with me on this bill represents how Montanans can roll up their sleeves and get good things done. As a result, water will continue to flow in the Beaverhead Valley's fields for years to come if this legislation is enacted. I urge adoption of the bill.

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. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4508, introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES), would extend the East Bench Irrigation District's water contract, as he has said, for 6 years, pending a judicial ruling. The extension will allow the water to continue to be delivered to nearly 60,000 acres in the Beaverhead Valley of Montana, will protect the right for contract renewal, and will be useful to the residents of the area while the court confirmation process is given time for completion.

I support this legislation. I ask my colleagues to support it as well.

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4508.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING EARLY REPAYMENT OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS TO BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4562) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4562

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

SECTION 1. EARLY REPAYMENT OF CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (referred to in this section as the ''District'') may repay, at any time, the construction costs of project facilities allocated to the landowner's land within the District.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF FULL-COST PRICING LIMITATIONS.—On discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of all construction costs described in subsection (a) that are allocated to all land the landowner owns in the District in question, the parcels of land shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations under Federal reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902, 32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (13 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.).

(c) CERTIFICATION.—On request of a landowner that has repaid, in full, the construction costs described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Interior shall provide to the landowner a certificate described in section 213(b)(1) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section—

(1) modifies any contractual rights under, or amends or reopens, the reclamation contract between the District and the United States; or

(2) modifies any rights, obligations, or relationships between the District and landowners in the District under Nebraska State law.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4562, sponsored by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), allows farmers to repay accelerated or lump sums of capital debt owed to the Bureau of Reclamation.

□ 1645

In many cases throughout the West, current Federal law does not allow landowners to make such early repayments on Federal irrigation projects. These outdated Federal hurdles are similar to a bank prohibiting a homeowner from paying his or her mortgage early.

Congressman SMITH's bill removes the Federal Bureau of Reclamation repayment prohibition for individual landowners within the Northport Irrigation District. In return for such payments, these farmers will no longer be subject to the acreage limitations and the paperwork requirements in the Reclamation Reform Act.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill could generate up to $440,000 in Federal revenue. The bill is based on two recent precedents that passed in both Republican- and Democrat-controlled houses, and today, we should continue those efforts by adopting this bill.

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. H.R. 4562 would authorize landowners served by the Northport Irrigation District to prepay the remaining portion of construction costs allocated to them for the North Platte Project.

In exchange, the landowners who pay will no longer be subject to Federal acreage limitations and other requirements associated with the Reclamation Reform Act.

I believe no one from the minority intends to oppose this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH), also a former member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Natural Resources Committee for moving this bill and also to the gentleman from Montana for his remarks.

Under Federal reclamation law, irrigation districts which receive water from a Bureau of Reclamation facility must repay their portion of the capital costs of the water project, typically under long-term contracts.

I introduced this bill to provide members of the Northport Irrigation District early repayment authority under their dated reclamation contract. The contract in question is more than 60 years old and continues to subject landowners to burdensome reporting requirements and acreage limitations without generating revenue to the Federal Government.

Allowing producers within the district to pay off their portion of the contract means the government will receive funds perhaps otherwise uncollected and the landowners will be relieved of costly constraints which threaten family-owned operations.

For example, at a Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee hearing earlier this year, one member of the irrigation district testified the acreage limitation will prohibit parents who own land in the district from passing down or selling farmland to sons and daughters who also own land in the same district.

As Mr. DAINES mentioned, similar legislation has passed under bipartisan majorities and, according to the CBO, could generate as much as $440,000 in Federal revenue.

This is a straightforward bill which would make a big difference to some family farmers in Nebraska.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman is ready to close, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge approval of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4562.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE—FISH SPRINGS RANCH SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3716) to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3716

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe - Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Ratification of agreement.
Sec. 4. Waiver and releases of claims.
Sec. 5. Satisfaction of claims.
Sec. 6. Beneficiaries to agreement.
Sec. 7. Jurisdiction.
Sec. 8. Environmental compliance.
Sec. 9. Miscellaneous provisions.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ORIGINAL AGREEMENT.—The term "Original Agreement" means the "Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Agreement" dated May 30, 2007, entered into by the Tribe and Fish Springs (including all exhibits to that agreement).

(2) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" means the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe-Fish Springs Ranch 2013 Supplement to the 2007 Settlement Agreement dated November 20, 2013, entered into by the Tribe and Fish Springs, and all exhibits to that Agreement.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The term "environmental impact statement" means the final environmental impact statement for the North Valleys Rights-of-Way Projects prepared by the Bureau of Land Management (70 Fed. Reg. 68473).

(4) FINAL PAYMENT DATE.—The term "final payment date" means 30 days after the date on which the Tribe executes the waivers, as authorized in section 4, on or before which Fish Springs shall pay to the Tribe the $3,600,000 and accumulated interest pursuant to subparagraph 4.2 of the Agreement.

(5) FISH SPRINGS.—The term "Fish Springs" means the Fish Springs Ranch, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company (or a successor in interest).

(6) FISH SPRINGS WATER RIGHTS.—The term "Fish Springs water rights" means the 14,108 acre feet of water available to Fish Springs pursuant to certificates of water rights issued to Fish Springs or its predecessors in interest by the State Engineer for the State of Nevada, copies of which are attached as Exhibit "G" to the Original Agreement.

(7) ADDITIONAL FISH SPRINGS WATER RIGHTS.—The term "additional Fish Springs water rights" means the rights to pump and transfer up to 5,000 acre feet per year of Fish Springs water rights in excess of 8,000 acre feet per year, up to a total of 13,000 acre feet per year, pursuant to Ruling No. 3787 signed by the State Engineer for the State of Nevada on March 1, 1991, and Supplemental Ruling on Remand No. 3787A signed by the State Engineer for the State of Nevada on October 9, 1992.

(8) HONEY LAKE VALLEY BASIN.—The term "Honey Lake Valley Basin" means the Honey Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin described as Nevada Hydrographic Water Basin 97.

(9) PROJECT.—The term "Project" means the project for pumping within Honey Lake Valley Basin and transfer outside of the basin by Fish Springs of not more than 13,000 acre feet per year of Fish Springs water rights, including—

(A) not more than 8,000 acre feet as described in the environmental impact statement (but not the Intermountain Water Supply, Ltd., Project described in the environmental impact statement) and the record of decision;

(B) up to the 5,000 acre feet of additional Fish Springs water rights; and

(C) the rights and approvals for Fish Springs to pump and transfer up to said 13,000 acre feet of groundwater per year.

(10) RECORD OF DECISION.—The term "record of decision" means the public record of the decision of the District Manager of the United States Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District in the State of Nevada issued on May 31, 2006, regarding the environmental impact statement and the Project.

(11) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior (or a designee of the Secretary).

(12) TRIBE.—The term "Tribe" means the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Indians organized under section 16 of the Act of June 18,

1934 (commonly known as the ''Indian Reorganization Act''; 25 U.S.C. 476).

(13) TRUCKEE RIVER OPERATING AGREEMENT.—The term ''Truckee River Operating Agreement'' means—

(A) the September 6, 2008, Truckee River Operating Agreement negotiated for the purpose of carrying out the terms of the Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 101–618); and

(B) any final, signed version of the Truckee River Operating Agreement that becomes effective under the terms of the Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act.

SEC. 3. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except to the extent that a provision of the Agreement conflicts with this Act, the Agreement is authorized and ratified.

(b) WAIVER AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Agreement, any waiver or retention of a claim by the Tribe relating to the Agreement shall be carried out in accordance with section 4.

(c) COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.—This section, the Original Agreement, and the Agreement satisfy all applicable requirements of section 2116 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 177).

SEC. 4. WAIVER AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.

(a) WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS BY TRIBE AGAINST FISH SPRINGS.—In return for benefits to the Tribe as set forth in the Original Agreement, the Agreement, and this Act, the Tribe, on behalf of itself and the members of the Tribe, is authorized to execute a waiver and release against Fish Springs of the following:

(1) All rights under Federal, State, and other law to challenge the validity, characteristics, or exercise of the Project or use of Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights), including the right to assert a senior priority against or to place a call for water on the Project or Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights) regardless of the extent to which the Tribe has a water right or in the future establishes a water right that is senior to the Project or Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights).

(2) All claims for damages, losses, or injuries to the Tribe's water rights or claims of interference with, diversion of, or taking of the Tribe's water rights, including—

(A) claims for injury to lands or resources resulting from such damages, losses, injuries, or interference with, diversion of, or taking of tribal water rights under the Agreement or Original Agreement; and

(B) claims relating to the quality of water underlying the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation that are related to use of Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights) by the Project or the implementation or operation of the Project in accordance with the Agreement or Original Agreement.

(3) All claims that would impair, prevent, or interfere with one or more of the following:

(A) Implementation of the Project pursuant to the terms of the Agreement or Original Agreement.

(B) Deliveries of water by the Project pursuant to the terms of—

(i) the Agreement;

(ii) the Original Agreement; or

(iii) the February 28, 2006, Water Banking Trust Agreement between Washoe County and Fish Springs.

(C) Assignments of water rights credits pursuant to the terms of the February 28, 2006, Water Banking Trust Agreement between Washoe County and Fish Springs.

(4) All claims against Fish Springs relating in any manner to the negotiation or adoption of the Agreement or the Original Agreement.

(b) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS BY TRIBE AGAINST FISH SPRINGS.—The Tribe, on its own behalf and on behalf of the members of the Tribe, shall retain against Fish Springs the following:

(1) All claims for enforcement of the Agreement, the Original Agreement or this Act through such remedies as are available in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

(2) Subject to the right of Fish Springs to carry out the Project, and subject to the waiver and release by the Tribe in subsection (a)—

(A) the right to assert and protect any right of the Tribe to surface or groundwater and any other trust resource, including the right to assert a senior priority against or to place a call for water on any water right other than against the Project or Fish Springs water rights;

(B) all rights to establish, claim or acquire a water right in accordance with applicable law and to use and protect any water right acquired after the date of the enactment of this Act that is not in conflict with the Agreement, the Original Agreement or this Act; and

(C) all other rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, powers, and claims not specifically waived and released pursuant to this Act and the Agreement.

(3) The right to enforce—

(A) the Tribe's rights against any party to the Truckee River Operating Agreement;

(B) the Tribe's rights against any party to the Truckee River Water Quality Settlement Agreement; and

(C) whatever rights exist to seek compliance with any permit issued to any wastewater treatment or reclamation facility treating wastewater generated by users of Project water.

(4) The right to seek to have enforced the terms of any permit or right-of-way across Federal lands issued to Fish Springs for the Project and Project water.

(c) WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS BY THE TRIBE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—In return for the benefits to the Tribe as set forth in the Agreement, the Original Agreement, and this Act, the Tribe, on behalf of itself and the members of the Tribe, is authorized to execute a waiver and release of all claims against the United States, including the agencies and employees of the United States, related to the Project and Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights) that accrued at any time before and on the date that Fish Springs makes the payment to the Tribe as provided in Paragraph 4 of the Agreement for damages, losses or injuries that are related to—

(1) the Project, Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights), and the implementation, operation, or approval of the Project, including claims related to—

(A) loss of water, water rights, land, or natural resources due to loss of water or water rights (including damages, losses, or injuries to hunting, fishing, and gathering rights due to loss of water, water rights or subordination of water rights) resulting from the Project or Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights);

(B) interference with, diversion, or taking of water resulting from the Project; or

(C) failure to protect, acquire, replace, or develop water, water rights, or water infrastructure as a result of the Project or Fish Springs water rights (including additional Fish Springs water rights);

(2) the record of decision, the environmental impact statement, the Agreement or the Original Agreement;

(3) claims the United States, acting as trustee for the Tribe or otherwise, asserted, or could have asserted in any past proceeding related to the Project;

(4) the negotiation, execution, or adoption of the Agreement, the Original Agreement, or this Act;

(5) the Tribe's use and expenditure of funds paid to the Tribe under the Agreement or the Original Agreement;

(6) the Tribe's acquisition and use of land under the Original Agreement; and

(7) the extinguishment of claims, if any, and satisfaction of the obligations of the United States on behalf of the Tribe as set forth in subsection (e).

(d) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS AND RETENTION OF CLAIMS BY TRIBE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.—Notwithstanding the waivers and releases authorized in this Act, the Tribe, on behalf of itself and the members of the Tribe, shall retain against the United States the following:

(1) All claims for enforcement of this Act through such legal and equitable remedies as are available in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

(2) The right to seek to have enforced the terms of any permit or right-of-way across Federal lands issued to Fish Springs for the Project and Project water.

(3) Subject to the right of Fish Springs to carry out the Project, all other rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, powers, and claims not specifically waived and released pursuant to this Act and the Agreement.

(e) EXTINGUISHMENT OF WAIVED AND RELEASED CLAIMS.—Upon execution of the waiver and releases by the Tribe pursuant to subsections (a) and (c) and upon final payment by Fish Springs pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, the United States acting on behalf of the Tribe shall have no right or obligation to bring or assert any claims waived and released by the Tribe as set forth in subsection (a). Upon the effective date of the waivers and releases of claims authorized, the waived and released claims as set forth in subsection (a) are extinguished.

(f) NO UNITED STATES LIABILITY FOR WAIVED CLAIMS.—The United States shall bear no liability for claims waived and released by the Tribe pursuant to this Act.

(g) UNITED STATES RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—Nothing in this Act shall affect any rights, remedies, privileges, immunities, or powers of the United States, including the right to enforce the terms of the right-of-way across Federal lands for the Project granted by the Secretary to Fish Springs pursuant to the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), with the exception that the United States may not assert any claim on the Tribe's behalf that is extinguished pursuant to subsection (e).

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WAIVERS AND RELEASES OF CLAIMS.—The waivers and releases authorized under subsections (a) and (c) shall take effect on the day Fish Springs makes the payment to the Tribe as provided in subparagraph 4.2 of the Agreement.

SEC. 5. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The benefits provided to the Tribe under the Agreement, the Original Agreement, and this Act shall be considered to be full satisfaction of all claims of the Tribe waived and released pursuant to section 4 and pursuant to the Original Agreement and any claims the United States might make on behalf of the Tribe that are extinguished pursuant to section 4.

(b) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO EXECUTE WAIVERS AND RELEASES.—If the Tribe fails to execute the waivers and releases as authorized by this Act within 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, this Act and the Agreement shall be null and void.

SEC. 6. BENEFICIARIES TO AGREEMENT.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—The beneficiaries to the Agreement shall be limited to—

(1) the parties to the Agreement;

(2) any municipal water purveyor that provides Project water for wholesale or retail water service to the area serviced by the Project;

(3) any water purveyor that obtains the right to use Project water for purposes other than serving retail or wholesale customers; and

(4) any assignee of Water Rights Credits for Project water pursuant to the terms of the February 28, 2006, Water Banking Trust Agreement between Washoe County and Fish Springs.

(b) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (a), nothing in the Agreement or this Act provides to any individual or entity third-party beneficiary status relating to the Agreement.

SEC. 7. JURISDICTION.

Jurisdiction over any civil action relating to the enforcement of the Agreement, the Original Agreement, or this Act shall be vested in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada.

SEC. 8. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.

Nothing in this Act precludes the United States or the Tribe, when delegated regulatory authority, from enforcing Federal environmental laws, including—

(1) the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) including claims for damages for harm to natural resources;

(2) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.);

(3) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

(4) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.); and

(5) any regulation implementing one or more of the Acts listed in paragraphs (1) through (4).

SEC. 9. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) NO ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD.—Nothing in this Act establishes a standard for the quantification of a Federal reserved water right or any other claim of an Indian tribe other than the Tribe in any other judicial or administrative proceeding.

(b) OTHER CLAIMS.—Nothing in the Agreement, the Original Agreement, or this Act quantifies or otherwise adversely affects any water right, claim, or entitlement to water, or any other right of any Indian tribe, band, or community other than the Tribe.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 3716 is a bipartisan bill sponsored by Congressman AMODEI of Nevada. The legislation ratifies a water rights agreement between the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Fish Springs Ranch.

Although the bill does not authorize the expenditure of American taxpayer dollars, it is necessary due to the Federal trust responsibility for the tribe and because it decreases the Federal Government's potential liabilities related to those trust duties.

H.R. 3716 allows a water pipeline project to go forward while codifying an agreement that allows non-Federal payments to mitigate for water supply damages associated with the pipeline. This is a win for the American taxpayer, this is a win for the tribe, and this is a win for water users.

I commend Congressman AMODEI for his leadership and urge adoption of the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 3716 would ratify a water settlement agreement between the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and a subsidiary of the Vidler Water Company. The agreement allows the Vidler Water Company to continue operating a water project that provides water to the northern Reno area and fairly compensates the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for any actual or potential water losses.

As I understand the situation, the legislation is supported by all affected parties, and it will settle potential claims by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe against the United States at no cost to American taxpayers.

Consequently, I support this legislation. I am happy to see it come to the floor. I believe my colleagues on the minority of the Committee on Natural Resources concur.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI), who I served on the Natural Resources Committee with recently.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, my colleague from Big Sky Country.

This legislation would authorize the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to grant waivers against both Fish Springs Ranch and the United States Government. The provisions would take effect after the tribe signs the waivers and Fish Springs pays the tribe. The amount in payment—for those of you keeping track—is about $3.6 million.

The tribe would also dismiss pending litigation against BLM for violations in NEPA and potential trust responsibilities related to the groundwater project. At that point, any potential Federal liability would be eliminated.

This is a settlement reached at arm's length between the two parties as a result of a lawsuit filed in 2005. Settlement was reached in 2007. The damage amount of $3.6 million would also have added to it interest from 2007.

The approach is simple and straightforward, with no Federal dollars involved.

I recommend passage of the bill.

Mr. HOLT. If the gentleman from Montana is ready to close, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3716.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HINCHLIFFE STADIUM HERITAGE ACT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2430) to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2430

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act''.

SEC. 2. PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Section 7001 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 410lll) is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (b)(3)—

(A) by striking ''The Park shall'' and inserting ''(A) The Park shall'';

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (G) as clauses (i) through (vii), respectively; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) In addition to the lands described in subparagraph (A), the Park shall include the approximately 6 acres of land containing Hinchliffe Stadium and generally depicted as the 'Boundary Modification Area' on the map entitled 'Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, Proposed Boundary Modification', numbered T03/120,155, and dated April 2014, which shall be administered as part of the Park in accordance with subsection (c)(1) and section 3 of the Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act.''.

(2) In subsection (b)(4), by striking ''The Map'' and inserting ''The Map and the map referred to in paragraph (3)(B)''.

(3) In subsection (c)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary''; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) HINCHLIFFE STADIUM.—The Secretary may not acquire fee title to Hinchliffe Stadium, but may acquire a preservation easement in Hinchliffe Stadium if the Secretary determines that doing so will facilitate resource protection of the stadium.''.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR HINCHLIFFE STADIUM.

In administering the approximately 6 acres of land containing Hinchliffe Stadium and generally depicted as the ''Boundary Modification

Area'' on the map entitled ''Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, Proposed Boundary Modification'', numbered T03/120,155, and dated April 2014, the Secretary of the Interior—

(1) may not include non-Federal property within the approximately 6 acres of land as part of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park without the written consent of the owner;

(2) may not acquire by condemnation any land or interests in land within the approximately 6 acres of land; and

(3) shall not construe this Act or the amendments made by this Act to create buffer zones outside the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. That activities or uses can be seen, heard or detected from areas within the approximately 6 acres of land added to the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park by this Act shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Hinchliffe Stadium is a historic 10,000-seat municipal stadium in Paterson, New Jersey, built between 1931 and 1932, surrounded by the city's national historical landmark district. It is one of only a handful of stadiums surviving nationally that once played host to Negro League baseball.

H.R. 2430 adds the historic Hinchliffe Stadium into the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, which was created in 2009.

This legislation amends the park's boundary to include the stadium, but an amendment adopted by the Natural Resources Committee prohibits Federal ownership. The stadium will remain as it is today, owned by local government.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by commending my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) for his work—his persistent, diligent work on H.R. 2430 and the preceding legislation that created this important park site.

The Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act that we are looking at now, of which I am pleased to be a cosponsor, enjoys the support of every Member of the New Jersey congressional delegation—I should say the enthusiastic support of every Member of the New Jersey congressional delegation.

It will place within the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, which is one of the newest park service units in the country, this historic Hinchliffe Stadium.

I would say by mistake or oversight or because of difficulties in the first drafting of the original legislation, the park boundaries did not include this historic stadium. This will correct that.

H.R. 2430 would adjust the boundaries of the current Great Falls national historic site to include the 10,000-seat stadium, which is currently listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the most endangered historic places in the country.

As we have heard, this is one of the last remaining stadiums in the Nation where Negro League baseball games were played and is home to the New York Black Yankees and the New York Cubans.

Even though the names of these teams include New York, this area is very much New Jersey and has tremendous importance to the people of New Jersey and to the history of New Jersey, and it is of interest to the entire country.

In preserving this historic stadium, we will be preserving a visual reminder of an unfortunate, but not forgotten, era of racial segregation. Segregation in America extended beyond the buses of Alabama and the Deep South that was engrained throughout American society, even into our national pastime—baseball.

The Hinchliffe Stadium will serve as an educational opportunity for future generations to learn about this unfortunate past, so that we can continue to move forward collectively as a Nation.

This historic site brings memories and history of the industrial revolution, of the political and patriotic origins of our Nation, of art and culture, and American industry. Now, it will also include this historic sports site.

Again, I applaud my colleague, Mr. PASCRELL, for his efforts, and I urge support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague from Paterson, New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank both managers.

Hinchliffe Stadium overlooks the Great Falls of Paterson, New Jersey, one of the largest waterfalls on the east coast in the United States. It was built by the citizens of Paterson as a public works project during a very difficult financial situation in the United States, 1932. It was named for the mayor at that time, Judge John Hinchliffe.

The stadium site sits directly adjacent to the Great Falls National Historical Park. The New York Black Yankees played there and the New York Cubans. These games featured baseball Hall of Famers such as Paterson's own hometown hero, Larry Doby, the first player to integrate the American League.

Other greats such as Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston, Judy Johnson also made appearances here. Besides baseball, the stadium hosted events in professional football, boxing, wrestling, soccer, even auto racing, throughout its long and storied history.

They also were the home of the Paterson Panthers, a professional football team, and the great concerts that went on there. Recently, it played host to all high school sports under the stewardship of the Paterson Public Schools.

Sadly, the stadium has sat in a state of disuse since 1997, when the school system could no longer afford to keep up with the maintenance. However, this legislation would not place the burden of restoration or maintenance on the National Park Service.

□ 1700

This bill would spur private donations as well as the State and local investments to make the necessary improvements at Hinchliffe Stadium. The stewardship of the National Park Service will simply provide certainty about Hinchliffe's future.

Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about putting purple ropes around an edifice. We want this stadium to be functional again. I think, therefore, Hinchliffe Stadium provides a golden opportunity for the Park Service to meet its goal of reaching out to urban communities, minorities, and immigrant groups.

This legislation would vastly enhance the significance of the Great Falls National Park, which this body voted on a few years ago. Although the Great Falls Park's current historic assets focus on Paterson's role as the birthplace of American industry, Hinchliffe Stadium shows us the human side of blue collar workers who came to Paterson to work in mills through waves of immigration and the Great Migration. Their descendants are the Patersonians, New Jerseyans, and Americans of today, and new immigrants continue to seek the American Dream.

As it was originally introduced, the legislation establishing the Paterson Great Falls National Park included Hinchliffe Stadium within the park boundaries. However, the stadium's historic significance was found to be in need of further study. That study was completed last year, reaching a conclusion that the people of New Jersey have long known: Hinchliffe Stadium has played a vital role in our history. As a result, Hinchliffe Stadium was designated as a National Historic Landmark. The importance of this effort to the people of New Jersey is evidenced by the fact that the entire New Jersey delegation has joined together as original cosponsors in a bipartisan way.

We have the support of a broad group of stakeholders, from local community organizations to large national advocacy organizations. I will enter in the RECORD letters of support from the National Baseball Hall of Fame; the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the National Parks Conservation Association; the New Jersey Community Development Corporation; the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson; Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium; former Paterson mayor and current chair of the Great Falls Advisory Commission, Pat Kramer; and the current property owner, the Paterson Board of Education.

NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM,
Cooperstown, New York, November 19, 2013.

Hon. BILL PASCRELL, JR.,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: On behalf of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 2430, Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013. This legislation would expand the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include historic Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, New Jersey.

As you know, Hinchliffe is historically significant as one of the last remaining stadiums in the nation to have hosted Negro League baseball. These games featured future Baseball Hall of Famers such as Paterson's own Larry Doby—the first player break the color barrier in the American League. Sadly, the Stadium has been closed since 1997 and is falling into disrepair.

With the progress being made in the area through the creation of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, now is our opportunity to bring further attention and resources to Hinchliffe. Future generations of visitors and Patersonians alike deserve the opportunity to enjoy Hinchliffe and learn about the amazing role that the Stadium has played in our history. This legislation is an important step towards making that vision a reality.

Thank you for your leadership in bringing national attention to Hinchliffe Stadium and its important role in our nation's cultural history. We look forward to assisting you in your efforts.

My Best,

KEN MEIFERT,
Vice President,
Sponsorship and Development.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION,
Washington DC, May 31, 2013.

Re Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Boundary Expansion

Hon. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: The National Trust for Historic Preservation enthusiastically supports your legislation to expand the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium. Your legislation is an important step toward a more comprehensive celebration of Paterson's past. Interpretive themes presented in industrial heritage, the labor movement, the Great Depression, recreation, and social progress are intertwined by the contributions to Hinchliffe Stadium's legacy in the Great Migration story, American sports, and Negro League Baseball.

We support the inclusion of 6 acres of land commonly known as Hinchliffe Stadium into the Park. We also support the continued ownership and management of the stadium by the local school district and look forward to its rehabilitation and use for school sports and other community activities. We also support the fact that the bill does not provide for the National Park Service to acquire the property.

The National Trust has been proud to partner with the City and the school district to preserve Hinchliffe Stadium. Since 2009 we have been working to raise national awareness of Hinchliffe Stadium. For example, the stadium was featured in the November/December 2009 issue of Preservation Magazine. In 2010, partnering with the 1772 Foundation, we enhanced the capacity of the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium with board management and fundraising training, and granted $40,000 for the stadium's planning and stabilization. Hinchliffe Stadium was also named to the 2010 list of America's 11-Most Endangered Historic Places, and was included in our inaugural list of National Treasures. The site is one of 32 National Treasures identified by the National Trust as endangered places of national significance, where our on-the-ground success can have positive implications for preservation nationwide. We continue to invest our resources to help secure Hinchliffe Stadium's future and are proud of our recent and successful outreach to the City and school district facilitating support for your legislation.

Our work at the stadium is an active partnership with the Paterson City Schools, City of Paterson, and Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium. Together, we are beginning the process to stabilize and return Hinchliffe Stadium to use as a fully-rehabilitated community asset. For more details about this project, please visit: http://savingplaces.org/treasures/hinchliffe-stadium. We support additional measures to safeguard the stadium through the National Park Service system. We anticipate that inclusion in the Park will provide Hinchliffe Stadium:

Strategic support when the National Park is fully-functioning and operational.

An enhanced national profile and increased visibility through marketing and heritage tourism.

Scholarship and interpretation that showcase the story of Paterson's diverse cultural past, and its connection to broader narratives in American history.

An expanded network of partners that champion the National Historic Landmark's protection and preservation.

Increased possibilities for future public and private investments.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work with the Paterson City Schools, City of Paterson, Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium, National Park Service, and your office so that together we may increase opportunities to preserve and interpret the role of Paterson's significant historic resources, including African American baseball players, business owners, and the development of Negro League Baseball.

With warmest regards,

THOMAS J. CASSIDY, Jr.,
Vice President, Government Relations and Policy.

BRENT LEGGS,
Field Officer, Project Manager.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION,
New York, NY, March 3, 2014.

Re Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Boundary Expansion

Hon. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: The National Parks Conservation Association supports H.R. 2430, which would expand the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium. Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park is home to one of the country's most spectacular waterfalls—a 260-foot-wide, 77-foot drop that rushes through the Passaic River Gorge and is recognized as a National Natural Landmark. These astounding falls made Paterson the ideal site for one of America's earliest industrial parks—a thriving manufacturing district developed in part by founding father Alexander Hamilton and run for decades on the area's abundant hydropower.

NPCA supports the inclusion of 6 additional acres of land to the park's jurisdiction, which encompasses Hinchliffe Stadium. This historic 10,000 seat municipal stadium, built in 1931 above the Great Falls is an important historic structure who's history would fit nicely with the interpretive skills of our national park rangers. During the 1930's it was rare for a Negro League team to have a home ballpark, but at Hinchliffe, the New York Black Yankees and the New York Cubans were permanent residents. The cultural significance of this National Landmark should be preserved and interpreted.

NPCA supports the continued ownership and management of the stadium by the local school district and understands a local effort will be undertaken to restore the stadium for school sports and community activities.

Sincerely,

OLIVER SPELLMAN,
Senior Manager, Northeast Regional Office, National Parks Conservation Association.

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Patterson, NJ, May 3, 2013.

Re Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: On behalf of New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC), I am writing to express our support for the Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013. This legislation would expand the boundaries of the newly created Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include historic Hinchliffe Stadium within the park.

Hinchliffe is historically significant as one of the last remaining stadiums in the nation to have hosted Negro League baseball. These games featured future baseball hall of famers such as Paterson's own Larry Doby—the first player break the color barrier in the American League, sadly, the Stadium has been closed since 1997 and is falling into disrepair.

NJCDC is committed to the revitalization of the area we call the Great Falls Promise Neighborhood, within which Hinchliffe is located. With the progress being made through the creation of the new national park, this is the most appropriate time to include Hinchliffe Stadium in the overall efforts to remake this historic area. Future generations of visitors and Patersonians alike deserve the opportunity to enjoy Hinchliffe and learn about the amazing role that the Stadium has played in our history. This legislation is an important step towards making that vision a reality.

Thank you for your leadership in bringing national attention to the fascinating history of Hinchliffe Stadium and the City of Paterson. We look forward to assisting you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. GUARASCI,
Chief Executive Officer.

HAMILTON PARTNERSHIP FOR PATERSON,
Paterson, NJ, May 31, 2013.

Hon. BILL PASCRELL, Jr.,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: I am proud to express the Hamilton Partnership for Paterson's support for a boundary amendment to the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium. The Department of the Interior recently designated Hinchliffe Stadium a National Historic Landmark—the culmination of a major study Congress authorized in the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park Act.

Hinchliffe is a former Negro Leagues baseball venue of enormous national importance that regularly drew racially-diverse crowds that included Paterson mill workers. Expanding the boundary of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium would enhance the National Park's interpretation of social movements and Paterson's immigrant past by connecting the National Park to the Great Migration and African American history.

Adding Hinchliffe Stadium would provide critical context to other aspects of the National Park by showing the broader experiences of workers and the evolution of a manufacturing city. Workers in Paterson mills played at Hinchliffe Stadium on racially-integrated teams such as the Doherty Silk Sox, the Wright Aeros, and the Uncle Sams. Without Hinchliffe, the Paterson National Park cannot capture the full story of diverse movements of people and cultures to Paterson.

The professionalism, integrity, and permanence of the National Park Service are essential for securing private financial support for Hinchcliffe's renovation. Expanding the Paterson National Park boundary to include Hinchliffe will also increase the likelihood of attracting non-Park Service federal and state funding for such purposes as environmental remediation, parking, and transportation improvements.

Ownership of Hinchliffe Stadium need not change. Hinchliffe could remain owned by the Paterson Board of Education and, after renovation, could be used for school sports and other activities much as it was for decades.

We very much appreciate your vigorous efforts and strong leadership in honoring this important part of the history of Paterson and our nation.

With all good wishes,

LEONARD A. ZAX.

FRIENDS OF HINCHLIFFE STADIUM,
Paterson NJ, June 4, 2013.

Hon. CONGRESSMAN BILL PASCRELL,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: Though it has taken a decade to give official and unequivocal recognition to Paterson's Hinchliffe Stadium as a National Historic Landmark, our research had always shown Hinchliffe Stadium to be nationally significant. This honor reinforces the unwavering commitment of the Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium to help save such a remarkable monument to the courage, dignity and perseverance of African-Americans in the quest for civil rights.

We are confident that Hinchliffe Stadium's inclusion in the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, through the ''Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act,'' can play a role in realizing the longer-term objective of seeing the stadium preserved and restored to active use by and for the local and regional communities, and as a future educational resource for everyone who cares about freedom.

We had expressed our prior support of this inclusion as conditional on its acceptance by our project partners: the Paterson Public Schools (deed holders) and the City of Paterson (management partners through a Shared Services Agreement). Since it has now met with their approvals, we are proud to add our voices in support of this critical legislation.

If Hinchliffe Stadium is included in the Great Falls National Historical Park, it will be another measure in correcting the unfortunate National Register of Historic Places error, which incorrectly labeled Hinchliffe Stadium as only ''locally significant.''

Please keep us apprised of progress, and of any further service we can be to this effort.

Sincerely,

BRIAN LOPINTO AND FLAVIA ALAYA,
Friends of Hinchliffe Stadium.

The Hon. BILL PASCRELL, JR.,
Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: I write today to express my enthusiastic support for the Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act of 2013, which would expand the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium.

As you know, Hinchliffe Stadium was completed in 1932 and named for John Hinchliffe, the Paterson mayor who fought to bring the stadium into being. Hinchliffe is one of just a handful of stadiums remaining in the United States to have played host to Negro League baseball, with games featuring future hall of famers such as local hero Larry Doby. Doby bravely cemented his name in history as the first player to break the American League color barrier.

Unfortunately, the Hinchliffe has sat abandoned since its closure in 1997 and has begun to deteriorate. We need to bring awareness to this vital landmark before it is too late to save Hinchliffe. With the establishment of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in Paterson's historic district, we have an opportunity to elevate Hinchliffe's status. Patersonians and other visitors to the National Park deserve the chance to enjoy Hinchliffe and learn about the incredible role that it has played in our nation's history.

As a fellow former mayor of Paterson, I would like to thank you for your work in bringing long overdue attention to our hometown's fascinating history. Adding the Stadium to the National Park would reaffirm Hinchliffe's vital role in that history. I look forward to working with you to make the revitalization of Hinchliffe Stadium a reality.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE ''PAT'' KRAMER.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
Paterson, NJ, May 30, 2013.

Hon. WILLIAM J. PASCRELL, Jr.,
Congressman, U.S. Representative,
Patterson, NJ.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN PASCRELL: The Board of Education received your letter dated April 23, 2013, requesting the Board's support of legislation to expand the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium.

At a special meeting held on May 15, 2013, the Board unanimously adopted the attached resolution expressing its support of your efforts to include Hinchliffe Stadium within the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park. As indicated in your letter, this support is with the understanding that the Board would not in any way relinquish control of the stadium property.

The Board looks forward to working with you in this effort.

Regards,

CHRISTOPHER C. IRVING,
President, Paterson Board of Education.

Attachment.

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION FORM

1. All Board Resolutions must clearly state how that program/initiative relates to or is specifically connected to the Priorities and Goals contained in the Strategic Plan.

2. This Action Form must be in the State District Superintendent's office according to cutoff date before the meeting of the Board of Education.

RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

Whereas; Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., member of the House of Representatives representing the City of Paterson, has informed the Board of Education, Paterson Public Schools District of his legislative efforts to expand the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium. This proposed expansion is based upon the Stadium's significant place in the history of the City as well as its place in the struggle for economic opportunity and racial quality by African Americans; and

Whereas; Since Hinchliffe Stadium is owned by Paterson Public Schools District, Congressman Pascrell has asked for the support of the Board of Education in his efforts to mobilize the resources of the National Park Services and other stakeholders in developing plans for the National Historical Park, including Hinchliffe Stadium and

Whereas; Congressman Pascrell has committed to the Paterson Public Schools District that the proposed legislation would not in any way (1) require Paterson Public Schools District to relinquish control of the Stadium; (2) require the National Park Services to acquire the Stadium; or (3) permit the National Park Service to acquire or manage the Stadium without the express support of the Paterson Public Schools District.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Paterson Public Schools District Board of Education does hereby express its support for the efforts of Congressman Pascrell to include Hinchliffe Stadium within the boundaries of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park.

APPROVALS REQUIRED

1. Submitted by Dr. Donnie W. Evans, State District Superintendent, May 15, 2013.

2. Approval by Divisional Administrator (State District Superintendent, Deputy, Assistant Superintendent or Business Administrator), Date.

3. Account No:

Certification of Funds—Business Administrator, (Signature) Date.

Funds Available—Funds Not Available—Funds Not Needed—Non-Budget Item.

4. Verification by Legal Department, if required: Date.

5. Approval—State District Superintendent: Donnie W. Evans, 5/28/13.

6. Board Adoption Date: May 15, 2013, Resolution Number 6.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has recognized the significance of Hinchliffe Stadium's contributions to our country and our history. This is

a vital part of the history of our State and our Nation. Now is the time to ensure that the story has a place in our National Park System for generations to come. Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, again, this has the unanimous support of the New Jersey congressional delegation. This is of national historic importance, and I urge support of this legislation to expand the boundary of this national historic site.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTIVOLIO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2430, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN ADAMS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3802) to extend the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3802

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY FOR MEMORIAL ESTABLISHMENT.

Section 1 of Public Law 107–62 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note), as amended by Public Law 111–169, is amended—

(1) by striking ''2013'' and inserting ''2020'' in subsection (c); and

(2) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

''(e) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS FOR ESTABLISHED MEMORIAL.—

''(1) If upon payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Adams Memorial Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

''(2) If upon expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the Adams Memorial Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator (as appropriate) following the process provided for in section 8906(b)(4) of title 40, United States Code, for accounts established under section 8906(b)(2) or (3) of title 40, United States Code.''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAINES. 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 Montana?

There was no objection.

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

In 2001, President George Bush signed Public Law 107–62, which authorized the Adams Memorial Foundation to create a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia. When completed, the memorial will honor former President John Adams, along with his wife, Abigail Adams, former President John Quincy Adams, and their legacy of public service.

The Foundation has been working towards securing a location for the memorial, but a previous extension to their authority expired in 2013. H.R. 3802 authorizes an extension to this authority so that the Foundation may continue development and planning until December 2, 2020. No Federal funds are involved in the creation of this memorial and this extension has no impact on the Federal budget.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

As many of us know, finding a location for a memorial in Washington, D.C., is not always easy. In 2001, Congress authorized the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor the public service and legacy of the Adams family. Planning often takes longer sometimes than the initial authorization allows, and in this case, the Foundation was granted an extension, which expired in 2013. H.R. 3802 grants another extension until 2020.

I am happy to provide more time to make sure that President John Adams and his wife, Abigail Adams, and President John Quincy Adams all receive the commemoration in our Nation's Capital that their sacrifice and service deserve.

I would particularly like to thank my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for sponsoring this bill and for navigating it through the legislative process. I think without his hard work this memorial may have been mired in the planning process and might never be built. I now believe that, with this extension, we will see a worthy and fitting commemoration of the Adams family.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding the time and also for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 3802, to extend the legislative authority for the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, and for other purposes.

I would like to thank full committee Chairman DOC HASTINGS and Ranking Member PETER DEFAZIO, as well as the gentleman from Utah, Subcommittee Chairman ROB BISHOP, and Ranking Member RAÚL GRIJALVA for helping get this very important bill to the floor.

This bill simply extends the authorization of the Adams Memorial Foundation for 7 years. It is supported by the entire Massachusetts delegation, as well as Chairman BISHOP, as I said, and will allow the Adams Memorial Foundation, the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, and all stakeholders to continue to work toward finding a site and building a commemorative memorial honoring President John Adams and his family and the role they played in the shaping of our great Nation.

I have the great and good fortune to represent the Massachusetts Eighth Congressional District, a district rich in history that includes the city of Quincy, nicknamed the ''City of Presidents.'' Quincy is home to the Adams National Historic Park, birthplace of John Adams, and the home at which his family lived until 1927. I am also proud to hold the House seat associated with our Nation's sixth President and dedicated public servant, John Quincy Adams.

John Adams was a defender of due process, champion of independence, diplomat, Vice President, President, and Founding Father. He authored the Massachusetts Constitution, which is the oldest continually functioning written constitution in the world and the document after which the United States Constitution, frequently referenced on this very floor, was modeled.

As the second President of the United States, he was first to reside in the District of Columbia and to occupy the White House. Yet there is no memorial in our Nation's Capital dedicated to one of our most influential Founding Fathers, a man Thomas Jefferson called ''a colossus of independence.'' That is a tragic omission that must be corrected.

Our former colleague, my dear friend, Congressman Bill Delahunt, acted to

correct this oversight when he introduced a bill authorizing the creation of the Adams Memorial Foundation.

The Adams Memorial Foundation was established to commemorate not only John Adams, but also the legacy of the Adams family, who for generations embraced his ideals. That includes his wife, Abigail; his son and our sixth President and Congressman, John Quincy Adams; his wife, Louisa Catherine; their son, Charles Francis; and his sons, Henry and Brooks Adams.

As the enabling legislation states:

Both individually and collectively, the members of this illustrious family have enriched the Nation through their profound civic consciousness, abiding belief in the perfectibility of the Nation's democracy, and commitment to service and sacrifice for the common good.

Since its authorization, the Adams Memorial Foundation, which counts among its leadership members of the Adams family and respected historians and architects, has been committed to realizing its goal of creating a commemorative memorial. However, siting a commemorative memorial in the Nation's Capital is an arduous undertaking, as my colleagues have pointed out.

Despite broad support and the best efforts of the Adams Memorial Foundation, we remain without an agreed-upon location—but we are getting much closer—for this important memorial. I know that all stakeholders firmly believe the Adams legacy is worthy of memorializing in the Nation's Capital. This bill, if passed, will give all parties the time needed to reach agreement on a location that appropriately honors President Adams' legacy.

For many of us who grew up in Massachusetts, the John and Abigail Adams family and their contributions to the Commonwealth and our Nation serve as a beacon upon which to focus our own efforts. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams are referred to as the sword, the pen, and the voice of our Nation's independence. Yet the voice, which was carried for generations beyond independence, goes unrecognized in this seat of the government he helped to create and sustain.

In closing, I look forward to working with the Adams Memorial Foundation, the National Park Service, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission, and all stakeholders to correct this oversight.

I thank Chairman BISHOP of Utah again for his courtesy and support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this very important bill.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Montana is ready to close, I strongly recommend we pass the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, I, too, strongly support the passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3802, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

HEZBOLLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4411) to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4411

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Statement of policy.
TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HEZBOLLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS
Sec. 101. Briefing on imposition of sanctions on certain satellite providers that carry al-Manar TV.
Sec. 102. Sanctions with respect to financial institutions that engage in certain transactions.
TITLE II—REPORTS ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER AND A SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION
Sec. 201. Report on designation of Hezbollah as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker.
Sec. 202. Report on designation of Hezbollah as a significant transnational criminal organization.
Sec. 203. Report on Hezbollah's involvement in the trade of conflict diamonds.
Sec. 204. Rewards for justice and Hezbollah's fundraising, financing, and money laundering activities.
Sec. 205. Report on activities of foreign governments to disrupt global logistics networks and fundraising, financing, and money laundering activities of Hezbollah.
Sec. 206. Appropriate congressional committees defined.
TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Sec. 301. Rule of construction.
Sec. 302. Regulatory authority.
Sec. 303. Offset.
Sec. 304. Termination.

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) prevent Hezbollah's global logistics and financial network from operating in order to curtail funding of its domestic and international activities; and

(2) utilize all available diplomatic, legislative, and executive avenues to combat the global criminal activities of Hezbollah as a means to block that organization's ability to fund its global terrorist activities.

TITLE I—PREVENTION OF ACCESS BY HEZBOLLAH TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

SEC. 101. BRIEFING ON IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON CERTAIN SATELLITE PROVIDERS THAT CARRY AL-MANAR TV.

Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a briefing on the following:

(1) The activities of all satellite, broadcast, Internet, or other providers that knowingly provide material support to al-Manar TV, and any affiliates or successors thereof.

(2) With respect to all providers described in paragraph (1)—

(A) an identification of those providers that have been sanctioned pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001); and

(B) an identification of those providers that have not been sanctioned pursuant to Executive Order 13224 and, with respect to each such provider, the reason why sanctions have not been imposed.

SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) PROHIBITIONS AND CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ACCOUNTS HELD BY FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the heads of other applicable departments and agencies, shall prohibit, or impose strict conditions on, the opening or maintaining in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial institution that the Secretary determines, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, engages in an activity described in paragraph (2).

(2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign financial institution engages in an activity described in this paragraph if the foreign financial institution—

(A) knowingly facilitates a significant transaction or transactions for Hezbollah;

(B) knowingly facilitates a significant transaction or transactions of a person designated for acting on behalf of or at the direction of, or owned or controlled by, Hezbollah;

(C) knowingly engages in money laundering to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

(D) knowingly facilitates a significant transaction or transactions or provides significant financial services to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), including—

(i) facilitating a significant transaction or transactions; or

(ii) providing significant financial services that involve a transaction of covered goods; or

(E)(i) knowingly facilitates, or participates or assists in, an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D), including by acting on behalf of, at the direction of, or as an intermediary for, or otherwise assisting, another person with respect to the activity described in any such subparagraph;

(ii) knowingly attempts or conspires to facilitate or participate in an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

(iii) is owned or controlled by a foreign financial institution that the Secretary finds knowingly engages in an activity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe and implement regulations to carry out this subsection.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the heads of other applicable departments and agencies, may waive, on a case-by-case basis, the application of a prohibition or condition imposed with respect to a foreign financial institution pursuant to subsection (a) for a period of not more than 180 days, and may renew that waiver for additional periods of not more than 180 days, on and after the date that the Secretary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State—

(A) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(B) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing the reasons for the determination.

(2) FORM.—The report required by subparagraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(c) PROVISIONS RELATING TO FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(A) identifies each foreign central bank that the Secretary determines engages in one or more activities described in subsection (a)(2)(D); and

(B) provides a detailed description of each such activity.

(2) SPECIAL RULE TO ALLOW FOR TERMINATION OF SANCTIONABLE ACTIVITY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall not be required to apply sanctions to a foreign financial institution described in subsection (a) if the Secretary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the heads of other applicable departments and agencies, certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(A) the foreign financial institution—

(i) is no longer engaging in the activity described in subsection (a)(2); or

(ii) has taken and is continuing to take significant verifiable steps toward terminating the activity described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) the Secretary has received reliable assurances from the government with primary jurisdiction over the foreign financial institution that the foreign financial institution will not engage in any activity described in subsection (a)(2) in the future.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section:

(A) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms ''account'', ''correspondent account'', and ''payable-through account'' have the meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

(B) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(ii) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(C) COVERED GOODS.—The term ''covered goods'' has the meaning given the term in section 1027.100 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(D) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''financial institution'' means a financial institution specified in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), (J), (K), (M), (N), (P), (R), (T), (Y), or (Z) of section 5312(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

(E) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION; DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—

(i) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''foreign financial institution'' has the meaning of such term in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, and includes a foreign central bank.

(ii) DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''domestic financial institution'' has the meaning of such term as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(F) HEZBOLLAH.—The term ''Hezbollah'' means—

(i) any person—

(I) the property of or interests in property of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(II) who is identified on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury as an agent, instrumentality, or affiliate of Hezbollah; and

(ii) the entity designated by the Secretary of State as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(G) MONEY LAUNDERING.—The term ''money laundering'' means any of the activities described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of section 1956(a) of title 18, United States Code, with respect to which penalties may be imposed pursuant to such section.

(2) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may further define the terms used in this section in the regulations prescribed under this section.

TITLE II—REPORTS ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER AND A SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION

SEC. 201. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2008, after the two year Operation Titan run by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and Colombian authorities dismantled an international narcotics ring that smuggled cocaine into the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, and was run by Chekry Harb, also known as ''Taliban''. According to lead prosecutor for the special prosecutor's office in Bogota, Gladys Sanchez, ''The profits from the sales of drugs went to finance Hezbollah.''.

(2) In 2011, the Department of the Treasury blacklisted the Lebanese Canadian Bank as a primary money laundering concern, alleging that it is part of a drug trafficking network that profited Hezbollah by moving approximately $200,000,000 per month.

(3) In April 2013, when the Department of the Treasury blacklisted two Lebanese exchange houses, Kassem Rmeiti & Co. and Halawi Exchange Co., for laundering drug profits for Hezbollah, it stated that Hezbollah was operating like ''an international drug cartel,'' adding that the ''Halawi Exchange, through its network of established international exchange houses, initiated wire transfers from its bank accounts to the United States without using the Lebanese banking system in order to avoid scrutiny associated with Treasury's designations of Hassan Ayash Exchange, Elissa Exchange, and its Lebanese Canadian Bank Section 311 Action. . . . Money was then wire transferred via Halawi's banking relationships indirectly to the United States through countries that included China, Singapore, and the UAE, which were perceived to receive less scrutiny by the U.S. Government.''.

(4) The Department of Justice reported that 29 of the 63 organizations on its FY 2010 Consolidated Priority Organization Targets list, which includes the most significant international drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) threatening the United States, were associated with terrorist groups, and noted with concern Hezbollah's international drug and criminal activities.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker as set forth in the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); and

(2) the President should so designate Hezbollah as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(A) a detailed report on whether the Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.) as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker; and

(B) if the President determines that Hezbollah does not meet the criteria for designation under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act as a significant foreign narcotics trafficker, a detailed justification as to which criteria have not been met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 202. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF HEZBOLLAH AS A SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Hezbollah is engaged array of illicit activities, from counterfeiting currencies, passport documents, to stolen automobile rings and other illicit activities.

(2) In 2002, authorities in Charlotte, North Carolina arrested members of a cell run by Mohammed and Chawki Hamoud and convicted them on various charges, including funding the activities of Hezbollah from proceeds of interstate cigarette smuggling and money laundering.

(3) In 2006 the Department of the Treasury designated operations of Assad Barakat, treasurer for Hezbollah, as providing material support for a foreign terrorist organization and noted that Barakat had engaged in mafia-style shakedowns and ''threatened TBA (triborder area) shopkeepers who are sympathetic to Hezbollah's cause with having family members in Lebanon placed on a 'Hezbollah blacklist' if they did not pay their quota to Hezbollah'' and also was ''involved in a counterfeiting ring that distributes fake

U.S. dollars and generates cash to fund Hezbollah operations''.

(4) In 2009, Paraguayan authorities arrested Moussa Hamdan and three other individuals for selling fraudulent passports and trafficking in counterfeit money and sporting goods, illegally obtained consumer electronics and automobiles and then using the proceeds to buy arms for Hezbollah.

(5) In October 2011, a group of businessmen pled guilty to attempting to ship electronics to a shopping center in South America that the Department of the Treasury had designated as a Hezbollah front.

(6) A June 2014 ''threat assessment'' report by Canada's Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre indicated that Hezbollah members in Canada are involved in organized crime.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation as a significant transnational criminal organization under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757); and

(2) the President should so designate Hezbollah as a significant transnational criminal organization.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) a detailed report on whether the Hezbollah meets the criteria for designation as a significant transnational criminal organization under Executive Order 13581 (76 Fed. Reg. 44757); and

(B) if the President determines that Hezbollah does not meet the criteria for designation as a significant transnational criminal organization under Executive Order 13581, a detailed justification as to which criteria have not been met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 203. REPORT ON HEZBOLLAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE TRADE OF CONFLICT DIAMONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to appropriate congressional committees a report detailing Hezbollah's involvement in the trade in rough diamonds outside of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.

(b) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 204. REWARDS FOR JUSTICE AND HEZBOLLAH'S FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that details actions taken by the Department of State through the Department of State rewards program (22 U.S.C. 2708) to obtain information on fundraising, financing, and money laundering activities of Hezbollah and its agents and affiliates.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the actions described in subsection (a).

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 205. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO DISRUPT GLOBAL LOGISTICS NETWORKS AND FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING ACTIVITIES OF HEZBOLLAH.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(A) a list of countries that support Hezbollah, or in which Hezbollah maintains important portions of its global logistics networks;

(B) with respect to each country on the list required by subparagraph (A)—

(i) an assessment of whether the government of the country is taking adequate measures to disrupt the global logistics networks of Hezbollah within the territory of the country; and

(ii) in the case of a country the government of which is not taking adequate measures to disrupt those networks—

(I) an assessment of the reasons that government is not taking adequate measures to disrupt those networks; and

(II) a description of measures being taken by the United States Government to encourage that government to improve measures to disrupt those networks;

(C) a list of countries in which Hezbollah, or any of its agents or affiliates, conducts significant fundraising, financing, or money laundering activities;

(D) with respect to each country on the list required by subparagraph (C)—

(i) an assessment of whether the government of the country is taking adequate measures to disrupt the fundraising, financing, or money laundering activities of Hezbollah and its agents and affiliates within the territory of the country; and

(ii) in the case of a country the government of which is not taking adequate measures to disrupt those activities—

(I) an assessment of the reasons that government is not taking adequate measures to disrupt those activities; and

(II) a description of measures being taken by the United States Government to encourage the government of that country to improve measures to disrupt those activities; and

(E) a list of methods that Hezbollah, or any of its agents or affiliates, utilizes to raise or transfer funds, including trade-based money laundering, the use of foreign exchange houses, and free-trade zones.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form to the greatest extent possible, and may contain a classified annex.

(3) GLOBAL LOGISTICS NETWORKS OF HEZBOLLAH.—In this subsection, the term ''global logistics networks of Hezbollah'', ''global logistics networks'', or ''networks'' means financial, material, or technological support for, or financial or other services in support of, Hezbollah.

(b) BRIEFING ON HEZBOLLAH'S ASSETS AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FUNDRAISING, FINANCING, AND MONEY LAUNDERING WORLDWIDE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of other applicable Federal departments and agencies (or their designees) shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the disposition of Hezbollah's assets and activities related to fundraising, financing, and money laundering worldwide.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 206. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.

Except as otherwise provided, in this title, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this Act shall apply to the authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

SEC. 302. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10 days prior to the promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 204) of the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

SEC. 303. OFFSET.

Section 102(a) of the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 8412(a); Public Law 111–73; 123 Stat. 2068) is amended by striking ''$1,500,000,000'' and inserting ''$1,497,000,000''.

SEC. 304. TERMINATION.

This Act shall cease to be in effect beginning 30 days after the date on which the President certifies to Congress that Hezbollah—

(1) is no longer designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);

(2) is no longer listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13224 (September 23, 2001; relating to blocking property and prohibiting transactions with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism); and

(3) poses no significant threat to United States national security, interests, or allies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this measure into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in very strong support of this measure.

I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. MARK MEADOWS, who is the author of this legislation, along with Mr. SCHNEIDER of Illinois and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL of New York, for their bipartisan leadership on this critically important subject.

Today, Israel is at war with Hamas. Thousands of rockets—over 2,000 so far—including advanced Iranian-supplied rockets, have been fired indiscriminantly, aimed at civilians—from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and all across Israel—for the past 2 weeks. At the outset, Hamas was estimated to have 10,000 missiles. Hamas, which has been attacking Israeli civilians, is also using a sophisticated tunneling network, and it is a sophisticated terrorist organization—but, my friends, it pales in comparison with Hezbollah.

Hezbollah, the ''Party of God,'' has over 25,000 sophisticated missiles right now in southern Lebanon, nearly all of which were supplied by Iran. Hezbollah has carried out a number of terrorist attacks across the globe, from Bulgaria to Cyprus to India to Thailand, also here in the Western Hemisphere. Now, I saw firsthand in 2006 the work of Hezbollah. I was in Haifa as they were targeting civilian neighborhoods, and those Iranian-made and Syrian-made rockets were slamming into people's homes and were being targeted on the hospital, itself. Every one of these had 90,000 ball bearings. The only intent was to create mass casualties, and in that trauma hospital in Rambam, there were over 600 victims. That is the work of Hezbollah.

Hezbollah has actively targeted the United States now for 30 years, and I ask my colleagues to reflect on their history. Prior to the attacks of September 11, 2001, frankly, Hezbollah was responsible for the largest number of American deaths by terrorist organizations up until that point when al Qaeda carried out that attack. By the way, these include the 1983 bombing of the United States Embassy in Beirut and the bombing of the United States Marine Corps barracks there again in the same year. Hezbollah was behind the kidnappings of Beirut throughout the 1980s as well as international airline hijackings and efforts to target U.S. military personnel in Saudi Arabia. Hezbollah provided the funding and provided the weapons to Iraqi militias—to do what?—to target American personnel and kill them in Iraq. Lethal, yes, but Hezbollah is also vulnerable. It is vulnerable to steps we can take.

Severe international sanctions against its patron, Iran, have reportedly led to a decrease in the funding to Hezbollah, and as a result, this organization has been forced to turn increasingly to its transnational organized criminal enterprises in order to expand its operational capabilities. In 2011, we saw the tip of the iceberg when a massive drug and money laundering operation for Hezbollah's benefit in weapons, logistics, and training was uncovered.

We must remember that any sanctions relief that we provide to Iran for a nuclear agreement will have an impact on Iran's ability to further support Hezbollah. In response to the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014, this bill, written by MARK MEADOWS, builds on the existing sanctions regime by placing Hezbollah's sources of financing under additional scrutiny, particularly those resources outside of Lebanon. In addition to targeting the terrorist organization's diverse financial network, the legislation also requires the U.S. Government to report on Hezbollah's global logistics network and its transnational organized criminal enterprises, including all of its drug smuggling operations.

The goal is to improve coordination and cooperation with allies and other responsible countries in confronting the increasing threat posed by Hezbollah, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this critical measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Before I begin, the Foreign Affairs Committee is acting in a bipartisan way by speaking with one voice to say ''no'' to terrorism. I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for the bipartisan way that he has conducted this committee. We believe that foreign policy is best when it is bipartisan, and there is no difference here between Members. We all condemn terrorist organizations like Hezbollah.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act. This legislation will greatly enhance our ability to confront Hezbollah as they continue to sow terror around the globe.

As the chairman pointed out, Hezbollah is a terrorist organization, just like its cousin, Hamas; and terrorism must be confronted whenever it raises its ugly head, be it in Israel or be it here in the United States of America. Everywhere around the globe, we must confront terrorism and speak with one voice and say that we will not accept it—ever.

Ten years ago, I wrote the Syria Accountability Act, which Congress passed, and it was signed into law by President Bush. At that time, Syria was already working closely with Iran to strengthen Hezbollah by facilitating the shipment of thousands of Iranian rockets and missiles to the group. A decade later, Hezbollah has become a more sophisticated terrorist organization, but their goal remains the same: supporting Iran's nefarious agenda throughout the region.

Once dependent on Assad in Syria, Hezbollah is now returning the favor. Hezbollah's intervention in the Syrian civil war on the side of Assad has provided a new lease on life to the Assad regime. In fact, it is the reason Assad believes he is winning this war and can continue to kill his own people, can continue to use starvation as an act of war, and can continue to do horrific things to hundreds of thousands of its citizens. Hezbollah has also had a corrosive effect on Lebanese politics, holding the Lebanese people hostage to its demand that the country accept its illegal armed force—a terrorist army which is perpetually at war with Lebanon's southern neighbor, Israel.

Mr. Speaker, claims that Hezbollah is just a political organization or some kind of a social services agency are simply naive, untrue, just plain lies. This bill exposes the group for what it is—a vicious terrorist organization with a global reach, including an operational capacity in the United States.

The United States is responding to this threat, and last week, the Treasury Department sanctioned companies for procuring engines, communications electronics, and navigation equipment for Hezbollah. It is time to impose even stronger sanctions on Hezbollah. It is time to focus on their evolving efforts to raise money all over the world whether through kidnapping and ransom, conflict diamonds, narcotrafficking, and other criminal enterprises. This bill would sanction foreign banks for knowingly facilitating transactions with Hezbollah and would designate Hezbollah as a narcotics trafficking organization.

We are currently in negotiation with Iran. Iran didn't come to the table because they are a good government or nice people. They came to the table because our sanctions passed by Congress are crippling their economy. We must do the same thing and cripple Hezbollah.

This bill shines a bright light on Al-Manar, Hezbollah's television station, which is itself a Specially Designated Terrorist group. Hezbollah uses Al-Manar for logistical, propaganda, and fundraising purposes. It is shocking that this station is still carried by satellite providers all over the world. It is just an outrage. By passing this legislation, Congress is seeking to give the administration every tool it needs to confront Hezbollah in this dangerous world.

I want to thank Representative MEADOWS for the extraordinary work he has put into this legislation. I want to thank Representative SCHNEIDER for also doing yeoman's work in making

sure that this legislation is here. Again, it is another example of the bipartisan cooperation we have on the Foreign Affairs Committee so that this Congress will speak with one voice and say that we will never accept this scourge of terrorism, be it Hezbollah or be it Hamas. Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. SCHNEIDER have made sure that this is a responsible and a targeted bill, focused on cutting off Hezbollah's financial lifeline without unintended consequences.

Mr. Speaker, as Hezbollah doubles down to defend the Assad regime and expands its political presence in Europe and elsewhere, now is the time for us to ramp up our efforts to disrupt its global logistics and financial network. It is a disgrace that the European Union, while designating Hezbollah's armed wing as a terrorist organization, tries to separate it from its social services wing and pretend that, somehow, Hezbollah's social services aren't a terrorist organization. They are a terrorist organization. That is an umbrella group, and it confronts everything. They must be boycotted, and we are doing that today. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. MARK MEADOWS. Although he is a new member to the committee, he is a very active member on Foreign Affairs and is the author of this important legislation.

Mr. MEADOWS. I would like to thank the chairman of the full committee, Chairman ROYCE, for his leadership and his kind words but, really, for bringing forth this bill so that the American people can, once again, unify against what we all know is a blight on our country, a blight on our world. When terrorism prevails, we must stand firm, and I want to thank the chairman for his leadership on that.

I also want to echo the comments of the ranking member when he talked about this being a bipartisan effort. Indeed, we have the chairman and the ranking member taking the lead. My colleague Mr. SCHNEIDER from Illinois is working with us on this, and the committee staff—our staff—has worked very hard for many, many months to make sure that this is a targeted bill. Today, we have an opportunity to place a critical blow to Hezbollah.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act. It is to make sure that those who are innocent are protected. As the chairman so eloquently said earlier, over 2,000 rockets have gone into Israel in the last few days, but, today, some 20,000 to 30,000 rockets are aimed at Israel. The trigger person—the trigger organization—is Hezbollah, so we must pass this legislation to make sure that what we can do is cripple their ability to finance and put people in harm's way.

Hezbollah has many different faces. In some areas, they are called a charitable organization. In others, they are talked about as a political organization. In Latin America, they are talked about as ones who would traffic narcotics. In North America, they are money launderers and counterfeit ring producers. We have many faces for Hezbollah but one soul, and that soul is dedicated to, really, eliminating a people off the face of this world.

Today, I rise in support of this, asking my colleagues to join me to make sure that we send a clear message, not only to the United States, but to the world as a whole.

Some people would say: Why should we be doing this?

□ 1730

This may only deal with Europe or Israel or Syria. It doesn't really affect me.

But I am going to close with this, Mr. Speaker. These words are not my words. They are the words of the U.S. attorney from the Western District of North Carolina, Anne Tompkins.

She was talking about Mohamad Hammoud, who was a student and a member of Hezbollah as a youth in his home country. And he came to the United States on a Hezbollah-driven mission, one that he loyally carried out, creating millions of dollars to send back for terrorism in a faraway place.

But it wasn't just a faraway place, because when he was waiting in jail, he ordered the death of a prosecutor who was prosecuting him, ordered the bombing of a courthouse in Charlotte, North Carolina.

So if it is not for Israel and it is not for Syria and it is not for Europe or Latin America, maybe it is for the United States of America. Let's come together and make sure that we pass this critical piece of legislation.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend and colleague from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), the coauthor of this bill.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act.

I would particularly like to thank the ranking member for the time this afternoon and for the tremendous bipartisan support shown in the Foreign Affairs Committee to address one of our most critical national security challenges.

The way this committee has run, both by the ranking member and the chairman, making a difference and taking the challenges of our world in a bipartisan way is most remarkable and worthy of our Nation.

I want to thank my friend, MARK MEADOWS, along with the chairman and ranking member, for their tireless efforts on this important piece of legislation.

I would also like to thank the outstanding effort of the majority and minority staff, along with Mr. MEADOWS' staff and my own team, who have put so much time and effort into perfecting this bill.

The United States has designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization since 1995. As earlier noted, with the sole exception of al Qaeda, Hezbollah is responsible for more American deaths abroad than any other terrorist organization.

The legislation we are considering today would give the administration the means necessary to combat Hezbollah's global financial network. The bill not only broadens the Treasury Department's ability to sanction Hezbollah finances, but it also gives the administration another tool to go after Hezbollah for its narcotics and counterfeit goods trafficking.

Furthermore, the bill cripples Al-Manar, a television station that broadcasts pro-Hezbollah propaganda around the area. The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act is a leap forward in combating the threat of global terrorist financing.

We have known for years that the international organization Hezbollah has planned, funded, and executed terrorist attacks in the Middle East, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere. It continues to use underground networks and elicit materials to fundraise its global instability efforts.

It has used U.S. and European banks along with their subsidiaries to hide and launder money out of the South American and European finance arenas, financing thousands of Hezbollah operatives around the globe.

One need only look at some of Hezbollah's attacks to understand the true threat they pose to U.S. national security.

In 1983, Hezbollah bombed the U.S. barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 Marines.

In 1992, Hezbollah bombed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29.

Twenty years ago last year, in 1994, Hezbollah bombed the AMIA Jewish cultural center in Argentina, killing 85.

In 2006, Hezbollah operatives conducted cross-border raids into Israel, kidnapping IDF soldiers, which led to a 34-day military conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

In 2011, reports indicated that Hezbollah was behind a bombing in Istanbul that wounded eight Turkish citizens.

In 2012, authorities apprehended a Hezbollah operative planning terrorist activity in Cyprus against civilian commercial airlines.

In 2012, Hezbollah bombed a bus in Burgas, Bulgaria, killing six Israeli tourists and the Bulgarian bus driver.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a scarce few of the activities of Hezbollah that have targeted U.S. interests or our allies around the world.

In particular, over the last 2 weeks, we have seen the incredible destabilizing force that Iran continues to play in the Middle East. Stockpiles of Iranian-made rockets have allowed

Hamas and Islamic Jihad to put all of Israel's major population centers under threat of indiscriminate attack on civilians. In the last 2 weeks alone, over 2,000 rockets have rained down on Israel.

In Lebanon, the threat is even greater. Hezbollah maintains a massive stockpile of Iranian arms with greater range and far greater lethality than those launched from Gaza. Tens of thousands of rockets are aimed at Israel and could be unleashed at any moment.

That is why, today, it is such a critical first step towards thwarting the unrelenting force. The sanctions included in this legislation will stem the ability of Hezbollah to purchase arms and employ operatives throughout the Middle East and the rest of the globe.

We can and must do more to stem the global financing of these activities. Today, we have that opportunity, and I hope that you will join us in combating this pressing threat to U.S. national security.

The Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act provides the administration with vital tools to go after financial institutions and satellite providers that deliver material support and propaganda tools to Hezbollah.

This important effort will result in fewer resources falling into the hands of terrorists, who have shown great resilience in attacking Western targets, in addition to the destabilizing efforts in the Middle East.

I want to thank the chairman and ranking member again, along with my friend, MARK MEADOWS, for working with us to introduce this important legislation.

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

Mr. ENGEL. I yield the gentleman another minute.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. With more than 319 cosponsors in the House, I hope that this body will strongly support its passage, and that the Senate will move swiftly to enact legislation as well.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely going to reserve the right to close, should there be anymore speakers that Mr. ENGEL has on his side.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, let me just close. Let me sum up by saying that, in closing, this legislation comes at a very, very critical time. Anyone can turn on the TV or go online and know the region seems to be falling further into chaos.

As we seek greater stability, cutting Hezbollah off from its financial lifeline is an important step to that end. We did this before with Iran, and the naysayers said what Congress did wouldn't be important because it wouldn't have that much effect. We proved them wrong.

Again, as I mentioned, there are negotiations now going on between the United States and Iran to end their nuclear program. They are at the negotiating table only because we slapped tough sanctions on them, brought their economy to its knees.

This can be done with Hezbollah. This is what we are trying to do today. So I urge passage of this important legislation.

I want to thank Chairman ROYCE again, Mr. MEADOWS and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I will place into the RECORD the letters exchanged with the other committees with jurisdictional interests in this bill; Financial Services would be one, and Judiciary.

In closing, let me agree with Mr. ENGEL's observation that this is a critical time in the Middle East, and also, with our frustration that, during this time, Iran should continue to increase its support for its patron, Hezbollah, because for those of us with a longer memory, we remember how much they have increased their capability to do harm.

As a result of that funding that has come from Iran, Hezbollah-initiated killings and bombings have occurred, to the frustration of our European allies, to those in Asia and those in Latin America, today, on virtually every continent.

In 2012, Hezbollah carried out a bus bombing in Bulgaria—many of us remember that—and plotted an attack in Cyprus, leading to the European Union's designation of Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization.

Furthermore, Hezbollah continues to fight on behalf of the Assad regime in Syria's brutal civil war. One of the things we have seen is missiles being brought over the border from Syria into southern Lebanon by Hezbollah.

We have seen the deaths in Syria at the hands of Hezbollah fighters. It has resulted in the deaths of thousands and thousands of people.

And most importantly, Hezbollah has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Americans, and that is a third reason why we are focused on this terrorist organization.

We must do everything in our power to target Hezbollah's lifeline, to target their financing, and I urge all Members to support this legislation.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2014.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE, I am writing concerning H.R. 4411, the ''Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014,'' which your Committee ordered reported on June 26, 2014.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on the provisions in our jurisdiction and in order to expedite the House's consideration of H.R. 4411, the Committee on the Judiciary will not assert is jurisdictional claim over this bill by seeking a sequential referral. However, this is conditional on our mutual understanding and agreement that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary with respect to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 9, 2014.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the Floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4411 into our Committee Report and into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on the Judiciary as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, July 11, 2014.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The suspension text contains edits to portions of the bill within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services that you have requested.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 4411 into our Committee Report and into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Financial Services as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, July 15, 2014.

Hon. HOWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: On June 26, 2014, the Committee on Foreign Affairs ordered H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014, to be reported favorably to the House with an amendment. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions of the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 4411, as amended, at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I appreciate your July 11 letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4411, as amended, and your inclusion of a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee's report to accompany the legislation and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING
Chairman.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4411, the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act.

The bill has more than 300 co-sponsors and is truly a bipartisan effort.

I commend my colleague from North Carolina, Mr. MEADOWS for leading this legislation.

Hezbollah is a militant group that has been designated by the U.S. and E.U. governments as a terrorist organization.

As part of our counter-terrorism operations, the U.S. continues to fight the flow of funding to organizations that have dedicated themselves to the destabilization of democracy.

For the record, it is important to recall all the atrocities that Hezbollah has perpetrated against the U.S. and its allies, including Israel.

Hezbollah actions include:

Suicide truck bombings targeting U.S. and French forces in Beirut (in 1983 and 1984)

Targeting U.S. forces again in Saudi Arabia (in 1996),

Suicide bombing attacks targeting Jewish and Israeli interests such as those in Argentina (1992 and 1994) and in Thailand (attempted in 1994), and

Many other plots targeting American, French, German, British citizens from Europe to Southeast Asia to the Middle East.

We must continue our efforts to stem the tide against organizations like Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations but cutting off funding and targeting their key money-making industries like narco-trafficking.

I continue to support efforts like H.R. 4411 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4411.

My amendment to the bill that passed in committee encourages the State Department to go after Hezbollah's money.

It does this by pushing the State Department to use its Rewards Program is an old-fashioned idea. It's like putting out a reward on a wanted poster. If we get good information that can be used for an arrest or conviction of a Hezbollah member, we're willing to pay a reward.

This is a strategy that works.

The Rewards Program paid $2 million to a source who helped reveal the location of Ramzi Yousef [YOU-sef], the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Yousef [YOU-sef] was arrested in 1995.

All too often, the challenge with going after the finances of terrorist groups is knowing where they get their money and how they move it.

This bill will help bring more of that important information to light so we can seize Hezbollah's money and stop their evildoing ways.

And that is just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4411, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROYCE. 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.

TRAVEL PROMOTION, ENHANCEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4450) to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4450

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Subsection (b)(2)(A) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2131(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''promotion and marketing'' and inserting ''promotion or marketing''; and

(B) by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''At least 5 members of the board shall have experience working in United States multinational entities with marketing budgets. At least 2 members of the board shall be audit committee financial experts (as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission in accordance with section 407 of Public Law 107–204 (15 U.S.C. 7265)). All members of the board shall be a current or former chief executive officer, chief financial officer, or chief marketing officer, or have held an equivalent management position.''; and

(2) in clause (x), by striking ''intercity passenger railroad business'' and inserting ''land or sea passenger transportation sector''.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Subsection (c)(3) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2131(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (I); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) a description of, and rationales for, the Corporation's efforts to focus on specific countries and populations;

''(H)(i) a description of, and rationales for, the Corporation's combination of media channels employed in meeting the promotional objectives of its marketing campaign;

''(ii) the ratio in which such channels are used; and

''(iii) a justification for the use and ratio of such channels; and''.

SEC. 4. BIANNUAL REVIEW OF PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

Subsection (d)(3) of the Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2131(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking ''80 percent'' and inserting ''70 percent''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) MAINTENANCE OF AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY.—The Corporation shall maintain an in-kind contributions policy.

''(F) FORMALIZED PROCEDURES FOR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS POLICY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014, the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Corporation, shall establish formal, publicly available procedures specifying time frames and conditions for—

''(i) making and agreeing to revisions of the Corporation's in-kind contributions policy; and

''(ii) addressing and resolving disagreements between the Corporation and its partners, including the Secretary of Commerce, regarding the in-kind contributions policy.

''(G) BIANNUAL REVIEW OF PROCEDURES TO DETERMINE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF GOODS AND SERVICES.—The Corporation and the Secretary of Commerce (or their designees) shall meet on a biannual basis to review the procedures to determine the fair market value of goods and services received from non-Federal sources by the Corporation under subparagraph (B).''.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2009.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2131) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5)(A)(iv), by striking ''all States and the District of Columbia'' and inserting ''all States and territories of the United States and the District of Columbia,''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''2015'' and inserting ''2020''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(B), by striking ''fiscal year 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2015'' and inserting ''each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2020''.

(b) SUNSET OF TRAVEL PROMOTION FUND FEE.—Section 217(h)(3)(B)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(h)(3)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking ''September 30, 2015'' and inserting ''September 30, 2020''.

SEC. 6. ACCOUNTABILITY; PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.

The Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2131), as amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) as subsections (h), (e), (i), and (j), respectively;

(2) by moving subsection (e) (as so redesignated) so that it follows subsection (d);

(3) in paragraph (2) of subsection (c), by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''$500,000''; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e), as redesignated, the following:

''(f) ACCOUNTABILITY.—

''(1) PERFORMANCE PLANS AND MEASURES.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014, the Corporation shall—

''(A) establish performance metrics including, time frames, evaluation methodologies, and data sources for measuring—

''(i) the effectiveness of marketing efforts by the Corporation, including its progress in achieving the long-term goals of increased traveler visits to and spending in the United States;

''(ii) whether increases in visitation and spending have occurred in response to external influences, such as economic conditions or exchange rates, rather than in response to the efforts of the Corporation; and

''(iii) any cost or benefit to the economy of the United States; and

''(B) conduct periodic program evaluations in response to the data resulting from measurements under subparagraph (A).

''(2) GAO ACCOUNTABILITY.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Corporation receives a report from the Government Accountability Office with recommendations for the Corporation, the Corporation shall submit a report to Congress that describes the actions taken by the Corporation in response to the recommendations in such report.

''(g) PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The Corporation shall—

''(1) establish a competitive procurement process; and

''(2) certify in its annual report to Congress under subsection (c)(3) that any contracts entered into were in compliance with the established competitive procurement process.''.

SEC. 7. REPEAL OF ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY.

The Travel Promotion Act of 2009 (22 U.S.C. 2131), as amended by this Act, is further amended by striking subsection (e) (as redesignated by section 6(1) of this Act).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on this bill, and I would like to include an exchange of letters between the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Homeland Security.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today, I rise in support of H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act, which was reported out of the subcommittee I chair, Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, on July 9, 22–0. H.R. 4450 then sailed through the full Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 15 by voice vote.

I thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for his hard work, not only in crafting a very smart bill with the appropriate reforms, but also gaining strong bipartisan support along the way. And I also thank his cosponsor, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, for being the lead Democratic sponsor.

□ 1745

The Travel Promotion Act matches $100 million in fees from foreign travelers with $100 million in voluntary contributions from the industry to invest in advertising abroad. In 2013 alone, Brand USA generated 1.1 million visitors to the United States, who spent $3.4 billion and supported 53,181 U.S. jobs.

Now, we always think of Orlando, California, Miami, Disneyland, Hollywood, and Disney World as the tourist spots that are known worldwide, but thanks to the TPA and Brand USA, travel agents from abroad can educate their clients on popular attractions in America's heartland, not just New York City or Los Angeles. Nebraska alone has seen $4.4 billion spent and 44,275 jobs supported throughout the life of Brand USA.

With H.R. 4450, we increase accountability, as well as transparency requirements and performance metrics to ensure Brand USA is run efficiently. I am also pleased that the legislation makes contributions to Brand USA voluntary, rather than compulsory.

Conservative publications, such as RedState and Human Events have picked up on these changes and recognize these reforms as critical to the success of the Travel Promotion Act.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for their hard work in drafting H.R. 4450 and for gathering enough supporters that we can pass this legislation under suspension of the rules.

I was fortunate to be able to report the bill out of my subcommittee, so that our committee can continue to benefit from Brand USA, and I encourage a ''yea'' vote from all of the Members on both sides of the aisle.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, July 16, 2014.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I write to you regarding H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on July 15, 2014. I wanted to notify you that the Committee on Homeland Security will forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

This is being done with the understanding that the Committee on Homeland Security is not waiving any of its jurisdiction, and the Committee will not be prejudiced with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding, and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the report accompanying H.R. 4450 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4450 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2014.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL, Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4450, the ''Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014.''

I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration. I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdiction, and the Committee will not be prejudiced with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I will include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the report accompanying H.R. 4450 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4450 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

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

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, I am pleased that this bipartisan bill, H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014, was reported out of the full Energy and Commerce Committee last week.

The bill, which authorizes the Brand USA program through fiscal year 2020, is an important achievement for our committee. I appreciate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), the chairman of our committee and subcommittee, and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the full committee ranking member, for helping to bring this legislation to the floor.

I strongly support Brand USA's mission of promoting international travel to the United States, and I have heard from travel and tourism professionals across my district about the need to reauthorize this program, but it is not just the Chicago area that benefits.

Brand USA supports an estimated 53,000 jobs and $3.4 billion in visitor spending each year from coast to coast,

according to the U.S. Travel Association.

I would like to thank Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. WELCH, the sponsors of H.R. 4450, for their continued commitment to the promotion of international tourism. The sponsors worked with me to make some important improvements to this legislation during the committee markup process.

The amendment we made to the bill will make Brand USA even more accountable and economically viable, moving forward.

Due to our efforts, the bill incorporates several recommendations that the Government Accountability Office made in a 2013 report. The Department of Commerce is now required to establish specific publicly available timeframes and conditions for how Brand USA revises and resolves disagreements related to its in-kind contribution policy.

Having a set policy will not only promote greater transparency, but it will also, in the words of GAO, ''enable productive interactions and facilitate collaboration.''

GAO has also suggested that Brand USA be directed to develop a plan that specifies timeframes, methodologies, and data sources for measuring its performance and the campaign's impact.

By explicitly requiring those criteria, the bill now gives the organization more direction on the type of information it should collect and establishes metrics that can more effectively determine the success of the program.

I was glad that the bill's sponsors proposed lowering the cap on in-kind contributions in the underlying bill, and I am thankful that Mr. BILIRAKIS joined me to offer an amendment to lower the cap even further during the full committee markup last week.

Every contribution to Brand USA, whether public or private, cash or in-kind, is important to the organization's ongoing success, but I believe that the program is in the best possible position to maintain and build on its success through robust cash contributions by the private sector.

Brand USA's continued long-term success is essential to communities that—like my district—realize the economic and cultural benefits of tourism and travel. Brand USA has been successful in its first few years, and I firmly believe that this legislation improves the program even more.

Again, I applaud Brand USA for its ongoing efforts to encourage people from all over the world to enjoy everything our country has to offer, and I assure the chairman of our subcommittee that we will benefit not just coast to coast, but also the center of the country as well.

I thank the sponsors for their continued efforts to ensure the longevity of this valuable program and strongly encourage my colleagues to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the full committee chair.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, this bill, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014—yes, it is a very important bill that is going to increase jobs and boost the economy by promoting the U.S. as a world-class travel destination.

The bill reauthorizes Brand USA and increases program accountability and transparency, thanks in large part to the amendments and the regular process that we went through in committee.

In 2013, Brand USA generated an additional 1.1 million visitors to the U.S. and, as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) said, $3.4 billion in additional spending at U.S. businesses.

This increase in spending triggered the creation of more than 53,000 American jobs and $2.2 billion in payroll, so Brand USA delivers all those benefits to the U.S. economy at no cost to the American taxpayers—no cost.

Earlier this month in my district, I held a roundtable to discuss the benefits of tourism and how this program contributes to southwest Michigan's economy.

We had local legislators. We had chambers of commerce. We had tourism organizations. We had State officials. It was noted that in my district, in southwest Michigan, we had nearly $1 billion in spending in 2012, supporting over 9,300 jobs and $200 million in payroll annually just for tourists. There was $1 billion spent in southwest Michigan by tourists.

It was also noted that the reauthorization of this bill was their number one priority. It expires next year, and one of the commitments that I made was to see if we could move it in an expeditious manner to give the Senate a little time, so that it doesn't get caught up later on and we can just get it off our plate, knowing in fact that it was bipartisan from the get-go.

I applaud particularly the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who is going to speak a little bit later, and his colleague from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), who are both very good members on our committee, for their working together and their leadership to spearhead this bipartisan bill.

I was glad to see it pass on a recorded vote that was unanimous in subcommittee and in full committee as well, and I appreciate the leadership of the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) as we work through this bill and to really get it to the floor as quickly as we can.

These are jobs. This is not a cost to the American taxpayer. It ought to be something that we can pass on a pretty good vote this afternoon.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada, DINA TITUS, from a place that certainly benefits from tourism and is a place where many of us go to have fun.

Ms. TITUS. I thank my friend from Illinois for yielding and for visiting my district whenever she can.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I thank my friend from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for his leadership on this issue.

During the 111th Congress, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of the first Travel Promotion Act, which actually established Brand USA. Prior to the passage of that act, the United States was one of the only countries in the world that did not promote its unique destination to foreign visitors.

Since its creation, Brand USA has played a critical role in bringing foreign visitors to destinations throughout the United States, including my district of Las Vegas.

Through innovative, targeted, and effective marketing campaigns, Brand USA has directly connected foreign visitors with world-famous destinations in Nevada's First Congressional District, including the fabulous strip; the new arts district; and the hip, edgy downtown section of Las Vegas.

Foreign visitors to the United States are critical for the success of the travel and tourism industry. Average foreign visitors stay 17 days in the United States and spend $4,500 during their visit. This certainly creates jobs in Las Vegas and around the country.

Brand USA has been very effective in bringing more of these visitors to the United States. For example, as you have heard, in 2013, Brand USA was directly responsible for a million new visits, generating $3.4 billion in new visitor spending and supporting 53,000 U.S. jobs, and this is all without spending a dime of taxpayer dollars.

Today, we have a chance to reauthorize the work that began with the Travel Promotion Act and remains so critical to our economy still today.

I look forward to continuing my work with Brand USA to support the travel and tourism industry, to bring more visitors to Las Vegas and to other destinations around the country, from the Grand Canyon to Niagara Falls, Chicago, and even Nebraska, so I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4450.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the author and chief negotiator of this bill, who worked in a very bipartisan way and allowed the bill to come out of our committee unanimously.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his good work on this bill, as well as his leadership on this very important subcommittee, and I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4450, the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act, which would reauthorize Brand USA for a limited time, adds numerous accountability measures and strengthens the transparency of the

public-private partnership that promotes increased tourism to the United States.

Passage of H.R. 4450 will be good for the economy. It is a jobs bill, Mr. Speaker. A recent analysis performed by the independent firm Oxford Economics estimated that, in fiscal year 2013, Brand USA generated 1.1 million additional international visitors who spent an estimated $3.4 billion, generating economic revenue and supporting job creation in communities across America.

Brand USA does not impose a cost upon the Federal Government. It has helped to reduce the deficit during the last 2 fiscal years and is expected to continue to do so. In fact, the respected and nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 4450 will reduce the deficit by $231 million over 10 years. It is a win-win, Mr. Speaker.

It is important to note that Federal taxpayer dollars are not used to fund Brand USA. Brand USA is supported by international visitors and voluntary private sector contributors.

After it receives contribution from the private sector, Brand USA can only collect up to $100 million in matching funds from fees paid by foreign travelers. Amounts collected in excess of that cap are returned to the Treasury for deficit reduction.

□ 1800

Finally, given the benefits to the economy across State lines, as well as the competitive nature of foreign competitors in travel promotion, Congress is well within its authority under the Commerce Clause to extend the Travel Promotion Act. Small State and local tourism offices and local small businesses across America are some of the strongest supporters of the Travel Promotion Act and benefit greatly from international tourism. Brand USA helps bridge these communities and opens up new markets to American competition.

I appreciate consideration of this legislation, which several commentators have noted includes important reforms. This bill improves an already existing partnership, Mr. Speaker.

I thank Chairman UPTON for his leadership, again, the subcommittee chair, Chairman TERRY, doing an outstanding job, all those who have contributed to this bill, our lead cosponsor, Mr. PETER WELCH, and the cochair of the Tourism Caucus, Mr. FARR—who I believe will speak in a few minutes—for their work on this legislation, and also the ranking member of the subcommittee, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I urge support of this prudent and narrow reauthorization of the Travel Promotion Act.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. It is now my pleasure to yield for such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR), who is from a beautiful area of the country.

Mr. FARR. Thank you very much for yielding. Thank you for your leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill for many reasons. The first reason is that America needs to market itself. You think that, oh, everybody loves America, but I found in my travels in talking with people that not everybody has the same opinion about America. Right now, if you turn on your television, the rest of the world is trying to get people who live in this country to go travel to their country—go to Spain; go to the Caribbean; go to New Zealand; go everywhere; go to Canada. It is all trying to get our people to be tourists in their country.

Well, finally, we did something about it. We have been doing this in agriculture for a long time. With the Agricultural Marketing Act, we decided, well, let's market America. Let's tell people what this great country is, how you can get here, and what you are going to see when you get here. It has had a tremendous effect. It really has. It, to me, is the biggest jump-starter for jobs that we can do because tourism is everywhere. It is all those things. It is little restaurants. It is museums. It is essentially Washington, D.C., from parks to rivers to everything. That is what America is made of.

There is also, I think, in this hot world right now, this complicated world—the news is full of bad stuff, and, unfortunately, America, because of all our movies and television, also has an opinion of people this is the most dangerous country in the world to visit. We have got to get over that, because everybody who comes here finds that it is not true at all. It is very friendly people and wonderful help. So it is very important. It is kind of foreign policy to say: Come on, come see this great country, this little pillar of the world, and meet the people.

Next year, we are going to have the 100th anniversary of our National Park System. We are the only country in the world that has a national park system like this one. They are the most beautiful places in America.

I would suggest that, frankly, this is a great, bipartisan product. Mr. BILIRAKIS and I have been cochairs of this Tourism Caucus. We have been trying to get every Member to join. It was interesting; we got more Democrats to join the caucus than Republicans. And hopefully now with this bill and this sort of discussion of how important this is to your local districts, and there is isn't a chamber of commerce in the United States that isn't watching this vote and hoping that we will pass this bill because those tourists, just like politics, all of it is local. All tourism is local. They go to some community, and they go to the main street and they help the small businesses.

I represent a pretty remote area of California called Big Sur, a beautiful coastline. The foreign tourists are carrying the economy of that area by their visits. The Europeans are visiting it in greater numbers than ever before. If you talk to any of the merchants, they will say, but for that European travel after the recession we have had, we wouldn't be recovering like it is.

So I want every Member of Congress to join our caucus because what do we do? Caucuses produce things. We produced this reauthorization, a bill, and Mr. BILIRAKIS as cochair carried it, and he has done a tremendous job. It is important that we focus for a moment on the importance of tourism as an industry just like steel, electronics, and airlines, but it is made up of all these other parts. That industry is in every single congressional district. If this is the tide that lifts the ships that bring the tourists here, it is also the tide that will help leave that tourist tax dollar, that tourist expenditure dollar in our local community and hire people to be a service-oriented industry.

So I applaud our colleagues in Congress for reauthorizing. We have done this before without controversy because it is a pay-for. It is already paid for. It is not a tax. It is a fee that is levied on tourists coming to this country to get a visa, and a portion of that fee then goes into paying for this promotion. So it is a win-win. It is a job promotion, and it is good for everybody. I hope we get a unanimous vote on both sides of the aisle, and I hope those that vote for it will also join the Tourism Caucus.

Mr. TERRY. At this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from southern Florida (Mr. JOLLY).

Mr. JOLLY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4450, legislation to reauthorize the public-private program that is often known as Brand USA. This is a bill that was passed unanimously by the subcommittee and by voice vote through the full committee. I understand questions have been raised today, so let's address some very specific, important components of this legislation.

First, in 1981, Ronald Reagan signed the National Tourism Policy Act to promote the United States as a destination for international tourism, to expand our economy, and to grow jobs here in the United States. In 2009, this body passed the Travel Promotion Act.

Second, this is an activity that extends across State lines bringing this bill, this legislation, within the article I Commerce Clause authority of this body, the constitutional authority of this body.

Third, no Federal taxpayer dollars are used to fund Brand USA. It is funded by industry contributions and by international visitors. The United States is the only major destination that does not fund its promotion programs through taxpayer dollars. It is through private contributions of industry matched by international traveler fees.

There is a cap on the program, the amount of funds it can expend from those fees collected from international visitors; and when the funds exceed that cap, that money is returned to the Treasury for deficit reduction. In FY13,

that was $27 million in deficit reduction to benefit the taxpayers. This bill was recently scored, and over the next 10 years, this would reduce the deficit, contribute to the Treasury $231 million not from taxpayers but from international travelers.

This bill rightly is supported by associations and organizations across the country, from hotel and lodging, including those in Florida, from business travel to cruise lines to amusement parks, shopping malls, restaurants, convention and visitors' bureaus, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and in my home State, by the organization Visit Florida. And rightly so.

Let's revisit why. There is no cost to the Federal Government by this program. There is no cost to the U.S. taxpayer for this program. This program reduces the Federal deficit, and it fosters economic growth in communities across the country, in each and every one of our congressional districts that we are sent here to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the discussion that is being had on this bill, but I ask my colleagues, let's not stand in our own way when it comes to sensible, good legislation that we can pass to promote the economy across the country and in the communities that we represent.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, can I ask how many minutes remain on either side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Illinois has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Nebraska has 7½ minutes remaining.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I have no more speakers, but I want to just make a couple of comments. I think in addition to this being a really important bill and recognized in a bipartisan way, I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will realize how good it feels when we work together, and maybe this could be the beginning or a model for how we can deal with legislation. There were some changes to the bill. We sat down. We agreed on them. We worked it out, and we have a product at the end of the day. It is called compromise. It is not a dirty word. We have achieved, I think, an excellent product.

The other thing I wanted to mention, we have talked about Big Sur, Carmel, Las Vegas, and other places. I just wanted to say that I am kind of pushing an idea for an organization called To Chicago, which is our tourism bureau to bring people to Chicago, especially for the summer. I thought a really good idea would be to promote: Come to Chicago, swim in Chicago, no sharks. And so I thought I would use this opportunity to push my ''no sharks'' idea for Chicago. You could add ''no salt'' as well, but I thought particularly ''no sharks.'' We have beautiful beaches in Chicago. So I am trying to get To Chicago under the banner of brand Chicago to promote my good idea of no sharks.

But there are so many ideas I think that we have for many small communities. I was in the delta of Louisiana at the original blues bars and blues restaurants down there, and all of us have something wonderful and unique in our communities. That is what Brand USA is about, to bring tourists not only to the likely suspects of places but to so many of our communities so they get the real flavor of the people, the diversity, the color, the smell, the feel, and the sound of the United States of America. So this is a great piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER).

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I will take this time to talk about Brand USA. To the chairman of the subcommittee, thank you for your leadership on this important, bipartisan issue. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and urge its favorable passage today.

Just looking at the Colorado Tourism Office, just reading the Colorado tourism industry facts, it starts with saying that tourism equals jobs and revenue for Colorado. It is a vital piece of our economy. Tourism is one of the largest industries in Colorado in terms of jobs, employing 144,000 people in the tourism sector. Overall, these employees earn $4.1 billion annually, contributing to State revenue through income taxes. And, in fact, it is a little known fact that, without the taxes that are paid by tourists who visit from out of country, out of State to Colorado, the average Colorado family would have to pay an additional $407 a year in taxes to make up for the money that would be lost if we didn't have those tourism dollars being spent in Colorado. It has been a tremendous success.

When it comes to Brand USA, a quick look at the work that Brand USA has done in Colorado, partnering with Colorado to market the State to international visitors—marketing activities include both traditional media from TV display out of homes, social media, and more—but also our work in Colorado when it comes to craft beer being featured as part of Brand USA's 2014 Great American Road Trip, talking about the work we are doing in Colorado, thousands of people being employed in a new and growing industry.

Colorado was featured in Brand USA's 2014 inspirational visitors' guide, over 16 international audiences exposed because of Brand USA's international visitors' guide, which will generate over 30 million impressions through Brand USA. The list goes on and on, the work that we do.

I think it is also important to highlight the work Colorado has done with Brand USA's Discover America Pavilion at international trade shows around the world, like the Japanese Association of Travel Agents, work that we can do to highlight the opportunities to come to the United States, to create opportunities, perhaps a tourist the first time but a business partner the next time. I think it is a number of jobs that we can create.

Again, I thank the chairman for his work on this legislation, the bipartisan support for the legislation, and urge its passage today with the support of the House of Representatives.

□ 1815

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I will close by just thanking the gentleman—all of the gentlemen—and ladies who have participated in making this important legislation come to fruition.

I do hope we are able to move it very quickly and, hopefully, unanimously here, move it over to the Senate and get it done right away. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill to extend the Brand USA program and ensure it is successful, accountable, and transparent going forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I want to thank JAN SCHAKOWSKY, the ranking member, for her great work on this bill. She and I understand and have worked together in a very bipartisan way to try and encourage more foreign investment in the United States.

That builds our economy and helps to create jobs when you bring money from outside the United States in. We had a bill that passed earlier, overwhelmingly in this House, that is sitting over in the Senate, to do a study to figure out what the barriers are to direct foreign investment in the United States.

This is the easy lift here. This is providing visas to people from all around the world that want to come spend some time in the United States because they want to go to the Windy City on the big Ferris wheel on the pier or to one of our great amusement parks or to Colorado skiing. We attract people from all over the world. We have to encourage them.

There is a worldwide competition for the tourism dollar, and we need to make sure that the United States is competitive, and Brand USA is that program that promotes the United States, so that the tourists come here, whether it is from Brazil to go shopping in the Miami area—which is very popular—or whatever they want to do as their destination.

When they decide to make that trip, they get a visitor's visa, and they pay a fee for that visa. The interesting part is when some of that money is then invested in Brand USA through this act, over that period of the year, there is actually more dollars that go towards budget or deficit reduction than are used for the processing and for Brand USA, so it actually reduces our deficit. Who wouldn't want that?

It is also the point that it creates jobs, and I think of this bill more as a jobs bill. 53,000 jobs per year are supported because of Brand USA and foreign visitors to the United States—1.1

million visitors directly from Brand USA.

I would like to see us do 2 million next year, but we are only going to do that if there is a way to get the word out around the world that we want visitors to the United States, so this is a great bill.

GUS BILIRAKIS, the gentleman from Florida that worked this bill, resolved all of the major issues. He negotiated, and this is now a voluntary program on the business side, not compulsory.

I don't think there are any real issues here, any barriers or bumps here, so I think we should have a unanimous vote on this. Therefore, I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''yea'' on this great pro-U.S.A. bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I am pleased to see the House of Representatives take up the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014 today. I want to thank my caucus co-chair, Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, for introducing this legislation to reauthorize Brand USA—our nation's Destination Marketing Organization or DMO.

This legislation will allow our country to continue its success in the international travel and tourism market, bringing greater numbers of international visitors to our shores. These travelers provide a substantial boost to our economy and produce many U.S. jobs. Did you know that international visitors coming to the United States are measured as an export? They are, and travel and tourism is the top export industry. Number One! Seventy million international visitors, spending over $180 billion, have produced a trade surplus every year since 1989—and Brand USA is a crucial part of this. Brand USA's most recent annual report showed that FY13 saw an increase of 1.1 million visitors. That increase brings an additional $3.4 billion in spending to our economy and supports over 50,000 new jobs.

International visitors are drawn to America's well known destinations like New York, Los Angeles, Orlando, and Chicago. And yet, it is our ''amber waves of grain'' and ''purple mountain majesties'' that attract travelers to all corners of our country. Our scenery sells us to the world and the upcoming 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service will highlight some of our most notable scenery.

Brand USA's efforts bring substantial benefits to our economy with a return on investment of more than 30 to 1. If only my investments did this well. This unbeatable value is done at no U.S. taxpayer expense. Funding for this program is provided by the international visitors who come to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I like to point out that travel and tourism is in every state, every territory, and congressional district across this country, and I encourage all my colleagues to join Rep. BILIRAKIS and myself in supporting America's travel and tourism industry by voting aye for this bipartisan legislation.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that today the House will consider H.R. 4450 and I rise in strong support of this legislation. I would like to thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the House floor, and also the Tourism Caucus and co-sponsors for their support.

One of the most important amendments in H.R. 4450 includes the U.S. territories among the states and the District of Columbia whose benefits the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Travel Promotion plan must ensure. This provision is particularly important to my district- the U.S. Virgin Islands—where tourism is the primary economic activity. The Virgin Islands normally host approximately 2 million visitors a year, many of whom visit on cruise ships.

Tourism is a critical component of economic development in the U.S. Virgin Islands; especially with the closure of the oil refinery, HOVENSA, on St. Croix. The closure eliminated close to 1,200 refinery positions and raised our unemployment rate to the double digits. The ripple effect also included school closures, home foreclosures and a large number of residents leaving the island. As the Virgin Islands struggles to turn around its economy, it is critical that we continue to grow and sustain our tourism industry. Including the territories in the Corporation's promotion plan will significantly support these efforts. The territories are a major destination point for national and international travelers alike and should be a focal point for the Corporation.

H.R. 4450 is sponsored by more than a third of the House of Representatives, and almost equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats. Independent analysis by the Congressional Budget Office and the U.S. Travel Association concluded that the bill would reduce the federal deficit by $231 million over a year and not cost taxpayers a dime, all while creating jobs and economic opportunities in communities across America.

I think it is a Win-Win situation for our nation's economy and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4450.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4450, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MASSIE. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1831

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LUCAS) at 6 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4450, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4411, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1022, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to instruct on H.R. 3230, by the yeas and nays.

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

TRAVEL PROMOTION, ENHANCEMENT, AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4450) to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 347, nays 57, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 433]

YEAS—347

Aderholt	Castro (TX)	Ellmers
Amodei	Chabot	Engel
Bachmann	Chaffetz	Enyart
Barber	Chu	Esty
Barletta	Cicilline	Farenthold
Barr	Clark (MA)	Farr
Barrow (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Fattah
Barton	Clawson (FL)	Fitzpatrick
Bass	Clay	Fleischmann
Beatty	Cleaver	Forbes
Becerra	Clyburn	Fortenberry
Benishek	Coble	Foster
Bentivolio	Coffman	Frankel (FL)
Bera (CA)	Cohen	Frelinghuysen
Bilirakis	Cole	Fudge
Bishop (GA)	Collins (NY)	Gabbard
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Gallego
Bishop (UT)	Conyers	Garamendi
Blackburn	Cooper	Garcia
Blumenauer	Costa	Gardner
Bonamici	Courtney	Gibbs
Boustany	Cramer	Gibson
Brady (PA)	Crawford	Goodlatte
Brady (TX)	Crenshaw	Gosar
Braley (IA)	Crowley	Granger
Brooks (AL)	Cuellar	Grayson
Brooks (IN)	Cummings	Green, Al
Brown (FL)	Daines	Green, Gene
Brownley (CA)	Davis (CA)	Griffin (AR)
Buchanan	Davis, Rodney	Griffith (VA)
Bucshon	DeFazio	Grijalva
Burgess	DeGette	Grimm
Bustos	Delaney	Guthrie
Butterfield	DeLauro	Hahn
Byrne	DelBene	Hall
Calvert	Denham	Hanna
Camp	Dent	Harper
Cantor	DeSantis	Harris
Capito	Deutch	Hartzler
Capps	Diaz-Balart	Hastings (FL)
Capuano	Dingell	Hastings (WA)
Cárdenas	Doggett	Heck (NV)
Carson (IN)	Doyle	Herrera Beutler
Cartwright	Duckworth	Higgins
Cassidy	Edwards	Himes
Castor (FL)	Ellison	Hinojosa

Holding
Holt
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—57

Amash
Black
Bridenstine
Broun (GA)
Carter
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Culberson
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Fincher
Fleming
Flores
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gohmert
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Hensarling
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Labrador
Lamborn
Lankford
Marchant
Massie
McClintock
Meadows
Neugebauer
Perry
Petri
Price (GA)
Ribble
Rothfus
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (NE)
Stockman
Stutzman
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOT VOTING—28

Bachus
Campbell
Carney
Davis, Danny
DesJarlais
Eshoo
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Kingston
McIntyre
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pompeo
Rogers (MI)
Rush
Stewart
Tsongas
Vela
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1900

Messrs. STOCKMAN, HUNTER, WOODALL, HENSARLING, LAMBORN, MEADOWS, PERRY, SESSIONS, and GARRETT changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. WESTMORELAND, BURGESS, PETERS of California, HALL, and SOUTHERLAND changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HEZBOLLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4411) to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 434]

YEAS—404

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
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)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
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
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack

Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—28

Bachus
Campbell
Carney
Davis, Danny
DesJarlais
Eshoo
Foster
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Kingston
McIntyre
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pompeo
Rogers (MI)
Rush
Stewart
Tsongas
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1907

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING ENERGY CRITICAL ELEMENTS AND AMERICAN JOBS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1022) to develop an energy critical elements program, to amend the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 260, nays 143, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 435]

YEAS—260

Amodei
Barber
Barletta
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Hahn
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Hoyer
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKeon
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nunes
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Richmond
Roby
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walden
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—143

Aderholt
Amash
Bachmann
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Byrne
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
DeSantis
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Guthrie
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latta
Lummis
Marchant
Massie
McAllister
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Southerland
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thornberry
Tipton
Walberg
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho

NOT VOTING—29

Bachus
Campbell
Carney
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DesJarlais
Eshoo
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Honda
Horsford
Huffman
Kingston
McIntyre
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pompeo
Rogers (MI)
Rush
Stewart
Tsongas
Wasserman Schultz
Webster (FL)

□ 1914

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on the bill (H.R. 3230) making continuing appropriations during a Government shutdown to provide pay and allowances to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who perform inactive-duty training during such period, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BARBER), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 191, nays 207, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 436]

YEAS—191

Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gibson
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings (FL)
Heck (NV)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud

Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Rooney
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Waxman
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—207

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Long
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—34

Bachmann
Bachus
Campbell
Carney
Clawson (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeGette
DesJarlais
Eshoo
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Graves (MO)
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Heck (WA)
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
McIntyre
Miller, Gary
Nunnelee
Pastor (AZ)
Peters (MI)
Pompeo
Rogers (MI)
Rush
Stewart
Tsongas
Vela
Wasserman Schultz

□ 1923

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3136, ADVANCING COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT OF 2013, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4984, EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH ENHANCED FINANCIAL COUNSELING ACT

Ms. FOXX, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–546) on the resolution (H. Res. 677) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3136) to establish a demonstration program for competency-based education, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4984) to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON H. RES. 649, DIRECTING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO TRANSMIT EMAILS TO OR FROM LOIS LERNER BETWEEN JANUARY 2009 AND APRIL 2011

Mr. MCKEON from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–547) directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. PETERS of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 7(c) of rule XXII, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3230, the conference report on Veterans Access and Accountability.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Peters of California moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3230 (an Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes) be instructed to—

(1) recede from disagreement with section 702 of the Senate amendment (relating to the approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program conditional on in-State tuition rate for veterans); and

(2) recede from the House amendment and concur in the Senate amendment in all other instances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's notice will appear in the RECORD.

HIGHER EDUCATION BILLS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss efforts to strengthen America's higher education system, make it more affordable, and provide students the tools they need to make smart investments in their futures.

Later this week, the House will consider three bipartisan bills that recently passed the House Education and the Workforce Committee, which include H.R. 3136, the Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act; H.R. 4983, the Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act; and H.R. 4984, the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act.

Together, Madam Speaker, these measures will support innovation, strengthen transparency, and enhance financial counseling, which will ultimately help students access a more affordable education.

These legislative proposals are part of a broader effort to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. The House remains determined to strengthen America's higher education system and provide students the tools that they need to succeed.

I encourage my colleagues in the House to support these commonsense bills and call on the Senate to join us in working to make a difference in the lives of students and families.

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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

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

Mr. GARCIA. Madam Speaker, I rise to support education in the STEM

fields—science, technology, engineering, and math—especially as more than 60 percent of U.S. employers face difficulties finding qualified workers in the STEM fields, it is essential that we support education in the STEM fields to remain competitive in a 21st century global economy.

That is why I have introduced the Innovative STEM Networks Act, which will establish a grant program for school districts to create partnerships with universities, business, and local nonprofits to support learning in the STEM fields.

Schools like FIU, Miami Dade College, and the University of Miami have dedicated resources to ensuring their students have a strong foundation in STEM subjects, and my bill will replicate this success for students preparing to enter college or the workforce.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to create jobs and spur economic growth by supporting STEM education.

MAYO CLINIC NAMED BEST HOSPITAL

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I just want to congratulate the Mayo Clinic on being named the best hospital in the country by U.S. News & World Report, beating out nearly 5,000 medical centers nationwide.

U.S. News & World Report takes into account several factors, such as survival rates, technology, patient safety, and physician surveys. This was the first time the Mayo Clinic has been awarded the top prize, beating out other outstanding facilities like Massachusetts General and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The Mayo Clinic is the largest integrated nonprofit group practice in the world, attracting people from all 50 States and 150 different countries. In addition to providing patients with unparalleled care, the Mayo Clinic engages in cutting-edge research, community outreach, and the education of the next generation of medical professionals.

Madam Speaker, I just want to commend the Mayo Clinic's commitment to providing high-quality care for its patients, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved distinction and recognition.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, my community has experienced over the last couple of weeks senseless horrific violence done with guns, wrapped and intertwined with domestic violence.

First, I offer my sympathy to Cassidy Stay, who lost six members of her family at the hands of a gun and an individual who was coming to do harm to her aunt; and then to the family of Candace Williams, whose three children—7-year-old Neira, 1-year-old Paris, and 6-year-old Torian—watched their mother gunned down in her bedroom with baby Paris, 1-year old, sleeping alongside her mother; and of course, the Stay family—Katie and Stephen, Bryan, Emily, Rebecca, and Zach—who lost their lives at the hand of a violent individual who was, as I said, coming to do harm to his own ex-wife.

It is time to raise the understanding of domestic violence. Today, at a press conference in Houston, we announced the Candace Way Out, so that women all over America would be able to know there are places to go.

I intend, Madam Speaker, to introduce legislation to enhance the penalty for anyone involved in domestic violence that uses a gun that results in the death of that loved one. Madam Speaker, violence, guns, and domestic violence must end.

Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to speak to a tragedy resulting from another senseless act of domestic violence in my congressional district.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the friends and relatives of Candace Williams, especially her three young children, 6–year-old Torian, 7-year-old Neira, and 1-year-old Paris, who were left without parents following the murder of their mother who was killed by their stepfather before taking his own life.

A few days earlier, Stephen Stay, his wife Katie, and their four children—Bryan, 13, Emily, 9, Rebecca, 6, and Zach, 4 were brutally shot and killed in their suburban Houston home by the ex-husband of Katie Stay's sister.

I offer my deepest sympathies and condolences to Cassidy Stay, the sole survivor of this horrific crime but who is also a hero for leading the authorities to the perpetrator of this crime.

It is imperative that we come together in strong support of a broad and comprehensive strategy to address the causes and effects of gun violence when domestic violence is involved.

Weighing heavily on our hearts and consciences is the fact that an estimated 46 million children in our country are exposed to violence each year through crime, abuse and trauma.

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, or other abusive behavior perpetrated by a family member or intimate partner against another.

It is an epidemic affecting individuals in Houston and across the nation, regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, nationality or educational background.

Violence against women is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior, and thus is part of a systematic pattern of dominance and control.

Domestic violence results in physical injury, psychological trauma—and as we have seen in Houston—too often in death.

The emotional, physical, and psychological damage caused by domestic violence can last a lifetime. Consider the following facts:

1. One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime

2. Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew.

3. There were 187,811 incidents of family violence in Texas in 2010.

4. There were 120 domestic homicides in 2010 as a result of domestic violence of which 43% were committed by a spouse and 24% were committed by a dating partner.

In the United States, 9,146 people were killed by firearms in 2011 a number 223 times greater than the United Kingdom, which experienced only 41 homicides by firearm.

Homicide rates in the United States are 6.9 times higher than the combined rates in 22 most populous high-income countries.

Madam Speaker, we must begin discussing common-sense steps we can take right now to combat gun violence.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee and the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I have introduced H.R. 65, the Child Gun Safety and Gun Access Prevention Act and other legislation to reduce the incidence of gun violence.

Changing a culture of violence will not happen overnight but that is no excuse for failing to try. We must try. We must not give up.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in redoubling our commitment protect our children and our communities from domestic violence.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of domestic violence everywhere.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, when talking on the floor, presenting legislation, it is always good to have a compass, so you can have some sense of where you are going and what it is all about.

This is one I often bring to the floor when we talk about the issues of the day. This is from FDR—Franklin Delano Roosevelt—and he said the ''test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.''

It is a compass, and it is a way of judging progress or a lack of progress, and we seem to have more of the latter than the former. We have much to do if we are going to add to those who have little.

In America, the American middle class, the working men and women, the families who raise their children try to buy a home, a car, maybe take a vacation—they have been struggling for the last 20 years. It has been tough. They have not seen income growth.

The statistics are stark and clear. The middle class of America has stagnated, and, in fact, it has shrunk, as more and more Americans have fallen into the lower income class.

There is something we can do about it, and we, Democrats, intend to do just that. We want to jump-start the middle class. We want to put in place

policies that will grow the opportunities for the working families of America, for those men and women that get up in the morning, feed their children, get them off to school while they are getting off to a job.

There are things we can do. I want to talk about that tonight. Some of my colleagues will join us a little later.

Let me put up the agenda for jump-starting the middle class, the Make It In America agenda, rebuilding the American manufacturing sector, which was the heart and—in many ways—the soul of the working middle class of America, where they could get a decent wage, where they know that a husband or a wife, by themselves, could provide sufficient income for the family to have a home, a car, and enjoy the benefits of this great Nation.

So we will talk about the Make It In America agenda, and we will go at that in some length tonight because that is our basic subject matter.

The other one is very simple. It is a reflection on the demographics, and it is a reflection on the working people of America, and it is women. It is women. What we say is that when women succeed, America succeeds.

There is a set of policies that we need to put in place all across this country that will guarantee that the women of America that are out there working day in and day out have an equal opportunity. Right now, they don't.

They make about 70 cents on every dollar that a man makes. There is an inequality that exists in America's workplace, and our agenda is to end that inequality, to make sure that whether you are a man or a woman, you are going to be paid an equal amount for the same amount of work, the same experience, the same productivity. So when women succeed, America succeeds.

There are several other policies here that are family-friendly policies, and we will talk about that another day.

If the middle class is to succeed, if we are going to jump-start the opportunities for the middle class, a key element is education. So that is the third plank—the third leg upon which we rest our policies.

How can we jump-start the middle class? Education—there are very many things that we can do in education. One just passed the House of Representatives on a bipartisan vote after almost two decades of struggle.

We are revamping the job training programs in America, so that the preparation that people need to get a decent job are streamlined, effective, and efficient, and that is part of it, the job training programs, but it is more than that.

American students now have to—in almost every case—borrow an extraordinary amount of money in order to get a higher education, whether it is community college or the 4-year colleges and beyond.

That extraordinary debt burden is enhanced by extraordinarily high interest rates, so what we want to do is to bring down those interest rates, and there are three or four different pieces of legislation that our Democratic team has put forth, all of them to accomplish the same goal, bringing down the interest rates.

We would like to see it go down to the same interest rates that banks pay for the money that they borrow from the Federal Government and the Federal Reserve—wouldn't that be nice—because it is almost zero, but we don't think we can get that far.

We know it can bring that interest rate down from 6, 7, 8 percent down to the 3 percent, maybe the 4 percent range—literally cutting in half the cost of that money. So there are a series of policies on education.

Let me turn to the one that we want to focus on tonight, which is the Make It In America agenda. There are many pieces to this. One of them was put forward by our team, and there are about seven different elements to this program. This is our logo, Make It In America, so that Americans can make it.

Trade policy, taxes, energy policy, labor, education—which we just talked about—research, and infrastructure, these are the elements of a solid program to have the middle class have an opportunity, to jump-start the working men and women so that they can, once again, make it in America—by rebuilding the manufacturing sector, by having decent trade policies, where we don't give it away and see the American corporations simply run off to China or Bangladesh or wherever to get the lowest possible wage, trade policies that are fair to America.

Our tax policy is critically important. If anybody was reading the newspapers, The Wall Street Journal or other business newspapers last week, the word now is ''inversion.''

Well, what is inversion? It is simply a runaway American corporation, running away to the lowest possible tax haven in the world and making themselves domiciled in that country, leaving America behind, where they got their start, where they built their enterprise and simply running away, leaving those who cannot run to pay the burden of operating this great country's security, our defense, and all of the other things we need to do. So tax policy fits into it.

Energy policy, labor—we will go through some of these tonight. We won't get to all of them.

I want to deal very quickly with this last one, which is the infrastructure. We passed a bill last week, and it was a stopgap. It was a kick the can down the road bill to keep our national highway system funded. It was really a pretty lousy bill.

It would extend for some 10 months an inadequate amount of funding for the transportation systems of this Nation, and it was funded by a cockamamie scheme of somehow smoothing pensions, which basically meant that American corporations didn't have to pay as much into their pension system, so that they could pay more in taxes. It is not going to happen.

If you wonder why Detroit, why San Jose, why other cities and companies across this Nation have troubles with their pension systems, it is because of this kind of foolish legislation.

What are you to do? Let the highway program stop? No. We passed the bill, and we will see where it winds up.

What we really need is what the President has proposed—a robust, comprehensive make it and build it in America program. It is called the GROW AMERICA Act, to grow America, to build the infrastructure, and there are several pieces to this piece of legislation—all of them deserve the immediate attention of the 435 of us in the House of Representatives and the 100 Senators—proposed by the President and, therefore, dead on arrival here.

If it had been proposed by—I don't know—any other leader in the world, it probably would have passed by now, but the Republicans will not allow President Obama's proposals to move forward.

Here it is, the highway system. Now, this is just in 2015. The highway system would get even more money than it has today, some $60 billion total, $7.6 billion to fix the current highway system, and this is in addition to the money that the States and locals are putting in—public transit, an increase in public transit, the buses, the light rail trains, and the like, inner city rail, Amtrak, boosting that—I am going to come back to Amtrak in a few moments.

International trade—back to what I talked about a few moments ago in the Make It In America agenda—international trade, the ports, revamping the ports, a freight policy—really, for the very first time, we would have an opportunity to have, in the United States, a freight policy.

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How do you get the containers off the ship in Long Beach, put them on a railcar, travel across the United States to some terminal, and then, once again, put them on a truck to go to wherever they are going? A policy, a comprehensive policy about how we move freight is critically important to the United States. International commerce and fair trade is important because it does allow for the boosting and the growth of the American economy. Now, free trade is something different, and that basically means give it away to some other country, which we should not do.

This GROW AMERICA Act is one of the principal elements in jump-starting the middle class. Why? Because these are middle class jobs. These are construction jobs on the highways, on the transit system, in the railroads, and certainly in the ports and the freight system—middle class jobs. How do we grow the economy? Build the infrastructure, increase the jobs for the

working men and women and the families of America, and we grow the economy.

By the way, we also grow the tax revenues because people are working. They are not tax takers, they are taxpayers.

So this is a proposal that the President has put forward. There has not been one hearing in the House of Representatives on this proposal that is now over 4 months old. Why? Why? Why is it that we have not given the President of the United States at least the consideration and the courtesy of having a hearing on his proposal? We should do so because it happens to be a very, very good proposal.

Let's take a couple of these elements for a moment. This bridge collapsed. Now, this isn't a bridge from Donetsk in Ukraine that was bombed during that war there. This is a bridge in Washington, a bridge north of Seattle on Interstate 5, the highway system between Canada, the United States, and Mexico, right down the coast, the west coast of California. This bridge collapsed just a couple of years ago. And this is not unusual. We have had bridges collapsing all across the United States.

This is part of the GROW AMERICA agenda. It is part of the agenda that we have in mind for the middle class, jump-starting the middle class, because when this bridge is built of American-produced steel in the Buy America laws that are presently on the books—which, by the way, the President says we ought to make even more robust so that your tax dollars are spent on American-made steel, American-made concrete, and the other elements that go into building these infrastructure projects, in other words, spreading the opportunity that comes from the transportation system and the growing and the building of the transportation system into all the other elements in the economy. It can be done.

The GROW AMERICA Act is specifically designed to deal with the deficiency in America's roads, and particularly in the bridges. Oh, the economic loss as a result of this highway system being shut down? Unfathomable. Didn't have to happen. And if we pass the GROW AMERICA Act, it is not likely to happen.

I want to pick up that little piece about what happens when you spend your tax money on American-made systems. Now, we talk a lot about green energy, as we should. We talk about energy conservation, as we should. We talk about wind turbines, and we talk about alternate energy systems such as solar, as we should. But where are those manufacturers? Where are the wind turbines manufactured? Where are the solar systems manufactured? Oh, China. By the way, we have a trade suit against China for dumping solar panels in the United States and decimating the American manufacturing system.

This piece of legislation, 1524, I like it. I am the author of it. H.R. 1524, Make It In America, create clean energy manufacturing jobs—simple. Your tax dollars must be spent on American-made solar, wind, and green energy systems. Now, if some developer out there wants to build a solar energy plant and use your tax dollars as a subsidy to pay for that plant, then if this becomes law, he must buy American-made solar panels. Now, if he wants to use his own money, he can buy whatever he wants. But I believe your tax dollars ought to be spent on American-made equipment, which is part of the Make It In America agenda.

There are many other pieces to this puzzle, and in the Democratic Caucus, we have introduced well over 50 pieces of legislation to advance the program of Make It In America so that the American middle class has a chance to grow and a chance to prosper. We can do that. Any number of those bills—or, in fact, all of them—would advance the middle class, literally jump-starting the middle class and giving American families an opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this incredible society and this incredible country we call America.

Joining me tonight is a woman from Ohio who has spent many years dealing with manufacturing and talking about the things we need to do to build and to grow the manufacturing sector of America.

I think you come from the heart of that. MARCY KAPTUR, welcome. Please share with us your thoughts.

Ms. KAPTUR. Well, first of all, I want to compliment Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI for his exceptional leadership in the Make It In America agenda and allowing Members like myself, Congressman TONKO from New York, and others to participate in focusing the spotlight on what counts. I wanted to follow on what the gentleman had said about what we import versus what we export.

People say, well, America has a budget deficit. Well, we have a jobs deficit that grows from importing more than we export. You mentioned the energy sector, one that I have particular responsibility for here. Last year, we imported $369 billion more of petroleum than we exported energy products. That translates into lost jobs in our country of over 1.8 million, nearly 2 million jobs just in the energy sector that we could bring back home if we focused on an all-of-the-above energy strategy that would help us recapture that wealth.

Those jobs here at home, automotive, a sector that our region of the country, Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, Cleveland, Parma, and Brook Park, we know the auto industry very well. Last year, we imported into our country $309 billion worth of automotive products from countries that didn't accept our parts for vehicles—take Korea for one—and that lost wealth, that ceded power inside this economy translates, just in the auto sector, to over 1.5 million lost jobs just in 1 year. That is just 1 year.

If we look at consumer goods, we see all these children streaming across our border from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras; and you look at the economies of those countries and the sweatshops that are making apparel, for example—those are some of the consumer goods that come in here—the people are earning a dollar a day, maybe $10 a day. They live in utter poverty.

Okay. So those goods are sent here, and Americans spent $533 billion on imported consumer goods last year. That translates—rather than making it here, we imported it—just in the consumer goods area, in 1 year, we lost 2.6 million jobs.

So if you add up just the energy jobs, the auto jobs, and the consumer goods jobs, you are talking about nearly 6 million jobs in 1 year. And we have 20 million Americans who remain unemployed or underemployed in our economy right now. Think about what this hemorrhage is costing us.

Some of the very companies that have moved these jobs from California, from New York, and from Ohio, they still operate those companies in foreign locales. Congressman LEVIN of Michigan calls it an inversion. That is kind of a good word, actually. Others have called it outsourcing. Others call it shipping out, shipping out our jobs and shipping out our wealth. People say, well, what has happened to the middle class? Well, it has gone global. Unfortunately, the people in those places are not middle class. They are working under horrendous conditions. And those goods are sent here, whether they are agricultural goods or whether they are industrial goods.

I want to compliment you on keeping a focus on Make It In America.

I do have a bill I wanted to put on the record, H.R. 194, which is the Congressional Made in America Promise Act, that would amend the Buy America Act to require this branch of our government, the legislative branch, in all of its gift shops and supply shops to emphasize the procurement of goods made in America. Doesn't that make sense? If you go around and you look at what is in there, you will be very surprised to find many products that are made overseas. We are just saying put as much effort into finding goods made in America and sell them in our gift shops.

So I would hope that some of our colleagues that are listening would cosponsor H.R. 194. It is a very well-written bill. It is our bill. It makes sure that if something is overpriced and doesn't belong in a gift shop, there are requirements. It is very sensible, and it would have some affirmative effort by the shops here on Capitol Hill to buy American-made goods.

So I want to thank the gentleman very much for his leadership. This is what the American people long to hear, a discussion here in the Congress on

jobs and economic growth. It seems to be an agenda that the Speaker and the leadership is not willing to put on the floor, so I thank the gentleman from California for your leadership.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I thank you, Ms. KAPTUR, for bringing to our attention ways in which we can actually do something. It may seem small, but we get thousands and thousands of people coming through the gift shop here at the Visitor Center, can they find something made in America. They ought to be able to.

I like your bill, and it will send a message, a message to us, because we will set the policy. If we set that policy right, we can grow the American middle class, jump-start the American middle class, and give the working men and women a real opportunity to enjoy the benefits of this society.

I noticed while you were chatting a colleague of mine who often shares this hour, Mr. TONKO from New York. Thank you for joining us once again. We were here last week, weren't we?

Mr. TONKO. We were, and it is always a pleasure to join with you, Representative GARAMENDI, and with Representative KAPTUR for the purposes of highlighting what can be done in this arena to cultivate a climate that grows private sector jobs and to be supportive of American-made products. So I stand here this evening in support of H.R. 1524, which would allow for us to prosper with the energy innovation and energy alternative technology which, as American produced, would be highlighted, would be the focus of attention with H.R. 1524.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Would you excuse me?

Before you came to Congress, were you not responsible for the State of New York innovation, energy, and related issues?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. I served as president and CEO before this work in Congress at NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and some of the partnerships that we inspired, public-private matches, where NYSERDA would have a piece of the action working with our innovator community and our entrepreneurial community and come up with these innovative designs that would allow for us to meet energy demands or to foster energy efficiency concepts which are very important to the outcome of energy policy and performance in this country. So, absolutely, I was involved in that.

I know that that is a growing edge. It is a meteoric rise within our manufacturing sector with all of this challenge as energy consumers to not only provide for alternatives and more efficient and effective outcomes and perhaps, in many cases, reduce costs, which are important, but also embracing an environmental agenda that deals with carbon emission and methane emission through the concepts of climate change and global warming.

So it is an across-the-board win, Representative GARAMENDI. I applaud you for H.R. 1524 and am supportive of H.R. 194, just recently spoken about by Representative KAPTUR, where we have the opportunity, again, to govern the decisions to either sell American-made products in gift shops or not.

One thing I would like to highlight here this evening, we have many traditions that have followed through the Halls of this Congress through the decades, one of which is the Export-Import Bank. So as we talk about product development and working within an international marketplace, there are those concepts in competing nations that help them with their export-import development. We have such a bank. The Export-Import Bank is at risk because it needs to be reauthorized, and, again, there is a sluggish outcome here where there is denial as to that concept.

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I can tell you that Export-Import Bank supports about $1 billion worth of sales in my own district. That is no small change. And so we need to make certain that we move forward with this concept of the Export-Import Bank being reauthorized. You look at the Ex-Im Bank and where it provides great services, and that is with the small business and medium-sized business community. Those are the up-and-coming efforts within the resurgence of our economy that need assistance. This program does it. Whether you are selling state-of-the-art energy innovative products or whether it is alarm systems or whether it is electronics, there is a great bit of assistance provided by the Ex-Im Bank.

Just last month, the National Association of Manufacturers and the United States Chamber of Commerce, who don't always agree, came together supporting their togetherness in swiftly addressing reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank. So I think it is very important. You have an organization here that has supported $37 billion worth of sales through last year that sustains some 200,000-plus jobs with over 3,400 companies. The important thing to note is their track record is stellar. For 80 years, they have been performing without assistance from taxpayer dollars. Their default rate is below 2 percent. Who can argue with that sort of success story?

So as we develop this Made In America agenda, we need the complementary efforts of the Ex-Im Bank so we can wholeheartedly go forward with every tool in the kit for our American manufacturers and our businesses, small and medium and industrial style, to be able to allow them the engine that heightens their export-import opportunity, and that is the way the work should be done, not denied here, not procrastinating about whether or not it should be reauthorized, not making it a political football, but really going forward and showing enthusiastic support based on tradition, on history, on performance, on success.

Let's get it done. Let's do our Export-Import Bank reauthorization. It is the right thing to do. This majority in the House of Representatives, the Republican majority, ought not hold back that progress. It is a support network that is essential to the future, the soundness of our business community, from small to medium to large.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Representative TONKO, thank you.

I was just thinking through that Export-Import, and the buzz inside the Beltway here in Washington that it only helps the big companies—General Electric and Boeing. The fact of the matter is, yes, it certainly helps those companies export airplanes and jet engines and whatever else, but it is the small companies that really take advantage of it. It is the start-ups and the growing companies that need that support.

I asked my staff, actually an intern, to do some research on the kinds of financing mechanisms that China, Japan, and Korea use to export their ships that they make.

The great shipbuilding industry is no longer in the United States, it is in those countries. There are one or two European countries that are also involved, but each of those countries support those shipbuilding companies with programs that are exactly the same as the Export-Import Bank, which is a loan guarantee. And it works.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. They are more aggressive than our program. So why would we reduce the complementary force that we provide to Ex-Im Bank. Ninety percent, as you just pointed out, a great amount of the activity, is with our small and medium-sized community; 90 percent is with the small and medium-sized business community. So what gives? Why are we not going forward with great energy, with great passion to say we can't miss, we need to reauthorize.

Instead, we are hearing vibes about not reauthorizing. We are having all kinds of groups coming together in nontraditional fashion, imploring us to do the right thing here. And again, it is being held back by the majority in the House. It is unacceptable, and it is unintelligent to do so.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I actually think, if I might say so, it is a small group in the Republican Party that is really taking the lead in this issue. Somehow they believe that government ought not be involved in commercial enterprise, when in fact since the very beginning of our Nation government has been involved, and together with the private sector is responsible for the growth of this incredible economy. This is but one example. There are numerous other ones.

I was just thinking about some of the words that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) spoke regarding energy policy.

We are now generating and extracting a large amount of natural gas, and so much so that now there is a desire

to export that natural gas in liquid form called liquefied natural gas, LNG. We have to be careful because that natural gas has given us the opportunity to pull down our energy costs, manufacturing costs, so we are now seeing companies returning to the United States. Dow Chemical is but one example. I used to represent their major plant out in Pittsburg, California. They are coming home because of energy policy, so we have to be careful about the export of LNG because it can drive up the price and harm the growth of our manufacturing sector.

However—and here is an opportunity—the LNG is a strategic national asset. It is bringing down our cost of energy. Shipbuilding is also a strategic national industry. Our United States Navy, the most powerful and most effective and awesome in the world, depends upon American shipyards. However, private shipbuilding in the United States has basically gone downhill, together with the mariners, the maritime crews that are on those American-built ships. We have an opportunity here. If we are going to export LNG, then we ought to export that LNG on American-built ships with American crews.

It is an issue of public policy. We can do this, and in so doing, we can revitalize an important sector of the American economy, the shipbuilding economy, which is found on all of the coasts of America, from Maine, Philadelphia, around in the gulf to San Diego, and all of the way up to Seattle. There are shipyards that are desperate for business, and the LNG export is an opportunity to capture and bring home the shipbuilding, and when it is coupled with the Export-Import Bank issue, we can really restart and rebuild a critical element in the economy of America.

Mr. TONKO. I hear you making mention of a long-standing skill set, that of shipbuilding. It is important as we look at that Make It In America agenda that the Democrats in the House of Representatives have put together, a very sound platform of initiatives, of policy and resource advocacy, a multifaceted concept of how to underpin the strengths of our manufacturing sector.

As we move forward with those skill sets that are required to build these ships, we need to make certain there is an investment in skills development and training, retraining, so we are doing it smarter. It doesn't have to be the cheaper price delivered to the market; it has to be the most quality also. And so we can win several of these contracts through brain power, through the investment of our intellectual capacity.

We are a Nation of pioneer spirit. I think that holds true to this day. Our humble beginnings taught us that we impacted not only the growth of this country with a westward movement, but through an industrial revolution. It affected positively the quality of life throughout this world because of that intellectual capacity, because of that pioneer spirit, because of that creative genius. And so it is important for us to include in our package as we do training and retraining, education formats, and research. We see it in the energy sphere. We see it across the board. It is important.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might interrupt you, before you move to the research agenda, which is absolutely critical, today the President of the United States signed the revamping of the job training programs in America. This is a bipartisan effort. It passed the House on a bipartisan vote—I think almost universal votes for the Democrats; the Republicans, maybe two-thirds voted for it and a third against it—but it is a complete revamp of an important element of what you just described, which is the job training and the job preparation and the training that is needed for these advanced manufacturing technologies.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. And it is the way we keep our cutting edge as sharp and precision-oriented as possible.

We know that it is three areas of investment. It is investment in capital infrastructure, physical infrastructure, and human infrastructure. Having that quality workforce, well prepared, skill sets that are at the cutting-edge quality so that we can continue to prosper as we compete, our companies compete, our businesses compete, at that international market. So it is important for us to constantly invest in that upgrading, in that training and retraining, and in that enhancement of education for our young people.

So there is the cornerstone of our plan, along with research which, as we have seen through the last couple of decades, it is critically important. If we look back as far back as the global space race, that space race required an investment of research. Landing a person on the Moon first of any nation, with that American flag being anchored onto the surface of the Moon, didn't just happen; it took an order of planning and commitment and passionate resolve so that with that passion we could make a difference. Well, it happened, and America was energized and it was lifted in the eyes of nations around the world as that leader.

We are at a critical juncture again, and can we afford to walk away from an investment in research? Can we afford to walk away from an investment in training and retraining? Can we afford to walk away from an investment in education, or the Export-Import Bank, or all sorts of incentives that provide for upgrades to manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, robotics, technology that allows us to build the best product out there, and we set the pace, we set the tone? It is about this wonderful agenda of Make It In America, established by so many people, including yourself, Representative GARAMENDI, the leadership in our House, Leader PELOSI and the Democrats in the House, advancing this cause of investment in tomorrow, investment in today. It is how we get there and how we always achieve by seeing the problem, meeting the challenge, and investing in America and her people.

We don't get there by cutting our way to prosperity, by denial, by games on the House floor, by resoundingly defeating a reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. It is absolutely essential that we do those building blocks that take us to the next generation of competition, the next generation of workers, and it can happen only if we plan accordingly and if we take that effort to lead rather than just hold back.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You are so correct.

Let me give you an example. Yesterday I called together my manufacturing advisory committee. We had about 50 manufacturers, some very, very large—Boeing was there—and some very small companies. The discussion centered around precisely what you talked about. We had representatives from Lawrence Livermore National Lab, Sandia National Lab, Lawrence Berkeley Lab, and the University of California Davis, researchers, the most advanced research going on in the world.

Their discussion was not about nuclear weapons, which you might expect from Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Labs, because that is their principal job, how to deal with the nuclear weapons issue, but they were talking about technologies that they have come into and have advanced through their research, like laser research.

One of the companies that was there was a spinoff from research that was done at Lawrence Livermore National Lab on laser technology, and it is called laser peening. Now you have heard of a ball-peen hammer that is used to strike metal, and in striking the metal, it actually strengthens it. Well, now they are using lasers to strike that metal, and the result of it is that you significantly strengthen the metal. And this is now used by General Electric and others in the manufacturing of some of the internal parts in the jet engines. It substantially strengthens them.

That is just one example of the way that research can flow into the manufacturing sector, enhancing the job opportunities for the middle class, and once again, it is made in America and is giving the middle class a jump start.

□ 2015

These things all come together, so this manufacturing group yesterday dealt on everything you talked about. They were talking about export. They talked about tax policy. They talked about research into the private sector.

Another example, the University of California, which I have the honor of representing, has a very large engineering school. It is one of the largest in the Nation, and they are producing—I

think they have 8,000 students in their engineering program.

A couple of the graduates, a few years back, developed a new way of programming machine tools—computer-assisted machine tools. They were so advanced that a Japanese machine tool company, one of the largest in the world, began to look at this and said: we need that technology.

They incorporated it into their program, and then they decided they needed to be near the researchers. So they have now located in Davis, California, a major manufacturing program to make these very advanced machine tools, using the research that comes from the university, a marvelous example of what we need to do in our public policies.

Mr. TONKO. It is interesting, as you highlighted the discussion, the dialogue with your advisers. The business of representing congressional districts, of representing any district in the halls of government, the key factor is listening, opening up to discussion, ideas, constructive criticism of what needs to be done out there, what is being done and what can be done better, what is not being done that needs to be done.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Can I give you another example? It was exciting—it was a really exciting day, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. Go for it, Representative.

Mr. GARAMENDI. One of the small businesses—of several of them, actually, after listening to the heads of these extraordinary laboratories said: yeah, but I am just a small company, I don't have any money to go and work with you guys on products that we want to develop.

The fellow from the SBA, the Small Business Administration, raised his hand—you know, I kind of see him wanting to jump into the conversation—so I called on him and he said: we can help.

I am going: You are from the government, and you can help? He said: we can help, we can help, we have a voucher program.

I didn't know this existed in the Small Business Administration, but they have a voucher program that a small business that wants to connect to one of the national laboratories or one of the universities can get a voucher that is worth a certain amount of money, take it down to the laboratory, and begin to work with the laboratory on transferring technology to that business.

Wow, I mean, do businesses know that such a thing exists? Are we promoting that? Are we supporting the Small Business Administration, so that they can help these small businesses in really what I think is a unique and wonderful way?

I interrupted you. My apologizes, Mr. TONKO.

Mr. TONKO. No, no. It is fine because you are just speaking to the point of listening and responding, learning from our constituents, learning from the front line of the business community and the worker community. Basically, when we travel this route, if we gather the information and then act accordingly, great things can happen. Prosperity blooms and blossoms.

I believe that when the business community is speaking—from small to medium to large industry—when they are telling us we need workforce development investment, we ought to listen. When they are telling us they need immigration reform, we ought to listen. When they are talking about reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, we ought to listen.

When they talk about incentives that modernize and transfer and transition traditional manufacturing into advanced manufacturing, we ought to listen. The list goes on and on.

Just recently, I toured a manufacturing center, a factory in my district. My grandparents called the district I represent home. Ironically, a set of them worked in that factory. I am a product of immigrants—grandparent immigrants, who were dairy farmers and factory workers.

Those factory workers worked on that same floor that we were visiting, those grandparents—my grandparents. One couldn't help but wonder the equipment changes that have come in those decades that have passed. While they wove carpets—they were weavers in that carpet industry—today, they are weaving fiber strands for defense contracts, for huge equipment out there.

The owner implies and states to me that: I can't compete, I have to offer my product at a 1985 price level.

Why? One would ask why? He responded rather quickly and theoretically: a, our foreign competitors are subsidized by their government—they oftentimes own the factory, the government owns the factory. In this case, China manipulates the currency.

He said: you take away any of those factors, any one, and I can compete; you take all of them away, and I am a winner, hands down.

When our communities speak to us—in this case, workers, businesses, management—when they speak, we ought to respond accordingly. I don't understand the lack of action on an Export-Import Bank reauthorization. I don't understand the dumbing down of research opportunity. I don't understand the lack of resources to provide for a Make It In America agenda fostered by the Democratic leadership of this House, understanding full well that we are at our best when we invest in our tomorrow.

That pioneer spirit comes fully alive when we do that. Let's move forward with progress by committing to that order of agenda.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There are so many pieces to this puzzle. At the top of our Make It In America is trade policy. Thank you for bringing that issue back onto the floor. It is something we constantly need to deal with.

We have not talked this last year—actually, since Republicans took control of Congress, we have not talked about the manipulation of currency by China. I know when the Democrats controlled the House, we were putting forth legislation multiple times to address the currency manipulation issue, but there are many, many pieces to this trade policy that are relevant to us.

As you were talking about the manufacturing, I put up one of my favorite photos, a Make It In America photo. You have seen my photo here, I am sure, of a locomotive. The American Recovery Act, a stimulus bill which really did work—trash it politically, but it actually worked—there was money for Amtrak to buy locomotives.

In that particular section of the Recovery Act, Congress wrote—and you voted for it—I wasn't here at the time, I wish I was because I would love to take credit for this—wrote a little paragraph that said this money must be spent on locomotives that are 100 percent made in America—100 percent made in America—a couple hundred million dollars to build these locomotives.

Companies looked at it. A German company said: that is a lot of money, we can build locomotives. Siemens, a large international industrial manufacturing company—located in Sacramento, building light rail cars—said: we can build American-made locomotives.

They started a new manufacturing plant. They have over 600 workers there today. They are producing 100 percent American-made locomotives because of public policy. Your tax dollars are spent on American-made locomotives.

That supply chain is all across this Nation—not made in Germany, made in America—the wheels, the trains, the tracks, the electronics, all of that, American-made. It is a matter of public policy. The Export-Import Bank, tax policy, how you are going to spend American taxpayer dollars—these are the things we wanted to do to jump-start the middle class—Make It In America.

Mr. TONKO, we have got about 7 or 8 minutes left, so let's roll on.

Mr. TONKO. Okay. Well, some of those trends that saw decline in some of the manufacturing sectors in our economy over the decades are now beginning to close on that gaping bit of disparity.

Labor rates, for instance—as countries had very, very cheap labor rates, they witnessed that their labor population began to demand more, which is a sign of civilization. When you are investing your skill set, your brain power, into the development of products and working on that assembly line, you will begin to understand that remuneration for what you do is important.

An order of social fairness, social justice, comes into play, economic justice,

so the discrepancy between the labor rates has narrowed.

We have earlier talked about the energy supplies and energy costs. Many now are citing us as the millennium of Mideast here, with the supply of natural gas and energy issues that are being addressed significantly through innovation and alternative supplies and through natural gas supplies.

So the energy quotient in that formula for manufacturing has been very much flipping, cycling favor for the U.S. economy.

As these major factors begin to steady our way, there is a brighter bit of hope out there that is launched. If we accompany that with the appropriate policies and attached resources, if we can adopt, if you would, the Democratic agenda for Make It In America, great things can happen.

It takes a vision, and it takes leadership, and it takes planning so as to get to that point where we are investing in that pioneer spirit of America. I earlier talked about my grandparents and the fact that they claimed the 20th Congressional District in New York as their home.

They tethered their American Dream there. They went to work in those factories, on those farms, and made certain they could climb that ladder for economic opportunity. They shared that with their children and their grandchildren. They wanted to make certain that this American Dream was there for their family and then share it with others. That is us at our best.

Why not invest in that American Dream, so that as families go forward, as they dream their dreams, as they tether those dreams, as they become all they can be, as they submit to an American agenda that has always been about opportunity, about taking your natural skills, talents, and abilities and investing them for your own growth, but certainly for the growth of community and the American culture—that has been us, that is our history. Let it speak to us.

As we hear others who speak to us about the needs to grow the economy, let us respond. Let us do that with a keen sense of awareness, of empathy, of attachment to an American agenda for jobs.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO, it is always a great pleasure to be on the floor with you. You are so clear. Your vision and your purpose is so very, very clear.

The Make It In America agenda has many pieces: trade policy, tax policy, energy, labor, education, research, and infrastructure. All of it is designed for one purpose, and that is to give American working families an opportunity.

It has become part of our jump-start for the middle class. This is our policy. These are the things that we want to do as Democrats. We want to see the working families of America make it. We want it made in America, and we want American families to be making it, so the Make It In America is one part of this agenda.

When women succeed, America succeeds. This is the fact that a majority of the workforce in America is now women. The reality is they make 70 cents on the dollar for every man that makes a dollar, so we need to address that. We need to make sure that they have the opportunities.

Right now, there is an increasing concern about on-demand labor, which is mostly women. You can imagine the destruction to family life when a woman that is working at a retail store gets a phone call and has to immediately report to work for 3, 4, or 5 hours.

This is craziness, but there is a whole series of family-friendly policies for women that are involved in this issue, including the minimum wage.

Finally, the issue of education, which we have talked about. These are the jump-start the middle class policies that we are pushing forward.

Make It In America is the agenda that you and I have talked about so many times here on the floor—little progress is being made—but I am telling you, if we had the majority in this House, these pieces of legislation that we have talked about today would be sitting over in the Senate and they would be on the President's desk very, very quickly—critical policies for the future of this Nation, critical policies for the working men and women and the families of America.

We intend to do it. We intend to see this agenda, the agenda for the working men and women advance.

Mr. TONKO, do you want to have another 30 seconds before we are told to wrap?

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely. Just underscoring your statement that when women succeed, America succeeds—when women succeed, that lifts all families, whether it is a single female head of family, whether it is a male-female household, two women in the household, whatever it is, across the board, that is a win situation.

□ 2030

So families prosper, families succeed, and then, of course, America succeeds. Again, a multifaceted agenda that speaks to core needs. It speaks to social and economic justice. It speaks to the fact that pay equity and equal pay for equal work is a cornerstone to our women succeed, America succeeds agenda, the minimum wage being lifted, and certainly quality child care, affordable child care. That is what sustains the agenda, so that when women succeed, families succeed, America succeeds. We move forward with a vibrancy that began with its underpinnings of support here on the Hill in Washington, with Congress working toward the needs of workers and the business community and making certain that we respond to the present-day needs that exist out there that only build upon the richness of history and allow America to truly succeed.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. TONKO and Ms. KAPTUR, thank you so very much for joining us tonight.

America will make it when we Make It In America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY ACTION TEAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as part of the House Energy Action Team, it is important for us to address the hardworking American taxpayers that are concerned about their rising energy costs and who want to know what their United States Congress is going to do about the issue of energy independence, the cost of fuel, the cost of electricity, and the fact that they have got less money in their wallet after a week of driving back and forth between work and taking the kids to school and ball games and church and all the things that we, as average Americans, do. After they pay for the fuel to do all of that, to drive their vehicles to and fro, they reach in their wallet for extra cash, and there is none left. What is the United States Congress going to do about the rising cost of energy?

I came to Washington to focus on three things: jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers.

Jobs. How about unleashing and unbridling the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of Americans that will actually turn this economy around by putting Americans to work, lessening the number of Americans on the welfare rolls, and actually having Americans earn their way? Jobs.

Energy. Energy is a segue to job creation in this country. Look at the States that have energy-driven economies like Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota. North Dakota has a 3 percent unemployment rate or less. In fact, McDonald's is paying a finder's fee. If you have got somebody who wants to go to work at a McDonald's in North Dakota, they will pay you a finder's fee.

Jobs and energy. Energy is a segue to job creation and putting Americans to work. We are not just talking about the men and women wearing the hard hats and the oil uniforms out on the drilling platforms or in the Bakken up in North Dakota, turning those drills and producing that, whether it is through horizontal drilling or hydraulic fracturing or shallow water or deep water offshore. Yes, those are good-paying jobs. Those are hardworking American taxpayers. But think about all the other jobs that support the offshore industry and the onshore industry.

These are Americans that are working doing pipefitting and welding. And guess what. Pipes fall on truck beds,

and the beds have to be repaired. So there are auto body mechanics and engine mechanics. All these people work in that industry. It can be those in HVAC. Folks are going out on the rigs to fix the air conditioner or provide the food service or the transportation or the supply vessels carrying the drilling mud and the diesel fuel.

Everything that it takes to support energy production in this country, guess what. Those folks are going to the local restaurants and they are eating and they are giving tips to the waitresses. They are going to their churches and they are tithing. They are joining the United Way and they are sponsoring ball teams. They are supporting our local communities.

You see it all up and down the Texas and Louisiana highways. You see it in North Dakota and Oklahoma. And guess what. We want to see it in South Carolina.

In fact, there are some gentlemen here that want to see it off their coast or may want to see it expanded in their States, whether it is onshore or offshore. They understand that energy production is a segue to putting Americans to work.

Jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers. Limited government, free markets, individual liberties, unleashing that entrepreneurial spirit that Americans have within us to go and create and do and put Americans to work and, yes, pay taxes to the government so the government can do its constitutional role.

Jobs, energy, and our Founding Fathers is a great acronym. It spells ''Jeff,'' and I am all about Jeff.

We want to see the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf opened up. We want to see some seismic work done first. That is the first step. Let's see what is out there.

They are looking at 30-year-old seismic graphs, trying to figure out are there recoverable resources off the coast of South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, the States that want to see that area opened up.

Using 30-year-old technology and 30-year-old graphs, let's see some 21st century technology drug in the Atlantic, like 4–D and 3–D technology, to actually see down in the Earth and see what sort of resources might be recoverable.

Let's allow the seismic work, and let's allow universities like the University of South Carolina do it. Being a Clemson graduate, it pains me to say that the University of South Carolina and Dr. James Knapp are leading the way, teaching the young, new minds to use that seismic technology and look at those graphs and figure out where those resources are. He is doing tremendous work there at the University of South Carolina. Let's open up more areas.

It is hard for me to applaud the Obama administration on a whole lot, but I will applaud them on a transboundary hydrocarbon agreement signed by then-Secretary Clinton with Mexico that opened up a million and half acres in the Gulf of Mexico, shared resources right under that maritime boundary between the United States and Mexico.

Mexico just denationalized their energy company, Pemex. They are opening up to more private investments. We are going to see great things happen in the transboundary area. But even though she signed that agreement, the administration failed to send to this Congress the implementing language to actually make it happen and to include those areas in the next 5-year plan. That took an act of Congress. That took a bill that passed out of this body last year. That took efforts like PAUL RYAN had in the omnibus to get the transboundary hydrocarbon implementing language in the omnibus so that we could open up that million and a half acres and we could put more men and women here in America, hard-working American taxpayers, to work developing the energy resources that we have in this country.

God bless the United States of America. He continues to bless us with the resources here to be truly American energy independent. We are working with our neighbors to the north with something like the Keystone pipeline—which should happen—to bring that Canadian oil into this country to the refineries where we have idle capacity and to put that oil into the marketplace in gasoline and plastic and asphalt and diesel fuel and all the other butanes and all the other elements that come out of a barrel of hydrocarbons when you put it under pressure and it separates naturally in all sorts of wonderful God-given elements.

The Keystone pipeline should happen. That is a no-brainer for most Americans that I talk to, but apparently the administration just doesn't get it. They don't get that the Keystone pipeline will put Americans to work.

We are talking about jobs. We are talking about energy. We are talking about less government. The Keystone pipeline and North American energy independence includes working with our neighbors to the south in Mexico as they decentralize, denationalize their energy industry, and more private investment, more American companies going down there developing those resources so we can possibly have North American energy independence, if not just American energy independence.

I am joined by a number of Members of Congress here that are part of the House Energy Action Team. One gentleman from the neighboring State to my north understands what I talked about with the Outer Continental Shelf and that mid-Atlantic, south Atlantic OCS area that we believe has resources. If you look at the geology, North Africa and the Middle East and England were all together one time with the United States, and the resources and geology are very similar. We believe that in the south. I know in South Carolina we may have some recoverable resources, and we can be players in that.

I know the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) wants to talk, I am sure, about that North Carolina offshore area.

Mr. HUDSON. I thank the gentleman, my neighbor from South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN. I appreciate your leadership on this issue. I couldn't agree with you more.

Many of our constituents back home in North Carolina and South Carolina are entering the second half of the summer. They are preparing to take trips to the beach, maybe trips to the mountains, maybe going to visit relatives. Many of our constituents are contemplating those trips and, frankly, are experiencing a little sticker shock as they factor in the cost of gasoline and what it is going to cost their family.

Many of our constituents are struggling. They either are not in the job they want to be in or they are looking for a job, and it is tough to make ends meet. If you add the high cost of energy to that, it is a real burden on people. It affects real people back home.

Frankly, it doesn't have to be that way because we have got tremendous opportunities to have American sources of energy. It is just a shame we are not going after them.

I agree also with my colleague there are not a lot of things that President Obama and I agree on, but I do applaud his decision to allow us to do seismic mapping off the shore of the Atlantic Coast. We have tremendous opportunities in North Carolina, as well as Virginia and South Carolina, to find these large reserves. We know there is natural gas there. We know there is petroleum there. We need to find out what is exactly there.

So this is an important first step to get this seismic permitting so that we can know what kind of energy resources we have exactly. But I want to get North Carolina in the energy business. We have got the opportunity to put people to work.

As my colleague mentioned, North Dakota pays a $2,000 signing bonus at McDonald's because they can't find enough people because everybody has a job, and I look at North Carolina and my neighbors who are struggling to find work. Let's put people in energy jobs. Not only will it bring down the cost of energy for us at the pump, but it will put people to work.

There is another phenomena happening out there. We have lost a tremendous amount of manufacturing jobs in North Carolina, particularly in my part of the State, but we are seeing some of those jobs start to come back. The reason they are starting to come back is because of energy costs.

Even despite the fact that the current President won't allow any new permitting on publics lands, through fracking and other technology, we find it on private lands. We are being able

to bring down some of our energy costs through exploration.

Imagine what we would do if we could unleash American energy by allowing us to go after all of our resources, whether they are on public lands or offshore. We can have a manufacturing renaissance in this country by having affordable American energy. We can start creating jobs like you wouldn't believe. There is no reason why we are not doing that.

So I am happy to be here tonight with my colleagues to talk about the importance of this. I am just ready to unleash the American energy and ready to bring those jobs back.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

This is a picture of the State newspaper in South Carolina. It says: Oil Exploration OK'd Off South Carolina and the Entire East Coast.

The Department of the Interior has actually said: You know what? We are going to allow some seismic to actually happen off the coast of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia so we can see what is out there.

This is good news, America. This is good news because we are actually going to see that there are recoverable resources of our coast.

And I ask the question again of the Americans that may be tuned in: How much more is your regular travel costing, with gasoline prices being well north of $3 a gallon in this country? Or to ask a different way: How much less money do you have in your wallet after you travel back and forth to work—your normal travel and not summertime vacation travel—your normal travels from home to work and back, taking the kids to school, taking them to the ball games, going to church, going to the grocery store, all the things that you do, how much less money do you have?

I know in North Carolina and South Carolina, our constituents have experienced that.

Another member of the House Energy Action Team from Texas—and Texas gets it, because, God bless Texas, with Spindletop, Eagle Ford, Barnett, and a lot of other resources, they understand energy and they understand the jobs that come about from energy production.

I yield to Mr. WEBER of Texas, because I know he has got a great story to tell.

□ 2045

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the things that make America great are the things that America makes.

Now, how do we do that?

We have a stable, reliable, affordable energy supply.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to think with me here for a second. We have to have a strong America. Whether it is a typhoon or whether it is a hurricane or whether it is famine or flood or pestilence or civil war—no matter what it is—when the world has a catastrophe and they dial 911, who is it who answers?

It is the Americans—isn't it?—with our military, with our might, with our goodness, I would argue. So I would argue that, for the world to be a safer place, we must have a strong America.

How do we do that?

Like I said, a stable, reliable, affordable energy supply.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just about jobs and the economy. This is about a strong America that leads this world and makes the world a safer place to live in. I would further argue, Mr. Speaker, that you are seeing the result of an administration's policy. Around this world, we are seeing the results of people who understand that the current policy is weak, ineffective, and to be trampled upon.

It is bewildering to me and, quite frankly, to many Americans that the President and his administration continue to stand in the way of the potential that this country has to offer with respect to domestic energy production for the reasons I just stated. In fact, the President has canceled lease sales and has effectively closed off 85 percent of our offshore resources from exploration. Yet the majority of Americans support tapping these resources so that we can make our country more energy independent—and again, so the world is a safer place to be.

This country needs a President who will empower our energy sector, not suffocate it. I always say, as I did in my opening remarks, that the things that make America great are the things that America makes. Mr. Speaker, when more things are made in America, more Americans will make it in America. When government gets out of the way, we can create thousands of good-paying jobs and a whole lot of affordable, reliable, dependable, secure energy. Then and only then, when more things are made in America, more Americans will make it in America.

The energy sector, as the gentleman said, is one of our Nation's leading job creators, and much more can be done to unleash our energy in these United States. Just look at my home State of Texas. Texas has been responsible for close to half of all new jobs created in the United States since the end of the recession. Texas has allowed the energy industry to flourish while, at the same time, protecting the environment.

Shale gas development, which is booming because of innovations like hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling—despite this administration—is leading to billions in new investments in my district alone, billions in my District 14 on the gulf coast of Texas, for example. Chevron Phillips Chemical Company is investing $6 billion to build two polyethylene plants in Sweeny, Texas, bringing 400 new permanent jobs and 10,000 new construction jobs to my district alone. You all know polyethylene is used to produce common plastic products we use every day, and it is derived from natural gas. In addition to many other projects, two companies in my district are waiting to invest billions—with a ''b''—of dollars in liquefied natural gas export facilities, which would bring an untold number of new construction jobs to my State and the Nation.

It is a puzzle to me that this administration, instead of encouraging more of this kind of private investment nationwide, has decided that what we need now are more regulations. Are you kidding me? Just this past March, the administration announced that it is in the process of developing regulations on methane emissions from various sources, including from hydraulic fracturing sites. This is despite the fact that methane emissions have fallen by 11 percent since 1990. Such government overreach, which, undoubtedly, will also encompass emissions from cattle—if you can believe that—will raise costs for consumers, destroy jobs, and hurt energy production. This administration is so extreme it is proposing to regulate cow emissions. Now, in Texas, we call that a lot of bull. This Obama administration is out of touch with everyday Americans and is out of control with energy regulations. The administration's announcement on methane emissions is just one small piece of a much larger regulatory strategy.

Take the EPA, for example. The EPA is requesting millions of dollars to conduct a study of hydraulic fracturing, which is a technology that has been safely utilized by the oil and gas industry in Texas since at least 1947. In at least three cases, the EPA has blamed hydraulic fracturing on water contamination. In all three of those cases, they were forced to retract their conclusions. Therefore, I suspect the purpose of their study is only to justify further regulatory actions.

Most importantly, we cannot forget that the administration is planning to repropose a new rule on ozone this December. When originally proposed in 2010, this regulation was widely cited as the most expensive regulation in history, which would cost hundreds of billions of dollars and put over 80 percent of our Nation out of compliance—80 percent of our country in nonattainment when it comes to ozone regulations. Mr. Speaker, I would offer that the EPA needs to use common sense when it comes to the common sense of their nonattainment.

Unlike our counterparts in the Senate, the House has passed legislation to expand domestic energy production. It has acted to hold the Obama administration accountable for its regulatory agenda. On June 26, with my support, the House passed H.R. 4899, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America that Works Act. If enacted, this legislation will require the administration to move forward on the new offshore

production that the gentleman was referring to in areas that are projected to contain the most oil and natural gas resources by requiring new lease sales and by streamlining permitting. I could go on and on and on.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, even though, when he was running, the President said he had an all-of-the-above energy strategy, the truth is it is none of the above. He is in the process of killing the coal industry. Make no mistake. Fossil fuels will be next.

Let me close by saying I call on the President, as the gentleman did, to permit the Keystone pipeline. Let it get built. Let America continue to be an energy leader in the world. Let America be solid and strong, and let us, once again, have a safe world.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Texas. As I said earlier, Texas gets it.

I remember a colleague of ours from Louisiana who said that drilling equals jobs. That sums it up—drilling equals jobs. I appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana, Jeff Landry, our former colleague, for sharing that with us.

I drive a diesel truck. I was filling up just recently back in the spring, and there happened to be an off-road diesel pump right beside the on-road diesel pump that I was at. I was paying about $3.59 a gallon for diesel fuel for my pickup, and I noticed the off-road diesel fuel price was about 10 cents less, about $3.49. I took a picture of it, and I shared it on Facebook because I wanted folks to realize America's farmers are paying $3.49 a gallon for off-road diesel fuel. This is a fuel you can't run on the highway because the Federal Government and the States don't collect any highway taxes from off-road fuel. It is just pure diesel fuel. If this is what America's farmers put in their tractors, it is off-road for a reason. If they are paying $3.49 a gallon for off-road diesel fuel, that is an input cost. That is a cost of production.

They are putting $3.49 a gallon of diesel fuel in their tractors to plant our crops and, in the fall, to harvest our crops. I think about the cost of fertilizer right now, which should be low because natural gas is abundant in this country—and I think the gentleman from Pennsylvania is going to talk about this in just a minute and what they have found in Pennsylvania. Natural gas is a huge component in the production of fertilizer, but fertilizer is at an historical high still. So you have got the input cost for farmers of off-road diesel fuel at $3.49 a gallon—that input cost and the cost of fertilizer.

We know of the regulations the gentleman from Texas was talking about that the EPA continues to push down on Americans, and America's farmers are feeling the brunt of it on where they can spray their pesticides or their herbicides and how far from ditches they need to be. There is some common sense there, I understand, but there is regulation after regulation. We have even combated, since I have been in Congress, the regulation of farm dust. Now, can you believe that the EPA would want to regulate dust created through the normal agricultural process?

The input cost of farmers will be affected and will affect the price, rather, of the commodities that moms and dads buy when they go to the grocery store this fall after harvest time. You think about commodity prices being high, and we are already seeing historically high milk prices, historically high beef prices, historically high fuel prices to go back and forth to the grocery store just to buy those commodities. It means less money for the hard-working American taxpayers at the end of the day who are having to pay extra for ObamaCare, extra in taxes to pay for the large government and government spending that we see. We can help. This Congress can help by lowering the price of fuel—gasoline for America's truckers and for America's moms and dads who travel back and forth.

We have got an abundance of natural gas in this country. It gets a bad rap when you use words like ''hydraulic fracturing.'' I will tell you it is working in Marcellus in Pennsylvania and Ohio. It could work in New York if they would get off their can and open up those areas.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS) understands. He understands the area of Marcellus, so I yield to the gentleman so he can talk about that area.

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding and for organizing this important discussion about energy.

Mr. Speaker, I talk a lot in my district, District 12 back in western Pennsylvania. Western PA is where you had the start of the oil industry back in the 19th century and, of course, the development of coal, and we are seeing this explosion in the development of the gas industry out there that is creating lots of jobs.

I talk a lot about energy in western PA because I contend that we can relight America from western Pennsylvania. We need to relight America. We need to boom again. A lot of people have given up on the idea that America can boom again, but for us to get this economy growing, energy is a huge part of it.

Again, we are seeing thousands of jobs throughout Pennsylvania because of the gas industry, and we are seeing people who are able to stay on their farms. Imagine that. They are fracturing the shale in Pennsylvania to release the energy. They are not fracturing families, because the families can stay on those farms and get the revenues from that gas to help them keep their farms in business. Growing our energy economy means more family-sustaining jobs and lower energy prices for families in western Pennsylvania and around the Nation. Developing our Nation's plentiful natural resources and being good stewards of the environment need not be mutually exclusive.

I want to bring attention, Mr. Speaker, to a little known area of energy that uses something known as refuse coal. Refuse coal was coal that was mined decades ago, often for the steel industry, and it was determined not to be of sufficient quality for use in the industry, so it was left. It was left on hillsides throughout Pennsylvania, throughout Appalachia, but technological advancements have allowed certain power plans to turn piles of this low-quality coal that has been left throughout Pennsylvania's countryside into cheap domestic energy. This has allowed for cleaning up the environment and restoring landscapes and rivers.

Just take a look at the remarkable difference here in these before and after pictures of the Barnes-Watkins coal refuse pile in Cambria County, in my district.

□ 2100

Plants across Pennsylvania and States including Illinois, Montana, Utah, and West Virginia are doing tremendous work to clean up the environment and generate affordable electricity.

Unfortunately, the unelected Federal elites at the EPA with their one-size-fits-all rules are threatening to shut down the plants that use this waste coal and stop the progress on cleaning up places like what you see right here.

This will cost middle class jobs. It will raise energy prices for many Americans and put an end to the positive work that these plants do to clean up our environment.

To address this very problem, I introduced H.R. 3138, the Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment; it is the SENSE Act, S-E-N-S-E, because it makes sense.

This commonsense legislation recognizes the important energy and environmental benefits that power plants like the ones in Cambria County provide. The SENSE Act offers a reasonable balance that keeps these plants open, saves local middle class jobs, preserves important domestic electricity generating capacity, and helps to continue cleaning up the environment.

I would urge my colleagues to take a look at this legislation and help us get it through.

But, again, we need to boom. We need to boom again because when America is booming again, that is when the jobs come in. And when we get people back to work, every person we get back to work, that person is paying Social Security tax, that person is paying Medicare tax, that person is paying income tax that allows us to pay for the critical social service programs that we need like Social Security, Medicare, veterans benefits.

A booming economy is going to do that, and a key to the booming economy is the booming energy sector.

I, again, thank my colleague from South Carolina for highlighting the important role that the energy economy is going to play in relighting America.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. He has been a leader in his short time in Congress as a freshman on energy issues because he gets what is going on in his home State.

I keep returning to the State of Texas because Texas, they have been developing energy resources for a very, very long time. When you think about Texas and Oklahoma, that is where it began in this country, the immense resources they have.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), one of my heroes and good friends who wants to talk about what is going on in his home State.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for sponsoring this leadership hour and bringing the issue of energy to the attention of the House and the American public.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we consider where I live, Houston, Texas, the energy capital of the world because it is the energy capital of the world. And it is because of our location. Fifty percent of the Houston ship channel exports exports are energy-related, not just energy itself, but everything that is used in the development of energy throughout the world. Fifty percent of the economy of Houston is based upon the Houston ship channel.

We are experiencing a phenomenon in this country that nobody thought would happen 5 or 6 years ago, and that is the abundance and surplus of natural gas and what we call Texas sweet crude, or light crude, an abundance of it in this Nation. There is so much natural gas being produced in this country that in south Texas, in the Dakotas, they are flaring gas wells. They are capping wells in west Texas.

What does that mean?

That means that when they flare wells, there are over 1,500 wells that are being flared. That is enough energy to take care of a million homes. We are talking about a lot of energy. We are talking about a lot of natural gas.

So what do we do with that?

Well, we should sell it.

There is an ice cream company down in Texas. It is a little creamery in Brenham, Texas, a German community, called Blue Bell Ice Cream. It is the best ice cream in the world, Mr. Speaker, by the way. Their motto is simple about their ice cream: We eat all we can and we sell the rest.

Well, that should be the American motto for our natural gas: use all we can, then sell the rest throughout the world. And yes, there are a lot of buyers who want to buy American energy, natural gas.

When I was in India, I talked to the Prime Minister, and all the Prime Minister wanted to talk about was getting natural gas from the United States to India. Mr. Speaker, there are a billion more people in India than there are in the United States. They can take it all. They will buy it all if we will just make it happen.

When I was in the Ukraine, right before the Russians invaded the place, that is all that the Ukrainians wanted to talk about: getting natural gas from the United States, mainly from Texas, to offset being held hostage by the Russians where they get gas from. You know, the Russians turn off the gas in the Ukraine when they don't like the politics in Ukraine.

Give them an alternative. Give them a free market alternative. Sell them American natural gas. The same with other Eastern European countries. Same with Western Europe. Give them an alternative to Russia. It is not only an energy independence thing for those countries, but it takes them politically away from the stranglehold of Russia. That is one thing we can do to offset Russian aggression: sell American natural gas throughout the world.

Then why aren't we doing it?

Well, we are, but it is slow. It is very slow. It takes forever to get the Department of Energy now to grant those permits.

Here is the way it works. Since we are now permitting to sell natural gas or exporting that product, it not only takes FERC to have a permit, but then the company has to get the Department of Energy to permit them as well, and it takes too long. So we don't get to sell the gas, and we lose out on that opportunity to competitors throughout the world who will sell their natural gas, who don't have to deal with the Department of Energy.

We need to expedite that, expedite the sale of natural gas. That helps the United States with jobs, as the gentleman from South Carolina has said. It helps us with American jobs. But it also makes us energy-independent.

We can make, Mr. Speaker, the Middle East irrelevant, not just their energy and all the turmoil. We can make them politically irrelevant because we can take care of ourselves, not only exporting natural gas but, of course, exporting what we call Texas sweet crude, or light crude, throughout the world. That is what we should do.

We should export. We should be willing to use all we can and then sell the rest. We should adopt the motto of the best ice cream company in the world.

A couple of other matters, if I may. The Keystone pipeline: How ridiculous is it that we haven't started building it? You have got to get that crude oil to market some way. What do you want to do, put it on ships? We have already found out that is not such a good idea.

How about railcars? Well, I think we have had some problems with railcar transportation of crude oil.

You want to use thousands and thousands of trucks to move that crude oil around? That is kind of dangerous too.

The safest way to move crude oil is through a pipeline. There are thousands of miles of pipeline. The XL pipeline, why it hasn't been done is because of political reasons, not because there is common sense involved in it. We ought to get through the politics and build the Keystone pipeline.

It comes from Canada down to southeast Texas to where the refineries are. My former district, Mr. WEBER now represents that area where they are waiting.

How much crude oil are we talking about? We are talking about as much crude oil, Mr. Speaker, as we get from Saudi Arabia. Now we are talking about a lot of crude oil.

Once again, make America energy-independent but energy-secure, and it is a national security issue as well. It is just sense. It is common sense. It also brings in revenue to America, to the American people to be able to sell throughout the world natural gas and crude oil.

I want to thank the gentleman for the time.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Texas. He has been a leader as long as I have known him on energy issues, representing Houston. I have been to Houston. I have seen the activity around the oil and gas industry, and I can tell you there are some States that want a little piece of that. South Carolina is one of those.

You are exactly right on the LNG terminals. Ukraine, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, they are all reliant on Russian gas now and they are concerned about the posturing of Russia, and they are concerned about whether that spigot might be turned off, that pipeline might be interrupted that supplies the much-needed energy that they enjoy currently.

They are looking west. They are looking to the United States. How about exporting your natural gas? You have got a ton of it. How about giving us some of it? We will buy it. We will pay you for it.

India, as the gentleman said. It is a geopolitical advantage that the United States has.

I was mentioning earlier about the areas that are opened up for development, and I wanted to show America this. I know it is small, but you can see the orange. That is right around South America. All that area in orange is open for energy development.

But look at North America. There is a lot of blue water. There are a lot of areas outside of the Gulf of Mexico, outside of the area off of Alaska, that are not available to energy production. They should be and they could be.

We have got a letter, a Dear Colleague letter, that we are sending to Secretary Jewell, saying, Look, we need a new 5-year plan for leasing the Outer Continental Shelf area. We want to see certain areas like the mid- and South Atlantic included in that area, want to continue opening up more and more of the gulf.

But we would love to see the areas that are reflected in blue and not open on the map I just showed. Countries like Canada and Mexico and China, they are ramping up their efforts to develop their offshore resources and will be directly competing with the United States.

It is past time, America, that we develop the resources that we have been blessed with here in this country.

This letter, I am a leader on it. I am asking my colleagues, I am asking Americans to contact your Congressman and say, how about get on that letter to Secretary Jewell that Congressman DUNCAN has got, and let's encourage her to open up more areas that might be available in the next 5-year plan.

Five years out, let's open up more areas for energy production. Let's have lease sales. Let's allow exploration.

I know the next gentleman from Virginia, he gets it as well because I have dealt with Virginia for a long time. Senator Frank Wagner, from over near Norfolk, I met early on in my delving into the whole energy spectrum and arena.

I went offshore on the Gulf of Mexico with the Senator, and he taught me about what Virginia was doing. They were leading with an energy plan for the State of Virginia. They were leading with looking toward the offshore areas.

I know the gentleman that represents that area in the United States Congress, Mr. RIGELL, fully understands that. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RIGELL. I thank my friend for his leadership in this critical area, and for having us out here tonight to talk about the tremendous opportunity to really shape the direction of our country in such a positive way by responsibly opening up our coastal regions for energy exploration.

The potential is great in job creation. 25,000 local jobs in the Hampton Roads area—that is southeast Virginia, jobs that would be going to some of those who need so desperately to have job opportunities, for our veterans who are coming out of our military right there in Norfolk and in Virginia Beach and other areas of our district.

Let me frame this discussion, Mr. Speaker, with this quote. It was said in this very Chamber. ''This country needs an all-out, all-of-the-above strategy that develops every available source of American energy.''

Mr. Speaker, that was shared by President Obama in 2012. So, in words and in speeches, it surely looks like there is common ground. Now, there is a disconnect in what the President's been saying and what the truth is and what reality is. We will get to that in just a moment.

But let's look for a moment at the tremendous opportunity that coastal Virginia energy represents and really, across the country, if we open up our shore lines in a responsible, environmentally responsible, way to improve the lives of Americans, to set our country on a far better fiscal path that gives us the revenues we need to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, and our national security as well.

I am an entrepreneur in a season of public service, and I have had these incredible opportunities to look so many in the eye and say, you are hired. And I have also known the great joy, myself, of being on the other end of that and having somebody say to me that I have been hired, and I go home and say, I got the job. We want to hear that more and more in our country.

These are the kind of jobs we need in America. They are high-paying jobs. They are skilled jobs. They are tradesman jobs, jobs that we need in our country.

□ 2115

I have seen it firsthand, Mr. Speaker. I led a bipartisan delegation to go down to Port Fourchon in Louisiana. They are so proud of their economy. They are proud that their young people are having opportunities. It is just a bustling place. I think of it as booming and growing and optimism.

They are also proud of their schools and their roads and their bridges. Why? Because they have got the revenue that they need—this is how they are generating their revenue, through growth.

They are also, Mr. Speaker, so proud of their environment. They are so proud of the fisheries that they have there and the gulf waters that are such a part of their lives and have been for generations.

Some would present it to us as we are faced with this choice: either you are for the environment or you are for job creation and coastal energy.

Look, I reject the premise, Mr. Speaker. It is a false premise. We have a moral obligation to leave our children with clean air and clean water and clean soil. This is common ground, and we also have an obligation. Indeed, I think it is a moral one, to have a strong economy and to leave our children free from a heavy burden of debt, and energy really represents, I think, the principle way that we can grow our economy.

There are some, as I mentioned earlier, who present this false argument about either we protect the environment or we grow jobs through coastal energy. We need to really wrestle with these issues of safety, and I am ready for the debate, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the debate.

As I mentioned, I have been to Port Fourchon, and that was really the epicenter of the Macondo challenge that we faced there, so much of what we have learned from that has been integrated into the safety policies that we have.

We can open up the coast and also create jobs, like they are doing in Norway, like they are doing in Canada. It is not this either-or proposition.

So what we have to do is we have to make the words that were spoken by the President—to go beyond a talking point, and to make it a reality, and I thank my friend from South Carolina for his leadership on this issue. I am with you on that letter, and I appreciate your leadership.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for getting on the letters, the right letter to include that area.

Energy production in the United States means lower energy costs for Americans. It is as simple as that. Energy independence through production here at home in our own backyards keeps Americans safe from the turmoil around the world.

The U.S. Atlantic and the entire OCS is a missed opportunity, but it is not an opportunity we are going to continue missing. It is an opportunity we are going to continue to propose, we are going to continue to support, because when Americans are free to dream and innovate, they will always find a cheaper, safer, cleaner, and more efficient way to produce energy and use energy. We need to make it happen.

I will now ask my colleague from Oklahoma—who I believe will be the next Senator from Oklahoma and will take a tremendous amount of experience over to the United States Senate, where I know he will talk about what is going on in Oklahoma now and what has gone on in Oklahoma in the past because he has educated me.

They have been fracturing down in Oklahoma for about 50 years. I remember the comments he made to us on the floor one day, right here in a HEAT Leadership Hour. He said: come to Oklahoma, and drink our water.

So I will now yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD).

Mr. LANKFORD. I thank the gentleman from South Carolina, and the invitation still stands. Come to Oklahoma. We have been fracking since 1948, and I would encourage folks to come drink our water, see the beautiful land, breathe our beautiful air, and understand that you can do this.

Oklahoma is one of the places where we do all-of-the-above energy. We have solar. We have wind. We have coal. We have oil and gas. We understand all-of-the-above energy, and we understand all that can work together.

For viewers that are on C–SPAN and the lights in this room, we understand that energy drives our economy. We don't interact with anything in our economy, whether it is food, whether it is transportation, whether it is home heating, whatever it may be and however we operate, it operates because of energy.

If at some point this administration's policies are fully implemented, we will watch the price of energy, the price of food, the price of everything we do in America go up, simply because of preferences, not because of reality.

We can do this in an environmentally friendly way and also build a strong economy. If you want to come to Oklahoma, unemployment right now in

Oklahoma is 4.5 percent. We are one of the top energy producers in the country.

If you want to go to North Dakota, the unemployment rate is 2.7 percent. In fact, technically, they have a negative unemployment rate. They actually have more job listings than they have unemployment there. Why? Because they are finding a way to be able to tap American energy to produce an American economy that can grow and thrive, and in those places where energy is thriving, the economy is also thriving.

Just look at one simple statistic here: from 2007 to 2012, private sector employment increased by 1 percent or about 1 million jobs. In oil and gas, however, they added 162,000 of those jobs and had an increase of 40 percent in employment. Just in that one sector, there was a 40 percent increase in employment.

What affect does that have on us? Obviously, that is Americans that have jobs, those are families that are taken care of, but it is also our trade deficit.

From 2012 to 2013, just in Saudi Arabia, our trade deficit declined 13 percent. That is oil and gas produced here in the United States, offsetting what we are purchasing from the Middle East. The positive effects of that are overwhelming, and we understand it full well.

We understand that, in the 1990s, our economy had a huge boom from the Web. The Internet and the expansion of the Internet created incredible entrepreneurial opportunities and an incredible expansion of our economy.

That boom in the economy right now is solely around energy, and the energy development that is happening and the revolution that is happening and the opportunity for people to be able to get good-paying jobs is happening strongly in one sector in our economy, energy.

Let's not blow it. Let's expand it. In the days ahead, we should be able to export oil and gas. That should be a prime something that we do.

You can send grain all around the world, just like you can send flour, but right now, you can't send oil all around the world. You can only send gasoline or diesel. You have to literally refine the oil before you can send it out.

Well, let's fix that. If you send grain, you should be able to send flour as well. If you can send timber, you should be able to also send lumber. It makes basic sense that you can send oil as well as you can send gasoline out.

This would help our economy. It would also reduce the price of oil globally. That price would drop because of the competition in the United States, estimated to be about 8 cents per gallon for a gallon of gas, if we get on the world market and start pushing back to bring the price down.

The same thing happens in liquefied natural gas, in natural gas. We are talking about the production, just to allow the enhanced production and export of oil and natural gas, around 1 million additional jobs in our economy.

Now, in a Nation that is looking for jobs, we literally have the jobs under our feet, and it is time we stand up and provide the opportunity to be able to explore for additional oil and gas, continue to expand our use of coal, to be able to export that worldwide and allow the United States to be the economic leader and the energy leader that she should be.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for sharing that. He is exactly right.

It is simple. It is supply and demand. That is simple economics. Let's put American oil and natural gas out there on the world market, and I believe you will see the spigot turned on by others that don't want to see us become energy independent, and I think you will see the price down go.

You know, I will get criticized because I want to allow seismic to happen off the Atlantic coast in the OCS areas, and they will say: oh, you are going to hurt the marine mammals, the dolphins and whales and other things.

Well, the environmental impact statement came out. There is good mitigation in there that industry can live with to mitigate any damage. If the whales are migrating north, they could stop those activities, but even with that, there hasn't been a single proven instance.

Now, we have been doing seismic all over the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Africa, in the Mediterranean, in the Red Sea, in the Persian Gulf. All over the world, they have been doing seismic work and not a single proven instance where seismic testing has caused permanent deafness or any other injury to a marine mammal, not a single one, but yet that is the criticism that we will take for wanting to actually look down on the Earth and see if there are recoverable resources.

I will tell you where there are recoverable resources, and that is in the great State of Wyoming, where they get energy—about $1 billion of revenue back to the State of Wyoming through revenue sharing, through the development of their natural resources and those oil and gas and coal deposits they have, and the single Member representing the State of Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), I am sure can talk about that.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina for gathering us to talk about American energy.

I want to talk about it from a couple of perspectives. My State of Wyoming had the first national park in the Nation, Yellowstone National Park; the first national forest, the Shoshone National Forest; the first national monument, the Devils Tower. We have an abundance of beautiful scenery and natural resources. We have the smallest population in the Nation. Our State is pristine.

What you may not have known is that Texas' production of energy is here. Wyoming's is here, and the next State catching up on us is far behind those two States. We know how to produce energy responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight because I want to talk about the people that are affected by the price of energy. I want to talk about a woman I met at a gas pump.

She pulled up in a very old car. She had a little baby in her back seat that she was taking to the sitter's before she went to her job, earning minimum wage, at a convenience store. Her husband, a young man, was also working at a very lower middle-income job. They were trying to make ends meet.

She only put $5 worth of gas in her car. I asked her why. She said: well, I can only afford enough gas to get me to work after I drop my child off, and while I am at work, I will get enough money to put a little more gas and pick my child up.

That is how a lot of Americans are living. That is how a lot of our seniors are living. They are living on an amount of money that squeezes them every time the price of gasoline goes up, the price of electricity goes up, the price of heat goes up, the price of air conditioning goes up.

That is the price of energy to the American consumer. Those are the people we need to be looking out for. Those are the people who need abundant, affordable, reliable electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil, and other resources like natural gas, so they can be warm and protected from the cold, so they can be cool and protected from the heat, so they can get to work and the grocery store and to their doctors.

This is the American story, and it is American jobs that pay American taxes that can help those people make ends meet, that can help fund our social safety net.

We need Americans to work. We need American energy to put Americans to work. If it wasn't for the energy economy, there would be no economic recovery at all in this country. I know that it is a rather anemic recovery. It would be zero recovery without the energy industry.

The importance cannot be overstated of energy in our economy. The importance of energy in our daily lives cannot be overstated.

I want to thank the gentleman who recognizes that we can have a clean environment and we can have affordable, abundant energy, so our quality of life in America is proudly second to none.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming. She does a fabulous job.

That is one of the things I enjoy about serving in the United States Congress, is meeting the congressmen from all of the other States that can educate me and can educate America about what is going on in their States—what is going on in their

States to help meet Americans' energy needs, to help us truly become energy independent, to do all of the things that we have talked about here this evening.

You know, people back home may say: What have y'all done in Congress? What have you done in the House to address these issues?

We have sent numerous bills over to the Senate, where they languish in HARRY REID's office. The majority leader fails to bring the bills that the House has passed—even if you differ with the elements in those bills, bring them up. Bring them into a committee hearing, and let's have a markup.

Let's change those bills and pass whatever meets your desires for American energy independence or a lack thereof in the Senate. How about change the bills and send them back? We will go to conference, and we will work something out.

Instead, we have got a logjam. All these bills are right behind the dam, and then we could unleash all that power behind the dam by unleashing the American energy independence potential that you have heard talked about here tonight.

We just recently passed an offshore energy jobs bill, Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act, to open up these areas.

I want to commend Chairman DOC HASTINGS for his work on the Natural Resources Committee to really open up those Federal areas where we talk about those resources. I would like to give a moment of praise to my Senator TIM SCOTT who has got the SEA Jobs Act that would address a lot of the all-of-the-above energy issues that I have got in the EXPAND Act, to expand Americans' opportunities to pursue their resources and become energy independent, and it provides resources back to the State and revenue sharing and jobs. It works, America.

Energy is a segue to job creation, and that is what we are here to talk about tonight, putting Americans to work, meeting our energy needs, using those geopolitical levers that we may have to influence politics around the world, to help our friends and allies in Ukraine and in Europe that need America's energy resources, that want America's energy resources.

□ 2130

So as we wind down our time here tonight, energy production in the United States means lower energy costs for Americans.

I started out with a very simple question: Americans, how much more is your regular travel costing you? How much more does it cost you to drive from your home to work and back, from your home to school and back, from your home to church and back, and how much less do you have in your wallet at the end of the day because of the amount of money it has taken you to meet the energy needs of just transportation and electricity costs because of EP regulations?

You heard the gentlewoman from Wyoming talk about it and others. We could do something about it. We could solve it here today by meeting our energy needs with energy production. That is why the House energy action team is leading on this issue.

I appreciate the other colleagues being here tonight, and with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized until 10 p.m.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from South Carolina. He understands what is at stake here. I would like to ask him a question if he has got time to answer one question, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask my friend from South Carolina what it would mean to the people of South Carolina if we could get back to $2 a gallon gasoline or less.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. I thought the gentleman from Texas wanted to talk about energy because I have had the conversation with the gentleman from Texas. I understand it is a passion of his.

Mr. GOHMERT. It is.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. But I know the issue you are going to talk about tonight, and that is on that southern border. I know that is on that gentleman's mind because that southern border is porous, and we have no idea, America, who is coming in our country. You are only seeing the 1 to 2 percent of the folks that have actually violated our national sovereignty by crossing our border illegally, and that is the children. But the other 98 percent of the people are not children, and they are not all Hispanics. Some are African and some are Middle Eastern.

I just got a notice a little while ago from RANDY WEBER from Texas. He showed me on his phone. He was with the Border Patrol this weekend, and they caught someone from Asia who couldn't speak Spanish and couldn't speak American. What is he coming for? Is he coming because there is violence in Guatemala or Honduras? I don't think so. What is he coming to this country for?

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for his leadership on focusing on this border. Let's keep America secure. Let's secure our border. God bless Texas and Governor Rick Perry for putting the National Guard down there and taking matters into his own hands, because the guy at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has failed America and failed us in securing our border.

So I want to thank the gentleman for his time, and I want to encourage him to keep pounding that rock because you crack a rock—a big rock—by hitting it in the same spot over and over and over. Eventually, it will crack. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN), and I do appreciate the hour spent on talking about energy, because if you hit a big rock in the right way, you just might get oil or gas out of it, and it would bring the price down in no time.

I do wish to talk about our southern border, but I was inspired by my friend, Mr. DUNCAN, and it brought back a history lesson from east Texas where I live.

In 1930, a man named Dad Joiner—''Dad'' was not his given name. His parents didn't give it to him. But, anyway, that is what he went by, Dad Joiner. He just knew there had to be oil in east Texas. He tried and he tried and he tried. He ran out of money. He had no more money, and he had the men. He could drill one more well. He thought he knew geology. He thought he had figured out there had to be an east Texas oilfield, and since he knew he could only drill one more time, Dad Joiner set his sights on the one place there had to be oil because he knew if he didn't strike it there—he was broke—he probably would never have another chance to do anything and be broke rest of his life.

This big old rig was on wooden skids, and they were dragging it toward the spot where he knew there had to be oil. The people in my district there in east Texas, they are praying people. They were praying people back in the 1920s and the 1930s. The Depression had just begun, and here you had Dad Joiner just sure there had to be oil.

Well, one of the skids broke. He didn't have money to fix it. He knew he couldn't get to the perfect spot there had to be oil for his last attempt, so he didn't have any choice. He had to drill where the rig broke, where the skid broke, broke down, so he drilled there and he struck oil. He found the East Texas Oil Field that, until North Dakota and west Texas got so productive, for a while during World War I, it was the largest known oilfield in the world, and then the second largest for a long time after that. But it turned out if he had gotten to that spot he thought there was sure oil, he would have missed it, would have missed the big East Texas Oil Field. It would have been American tanks and vehicles running out of gasoline in Europe during the Battle of the Bulge instead of German. But we had gasoline, and we had the oil we needed because east Texas was producing.

But if that skid hadn't broken where it did, none of that would have happened. And so as it turned out, all through the 1930s, when people were looking for jobs, many people were told, well, they found oil down in east Texas. There have got to be jobs there.

People flooded down to east Texas, and they got jobs. They didn't go to the government. They didn't look for government to dictate what to do in their

lives. Many people went to east Texas, and they found jobs.

The sad thing is there are areas all over the country that could be doing the same thing, including New York upstate where they have got some of the same gas formations in Pennsylvania where things are going much better than their areas of New York, because New York doesn't allow that drilling and, therefore, they have condemned people to suffer a desperate economy instead of allowing it to thrive and flourish.

In the meantime, you look across our border at our neighbor Mexico. Mexico has tremendous natural resources. We import a good bit of their oil. Canada has oil. We import oil from there—not as much as we would if the XL pipeline had been constructed giving more people jobs, giving more in the world a chance to have North American oil, but the President stands in the way for political gain, it would appear, because what else is there? What else is he gaining from keeping people from having jobs and cheaper oil and gas?

But in Mexico, we also know they have got hardworking people. We know because I am told constantly, if you want somebody that is really willing to work hard, long hours, do whatever it takes to finish the job, then you do well to hire a Hispanic. Generally speaking, some people say, oh, you are a Hispanophobe or whatever they say. I look at the Hispanic culture, generally one that loves God, is devoted to family, and has a hard work ethic. That is what America used to be. That is what America used to be. It is what I would love to see America doing again, back loving family and not saying that fathers are unneeded, unnecessary, and unwanted, not saying that the village is a better family than the foundational family of father, mother, and children that nature designed—and some of us believe nature is God.

But there are, in Mexico, incredible natural resources. So why is Mexico not one of the top economies in the world? Or at least it could be top 10, if not top 5, because they have got hardworking people and they have natural resources. Well, the answer is pretty clear. It is because the law is not enforced fairly across the board. There is graft and corruption. Capital, as it is said—that is money that is being invested—capital is a coward. It goes to where it feels safest.

There is money being invested in Mexico, but because of the drug cartels, because of graft and corruption, and because of the way people are seeing mistreatment even of police, capital is not flowing like it should to Mexico. The jobs are not in Mexico as they should be.

Mexico ought to be one of those shining lights on a hill where people are struggling all over the world wanting to get in. Of course, if you try to get into Mexico illegally, unless, of course, you are coming to the United States, you certainly don't get treated very well. If you try to buy land in your own name as a foreigner in Mexico, you are not going to be treated very well. You have got to have someone from Mexico buying with you. There are a lot of things in Mexican law that, if we placed it in American law, many Mexicans would be just insanely furious because we dared to put in our laws what Mexico has in its laws.

So, Mr. Speaker, I pose the question: Who is the better governmental neighbor? A government that forces lawful gun dealers to sell 2,000 or so guns—weapons—to people that they know will have them in criminal hands in no time in Mexico? Who is the better neighbor? One that is a government neighbor who throws a little money here and there but never really comes in and helps deal with the drug cartels that are a threat to its own existence as well as Mexico's?

Mr. Speaker, I heard Bill O'Reilly just before I came over here tonight debating with an individual who was saying that we should let everyone in that wants to come, basically. As Bill O'Reilly properly pointed out, there are children all over the world—South America, Africa, Asia, islands all over the world—who are in poor conditions, even squalor, and would love to come to this country.

We had a rally just out here on the west side last week by hundreds of North Koreans. They didn't come over here and say: We demand that you allow us to come into your country illegally because we have it so bad in North Korea. No. What they were saying is that America can bring great pressure to bear on an evil government in a place like North Korea. They are begging that, since there is not room in the United States for every child living in difficult circumstances to flood into America, they are asking an appropriate thing: put pressure on North Korea's Government so that we can help them make a more free North Korea. Help them by putting pressure.

But if you look at the record of this administration around the world, what has happened? It broke my heart to see, in the last few days, Mosul there in Iraq, where so many Americans gave their lives fighting for the freedom of the Iraqi people, fighting for freedom in that area, now the last known Christian in Mosul after nearly 2,000 years, going back nearly to the time of Jesus Himself, has had to leave.

The country that we, Americans, freed at the price of great treasure and American lives and limbs because of the poor foreign policy handling, the bungling of this administration, the failure to reach a status of forces agreement which was basically teed up and handed to it by the last administration, was fumbled, and now, as a result of this administration's ineptness, Christians around the world are being persecuted in greater numbers than ever before.

□ 2145

It was once thought that it may be the U.S. legacy. Mr. Speaker, just down the hall, you have seen it many times, the massive mural, the painting of the famous prayer meeting that the Pilgrims had in Holland before they went to England, and then from England came to America. You see the word ''Speedwell'' on the ship where the prayer meeting is being held, an open Bible where you can see the page is open to the New Testament of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You can read that on the page. It is exactly as that particular type of Bible read, the same print, and they were having this prayer meeting, asking for God's guidance and God's deliverance. They went to England. The Speedwell began taking on water, and so it didn't get to make the trip to America. It was a much smaller ship, the Mayflower, that ended up bringing Pilgrims to America.

But even back then they were praying that this country to which the Pilgrims were coming would be a country where Christians would have the freedom to worship without persecution, and that Christians in this new country to which the Pilgrims were coming would be able to spread freedom, the freedom that our Creator, as the Declaration of Independence says, the Divine Providence, as it says, that blessing that was given to us by God as an opportunity to spread freedom and with freedom the chance to freely acknowledge God or reject him, not at the point of a sword, not at the end of a gun, but either freely accept or reject the promises of Jesus, because in true Christianity, it reflects the freedom that God has given each one of us. It can't be forced on anyone. It is a free choice. But with free choice comes great responsibility, and that is why in George Washington's resignation that he sent to the 13 governors, the last part has a prayer, and the prayer ends with the words from Washington that he hopes that we will follow the example of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, without a humble imitation of in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. He signs it ''the humble servant.'' What an extraordinary man.

This country has been so richly blessed that a good neighbor would make sure that in Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, all through Central America, South America, we would help any nation to help themselves, that we would help them to have that freedom. That is what America used to be about, although there are some who would say America has always been about being divisive, derisive, dismissive. Look, America has been an exceptional country because of the freedom that people recognize came from the Divine Author of our blessed religion, that came from our Creator, that came from Divine Providence, which is why our Constitution itself was dated in the year of our Lord 1787.

This country is at a crossroads, and it is not a pretty one. Yes, I have spent

a lot of time on our southern border in the last couple of months. I have seen these beautiful children that break your heart, and I wonder why this administration will not help us by helping our neighbor rather than just throwing our borders open. And then this administration has the nerve to say, well, you know, the numbers are down in recent weeks.

Well, gee, do you think, Mr. Speaker, it might be because Texans have realized they are going to have to pick up the slack that this administration refuses to do? Our Border Patrol is overwhelmed in some ways. And yet we read an article here from Ryan Lovelace that says—and it is dated July 21, National Review Online—that:

President Obama is encouraging Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to slack off on the job, former border cops tell National Review Online. Some ICE officials think the Obama administration has intentionally neglected to give them orders to support efforts to resolve the crisis on America's southwestern border, says Ronald Colburn, former national deputy chief of the U.S. Border Patrol. As a result, the wave of unaccompanied children from Central America is unfolding while ICE officials cool their heels.

''They are sitting still at their desks—reading newspapers, playing video games on their government computers—because they are not being tasked with work, and they feel like it is coming all of the way down from the top,'' Colburn tells NRO. ''These are guys that do want to go out more, but basically they are not.

Well, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, down on the border, they needed help. They still need help. The Border Patrol a few weeks ago, driving on those dirt roads, as I was honored to take Glenn Beck down in the dark with some of his staff, people from Mercury One, as I told his staff: Unless you let me take him in the dark down these roads, you never really understand what is going on.

One night some of us for an hour and a half we didn't run into Border Patrol, and we finally found out why. The drug cartels were told, the drug lords control different parts of the borders, and you don't cross without making sure that they get paid, or they will seek you out in America. So you make sure that you do things in accordance with what you are told, and that means making sure that the drug cartels get their money. And it means, as a border patrolman told me this past weekend—as a Hispanic, he speaks good Spanish—he is constantly being told: Well, we left Central America to get away from gangs.

And as he said: I tell them, You may tell that to some people and have them buy it, but you and I know that is not true. You and I know that it was the gangs that brought you up here. The gangs got paid to bring you to the United States, so don't tell me that you fled Central America to get away from gangs when the gangs brought you here. He said 90 percent of the time the people acknowledge that is true, but say we were told to say when we got here that we were fleeing gang violence.

Well, not everybody in this government is ignorant of what is happening. The fact is there was not a spike in violence before the huge spike of people coming to America, to the United States. There was not a huge spike in violence in Central America, but they came because the President began promising, you get to stay if you come. The government should leave charity to the people. And in this country, the people are the most charitable of any nation in the history of the world. The government doesn't do charity very well. Look at what is happening in our Veterans Administration hospitals. That is not charity. That is medical assistance that was earned. It is not even charity. This is what was promised to our military. We will provide you good medical help if you need it, if you serve in this manner. And this government can't even keep our promises to those who have earned good medical care.

So how much worse do you think it gets if we are trying to keep promises that were not even actually made, just one administration thinking they can turn Texas blue and the country blue if they bring enough people in here, promise them that they are the party that likes to give away things, and as a result get them voting their direction until they realize that is the kind of philosophy that wrecks a country.

It is time Americans woke up. There is so much suffering in this world in Central America and South America, and a good neighbor would help them stop the violence where it is, help stop the violence in Nigeria, radical Islam, help stop the violence of radical Islam around the world. This President was perfectly willing to blow up al-Awlaki, an American citizen, in Yemen. How was he an American citizen? Well, his parents came over on a visa and had him while he was here. That made him an American citizen. They took him back home, taught him to hate America, and even though both the Bush and Obama administration tried to work with him, he was still radicalizing people, so they blew him up. Wouldn't it be just as well to blow up people who have sworn they are going to destroy America? Wouldn't it be just as well to blow up the nuclear technology being developed in Iran by people who have promised in effect it will be the new gas chambers; instead of at Auschwitz they will be in Iran, and they will be delivered to a theater near you.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Americans to wake up. We must secure our borders. I never said I want them closed. They should be secure so people come legally.

And all this stuff that we have to fix the Wilberforce bill or we can't secure our borders is baloney. This administration can secure our border without any change in the Wilberforce bill. They have to provide additional hearings, but they can do that. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to finish tonight by directing your attention to an estimate from a group I am not always pleased with, but this administration generally is very pleased with them, and that is the Congressional Budget Office. I don't put a lot of stock in their estimates. And especially their estimates of what things are going to cost over time, but when they tell you how much a bill allocates to be spent this year, that is something you can trust. And so with all the talk about how important it is, we have got to have the House and the Senate pass our bill, it is an emergency, we have got to get this bill passed, oh, Mr. Speaker, you have to do this to help fix our problem at our border.

Well, you know why that is all lies? It is right here in the CBO study, the estimate. It tells you exactly what this administration is saying it needs to spend between now and September 30, the end of the fiscal year. It says the budget allocation that is already done, it has already been appropriated, was $1.83 billion, but what it wants additionally to be spent this year by the end of this fiscal year is not the 3.7, is not the $4.3 billion that it is asking for, this incredible emergency this administration is saying it has to have to get this big bill that will save our border, it is asking for $25 million, with an m, for this year. That is it. And it doesn't go to the border—it goes to Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that all of this is a ruse. They don't need this bill and the $25 million for Health and Human Services. They don't need all of the money that they are asking for in 2015, 2016, 2017 to go to groups that no doubt will be the new ACORNs of the future. They say we don't need anything other than $25 million, and we are not giving a dime of it to Homeland Security. They have all they need.

Mr. Speaker, this is a ruse. This administration can secure the border without this ridiculous claim for money. And if the administration needs help, we will get it. But in the meantime, they need to secure the border.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. HONDA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of family medical issues.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1528. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to

transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2014, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ROBERT KAREM, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAY 30 AND JUNE 7, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Robert Karem	05/31	06/03	Philippines		711.00						711.00
	06/03	06/05	Vietnam		550.68						550.68
	06/05	06/07	Singapore		900.52						900.52
	05/30	06/07	Total Transport				14,539.70				14,539.70
Committee total											16,701.90

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROBERT KAREM, July 7, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO FRANCE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 2 AND JUNE 8, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Ralph Hall	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Rosa DeLauro	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Carolyn Maloney	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee	6/5	6/7	France		2,197.00		(3)				2,197.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Rubén Hinojosa	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Loretta Sanchez	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Michael Capuano	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Susan Davis	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Michael Turner	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Michael Conaway	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Dan Lipinski	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Hank Johnson	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Doug Lamborn	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Robert Latta	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Carol Shea-Porter	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. David Cicilline	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Bill Flores	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Randy Hultgren	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Steve Stivers	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Janice Hahn	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Hon. Brad Wenstrup	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Jennifer Stewart	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Wyndee Parker	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Robert Simmons	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Jaime Cheshire	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Drew Hammill	6/5	6/8	France		2,989.00		(3)				2,989.00
Claude Chafin	6/3	6/8	France		4,574.00	2,463.00	(3)				7,037.00
Kimberly Shaw	6/3	6/8	France		4,574.00	2,463.00	(3)				7,037.00
Bina Surgeon	6/3	6/8	France		4,574.00	2,463.00	(3)				7,037.00
Committee total					102,600.00	7,389.00					109,989.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, July 7, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, July 2, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael McCaul	5/11	5/14	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
	5/14	5/15	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/15	Saudi Arabia				(3)				
	5/15	5/18	United Arab Emirates		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
	5/18	5/19	Italy		348.00		(3)				348.00
Hon. Jeff Duncan	5/11	5/14	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/15	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/15	Saudi Arabia				(3)				
	5/15	5/18	United Arab Emirates		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
	5/18	5/19	Italy		348.00		(3)				348.00
Nick Palarino	5/11	5/14	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/15	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/15	Saudi Arabia				(3)				
	5/15	5/18	United Arab Emirates		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
	5/18	5/19	Italy		348.00		(3)				348.00
Laura Fullerton	5/11	5/14	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/15	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/15	Saudi Arabia				(3)				
	5/15	5/18	United Arab Emirates		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
	5/18	5/19	Italy		348.00		(3)				348.00
Charlotte Sellmyer	5/11	5/14	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/15	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/15	Saudi Arabia				(3)				
	5/15	5/18	United Arab Emirates		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
	5/18	5/19	Italy		348.00		(3)				348.00
Sean West	5/11	5/14	Turkey		1,530.00		(3)				1,530.00
	5/14	5/15	Jordan		403.00		(3)				403.00
	5/15	5/15	Saudi Arabia				(3)				
	5/15	5/18	United Arab Emirates		1,718.00		(3)				1,718.00
	5/18	5/19	Italy		348.00		(3)				348.00
Fuel			Jordan						462.72		426.72
Overtime			Jordan						201.00		201.00
Control Room			Jordan						214.41		214.41
FSN Local Travel			Jordan				326.25				326.25
Misc. Supplies			Jordan						14.60		14.60
Prepaid Cards			Jordan						84.75		84.75
STAFFDEL Parikh											
Amanda Parikh	5/12	5/13	Germany		417.00		4,447.70				4,864.70
	5/13	5/14	Denmark		414.00						414.00
	5/14	5/17	United Kingdom		1,656.00						1,656.00
Nicole Halavik	5/12	5/13	Germany		417.00		4,447.70				4,864.70
	5/13	5/14	Denmark		414.00						414.00
	5/14	5/17	United Kingdom		1,656.00						1,656.00
Kyle Klein	5/12	5/13	Germany		417.00		4,447.70				4,864.70
	5/13	5/14	Denmark		414.00						414.00
	5/14	5/17	United Kingdom		1,656.00						1,656.00
Brian Turbyfill	5/12	5/13	Germany		417.00		2,865.60				3,282.60
	5/13	5/14	Denmark		414.00						414.00
Cedric Haynes	5/12	5/13	Germany		417.00		3,711.70				4,128.70
	5/13	5/14	Denmark		414.00						414.00
	5/14	5/17	United Kingdom		1,656.00						1,656.00
Transportation	5/13	5/14	Denmark				1,214.38				1,214.38
CODEL DUNCAN											
Hon. Jeff Duncan	6/1	6/4	Malta		1,324.48		11,213.00				12,537.48
	6/4	6/5	Belgium		375.00						375.00
	6/5	6/8	United Kingdom		1,206.00						1,206.00
Ryan Consaul	6/1	6/4	Malta		1,324.48		11,213.00				12,537.48
	6/4	6/5	Belgium		375.00						375.00
	6/5	6/8	United Kingdom		1,206.00						1,206.00
Rebecca Ulrich	6/1	6/4	Malta		1,324.48		11,213.00				12,537.48
	6/4	6/5	Belgium		375.00						375.00
	6/5	6/8	United Kingdom		1,206.00						1,206.00
Tamla Scott	6/1	6/4	Malta		882.99		11,213.00				12,095.99
	6/4	6/5	Belgium		375.00						375.00
	6/5	6/8	United Kingdom		1,206.00						1,206.00
Overtime—local staff			Malta						2,394.92		2,394.92
Overtime—Control Officer/Special Agent									1,082.75		1,082.75
CODEL STOCKTON											
Hon. Jackson Lee	6/12	6/16	Nigeria		2,032.00		12,585.50				14,617.50
Committee total					47,985.43		78,898.53		4,419.15		131,303.11

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Chairman, July 8, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Pete Sessions	5/12	5/13	Turkey		1,530.00	(3)					1,530.00
	5/14	5/14	Jordan		403.00	(3)					403.00
	5/15	5/17	United Arab Emirates		1,608.00	(3)					1,608.00
	5/18	5/18	Italy		325.00	(3)					325.00
Committee total											3,866.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, July 8, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. SAM GRAVES, Chairman, July 8, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. TREY GOWDY, Chairman, July 7, 2014.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2014

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒											

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVE CAMP, Vice Chairman, July 15, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6503. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA): Changes to the Section 8 Tenant-Based Voucher and Section 8 Project-Based Voucher Programs [Docket No.: FR-5242-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AC83) received July 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6504. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Regulations Transferred to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [Docket No.: FR-5788-F-01] (RIN: 2501-AD67) received July 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6505. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to Reflect Change of Office Name From Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control to Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes [Docket No.: FR-5785-F-01] (RIN: 2501-AD70) received July 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6506. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRAD, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Assessment of Fees [Docket ID: OCC-2014-0009] (RIN: 1557-AD82) received July 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6507. A letter from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received July 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6508. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Tramadol Into Schedule IV [Docket No.: DEA-351] received July 3, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6509. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Indiana PM2.5 NSR [EPA-R05-OAR-2012-0567; FRL-9912-85-Region 5] received July 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6510. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; Placer County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0269; FRL-9910-99-Region 9] received July 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6511. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0312; FRL-9911-91-Region 9] received July 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6512. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reliability Standard for Geomagnetic Disturbance Operations [Docket No.: RM14-1-000 Order No. 797] received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6513. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Third Rule Implementing Export Control Reform; Correction (RIN: 1400-AD46) received June 26, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6514. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Zimbabwe Sanctions Regulations received July 7, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6515. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Central African Republic Sanctions Regulations received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6516. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — South Sudan Sanctions Regulations received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6517. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting Transmittal of D.C. Act 20-369, ''Heat Wave Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2014''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6518. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic;

Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Amendment 20A [Docket No.: 131206999-4466-02] (RIN: 0648-BD83) received June 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6519. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: 14-07] (RIN: 3072-AC55) received July 8, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6520. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to the Inland Navigation Rules [Docket No.: USCG-2012-0102] (RIN: 1625-AB88) received June 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6521. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulation; Annual Swim around Key West, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico; Key West, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0073] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received June 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6522. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Navigation and Navigable Waters; Technical, Organizational, and Conforming Amendments [Docket No.: USCG-2014-0410] (RIN: 1625-AC13) received June 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6523. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reports by Air Carriers on Incidents Involving Animals During Air Transport [Docket No.: DOT-OST-2010-0211] (RIN: 2105-AE07) received July 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6524. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Accessibility of Web Sites and Automated Kiosks at U.S. Airports [Docket No.: DOT-OST-2011-0177] (RIN: 2105-AD96) received July 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6525. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0281; Directorate Identifier 2014- NE-05-AD; Amendment 39-17878; AD 2014-13-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6526. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam srl Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0156; Directorate Identifier 2014-CE-001-AD; Amendment 39-17860; AD 2014-11-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6527. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Dry Cargo Residue Discharges in the Great Lakes [Docket No.: USCG-2004-19621] (RIN: 1625-AA89) received June 30, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6528. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30967; Amdt. No. 514] received July 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6529. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dowty Propellers Propellers [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1088; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-15-AD; Amendment 39-17831; AD 2014-08-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6530. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Taylor, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0013; Airspace Docket No. 13-ASW-33] received July 9, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6531. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Applicable Federal Rates — July 2014 (Rev. Rul. 2014-20) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6532. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Participation of a Person Described in Section 6103(n) in a Summons Interview Under Section 7602(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code [TD 9669] (RIN: 1545-BM25) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6533. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Disregarded Entities; Religious and Family Member FICA and FUTA Exceptions; Indoor Tanning Services Excise Tax [TD 9670] (RIN: 1545-BJ06) (RIN: 1545-BK38) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6534. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tax Credit for Employee Health Insurance Expenses of Small Employers [TD 9672] (RIN: 1545-BL55) received July 2, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4450. A bill to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 113–542, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROYCE: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 4411. A bill to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–543, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 5036. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (Rept. 113–544). Referred to the Committee on the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 646. Resolution directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Justice that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011 (Rept. 113–545). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 677. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3136) to establish a demonstration program for competency-based education, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4984) to amend the loan counseling requirements under Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–546). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MCKEON: Committee on Armed Services. House Resolution 649. Resolution directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011 (Rept. 113–547). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. House Joint Resolution 105. Resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez (Rept. 113–548). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Financial Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4411 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Homeland Security discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4450 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. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 5159. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation, and to ensure that employers consider these requests; and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain

growing low-wage occupations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, 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 Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5160. A bill to prevent the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program unlawfully created by Executive memorandum on August 15, 2012; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 5161. A bill to promote the non-exclusive use of electronic labeling for devices licensed by the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 5162. A bill to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to allow a certain parcel of land in Rockingham County, Virginia, to be used for a child care center'' to remove the use restriction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5163. A bill to provide for the expedited processing of unaccompanied alien children illegally entering the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HALL, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 5164. A bill to clarify that the Secretary of Homeland Security may undertake law enforcement and border security activities within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 5165. A bill to establish a grant program in the Department of Education to promote the involvement of female students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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 Ms. TITUS (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 5166. A bill to direct the National Counsel on Disability to conduct a review of certain standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5167. A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, to convey certain Federal property located in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to the Olgoonik Corporation, an Alaska Native Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 676. A resolution providing for authority to initiate litigation for actions by the President or other executive branch officials inconsistent with their duties under the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. POLIS:

H. Res. 678. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (S. 815) to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ENYART, and Mr. WOLF):

H. Res. 679. A resolution condemning the Ukrainian separatists illegally occupying the Ukrainian city of Donetsk, and the surrounding territory, as terrorists for shooting down a civilian passenger airliner, Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, and condemning the Government of the Russian Federation for supplying the arms; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

271. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Colorado, relative to Senate Resolution No. 14-003 concerning congressional action to facilitate legal financial services for the marijuana industry; to the Committee on Financial Services.

272. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, relative to House Resolution No. 1076 urging the Congress and the President to reauthorize the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

273. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to a Senate Resolution expressing strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and the families of the girls abducted by Boko Haram; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

274. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 284 expressing support for the democratic and European aspirations of the people of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

275. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Arizona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial No. 1001 urging that the Department of the Interior immediately take all necessary measures to operate the Yuma Desalting Plant; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

276. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 95 memorializing the Congress to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

277. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 50 memorializing the Congress to take such actions as are necessary for the proper allocation of resources on the federal, state, and local level to fund real-time audit practices in the developing, planning, construction, and executing projects funded by the RESTORE Act's Gulf Coast Restoration; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology.

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. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 5159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 5160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 provides that Congress has the authority ''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 Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 5161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.''

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 5162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Property Clause of Article IV, Section 3—The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulation respecting the Territory or other Property belong to the United States.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

H.R. 5163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, 4, and 18 to the US Constitution

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 5164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 5165.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1—''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''

and

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—''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. TITUS:

H.R. 5166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 5167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section III, Clause II

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 32: Mr. GALLEGO and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 104: Mr. GOWDY.
H.R. 140: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 147: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 274: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 318: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. BARTON.
H.R. 401: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 411: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 425: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 455: Mr. ENYART.
H.R. 543: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 594: Mr. MICA, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 610: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 611: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 628: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 647: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 719: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 720: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 721: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 725: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 741: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 851: Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 855: Mr. NOLAN and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 988: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 1015: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 1020: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1022: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1030: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1074: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1094: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1226: Mr. YODER.
H.R. 1261: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1274: Mr. REED.
H.R. 1289: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1318: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 1331: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 1386: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 1507: Mr. MESSER.
H.R. 1527: Mr. WALZ and Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 1563: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1620: Mr. BARR, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COOK, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 1696: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1697: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1698: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1733: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1795: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1806: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1812: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1827: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 1844: Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
H.R. 1852: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1893: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1923: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 1953: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 1984: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2116: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2132: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2220: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2278: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2283: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. OLSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2376: Mr. HALL, Mr. BARTON, and Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 2415: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 2440: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2450: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2453: Mr. REED, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 2529: Mr. POCAN and Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2602: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2647: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2673: Mr. HUELSKAMP and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 2852: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2856: Mr. JONES, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PETERS of California, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2902: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2978: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3040: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3043: Mr. NOLAN.
H.R. 3344: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3367: Mr. KILMER and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3374: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
H.R. 3456: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3494: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3531: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3560: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 3566: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3708: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 3712: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3723: Mr. RUSH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3742: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 3775: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 3833: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3852: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 3992: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4098: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4119: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 4143: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4148: Mr. HONDA and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4156: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. HALL.
H.R. 4158: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4188: Mr. ROSS, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4190: Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4205: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 4221: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 4301: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 4320: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4321: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4351: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4374: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4385: Mr. DENT, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 4411: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4430: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 4446: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 4450: Mr. MESSER, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 4510: Mr. FORBES, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 4543: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 4551: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4574: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 4576: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 4577: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 4589: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4612: Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 4625: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4626: Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 4630: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4664: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4679: Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4682: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. STOCKMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MESSER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 4709: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. GARDNER.
H.R. 4711: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4717: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 4740: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. GARDNER.
H.R. 4741: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4748: Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 4749: Ms. JENKINS.
H.R. 4778: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 4793: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 4815: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4818: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 4828: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 4829: Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 4843: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4857: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4874: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 4878: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4882: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 4895: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 4902: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4906: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4920: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 4930: Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4933: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 4942: Mr. WALZ and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4960: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KEATING, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4971: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 4981: Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 4989: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 5026: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 5034: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
H.R. 5051: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 5053: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 5059: Mr. RUSH, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 5062: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 5071: Mr. HANNA, Mr. JONES, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 5076: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROKITA, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 5081: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. HAHN, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. ELLISON, and Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5083: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas.
H.R. 5085: Mrs. WALORSKI.
H.R. 5087: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. REED, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. COLLINS of

New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5088: Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 5089: Ms. BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 5095: Mr. FARR, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. PETERS of Michigan, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 5111: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. BASS, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. POE of Texas, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 5114: Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 5118: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 5119: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 5120: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 5128: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 5130: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 5132: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 5135: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 5136: Ms. KAPTUR and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 5137: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CARTER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 5138: Mr. LONG, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 5142: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 5143: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. FINCHER.

H.J. Res. 68: Mr. KILMER.

H.J. Res. 119: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Con. Res. 95: Mr. NUNNELEE.

H. Con. Res. 105: Mr. HONDA and Mr. HOLT.

H. Con. Res. 107: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MICA.

H. Res. 109: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 208: Mrs. LOWEY.

H. Res. 281: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. PAULSEN.

H. Res. 326: Mr. GOSAR.

H. Res. 456: Mr. BARLETTA.

H. Res. 508: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H. Res. 522: Mr. MESSER and Mr. LEVIN.

H. Res. 536: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H. Res. 587: Mr. KEATING and Mr. KENNEDY.

H. Res. 606: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H. Res. 620: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 623: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H. Res. 644: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. COBLE.

H. Res. 651: Mr. KILMER and Mr. DEUTCH.

H. Res. 665: Mr. COOK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. LATTA.

H. Res. 675: Mr. COBLE, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. GOSAR.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative KLINE, or a designee, to H.R. 3136, the Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act of 2013, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative KLINE, or a designee, to H.R. 4984, the Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

88. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii, relative to Resolution No. 14-47 urging Congress to enact common sense immigration reform that establishes a clear, expeditious, and reasonable pathway to citizenship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

89. Also, a petition of Mr. John Carrol Guise, Jr., Aurora, Texas, relative to a petition calling for Congress to call an amending convention to propose amendments to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014 No. 115

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, be attentive to our prayers. Test our thoughts and examine our hearts, as we seek Your wisdom to solve the problems in our Nation and world.

Guide our Senators' thoughts and words so that their speech will glorify You. May their speech engender a spirit of cooperation and a willingness to discover ways to accomplish multiple goals for the common good. Lord, lead them away from divisive rhetoric that provides fuel for chaos and discord.

Shepherd of love, we pray each day to You because we know You will answer our prayers. Continue to show us Your unfailing love in Your constructive and wonderful ways.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BRING JOBS HOME ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 453, S. 2569.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 453, S. 2569, a bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, which will run until 10:45. The time will be divided in the usual form between the two leaders or their designees. At 10:45 the Senate will proceed to a series of three rollcall votes: cloture on Andre Birotte to be a judge in California; Robin Rosenberg to be a judge in Florida; and John deGravelles to be a judge in Louisiana. Following the cloture vote on deGravelles, the time until 12:30 will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings. If cloture is invoked on any of the previous nominations, at 2:15 the Senate will begin a series of votes on those nominations.

FAIR SHOT AGENDA

Over the past several months, Americans have heard Democrats speak at length about giving working families a fair shot. What do we mean by a ''fair shot''? A fair shot is about making sure Americans have jobs and good jobs. It is about ensuring that workers receive fair, livable wages so they can put a roof over their heads and take care of their kids and actually put food on the table, make the rent payments, car payments. A fair shot is the idea that each hard-working American deserves an opportunity to achieve a measure of prosperity. But it all begins with a job.

As Senators, it is imperative that we not only promote job growth but also protect the jobs constituents already have. That is why the legislation before the Senate, the Bring Jobs Home Act, is so vitally important. It protects American jobs and encourages future job creation within our borders.

Over the last decade, the last 10 years, our country has been hemorrhaging jobs. American companies have outsourced 2½ million jobs. Outsource—that means ship them overseas. Two and a half million jobs that were here are now overseas, but these losses could potentially skyrocket if we do not address the disturbing trend of outsourcing. Twenty-one million Americans, including 7 million manufacturing workers, are at risk of having their jobs shipped overseas at any time—the risk of losing their fair shot. Almost 150,000 at-risk workers live in Nevada. The home State of my friend from Kentucky could also be on the chopping block to the tune of 235,000 jobs. For the Presiding Officer's State of New Jersey, outsourcing means the loss of 588,000 jobs in New Jersey.

When millions of Americans are looking for work in a recovering economy, few things could be more important than protecting good-paying middle-class jobs.

Every time an American company closes a factory or a plant in America and moves operations to another country, taxpayers pick up part of that moving bill. It is hard to comprehend that, but that is the way our law now exists. We want to change that. That is what the legislation before this body is all about. The Bring Jobs Home Act would end senseless tax breaks for outsourcers. It would end the absurd practice of American taxpayers bankrolling the outsourcing of their very own jobs.

The Bring Jobs Home Act also seeks to bring jobs back to America. This bill

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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would offer a 20-percent tax credit to help with the costs of moving production back to the United States.

In the last few years major manufacturers, such as Ford and Caterpillar, have brought jobs back to the United States from Japan, Mexico, and China. Why? Because we have such productive workers. There are a lot of other reasons, but that is the main reason. Smaller manufacturers, such as Master Lock, have moved facilities home as well. This is a trend we here in Congress should enthusiastically encourage—American companies returning home to employ American workers. They should get a tax break to do that. That is what this legislation does.

The Bring Jobs Home Act is a commonsense strategy to bring back American jobs. To 21 million Americans whose jobs could be the next ones to move to China or Japan, the Bring Jobs Home Act is as serious as it gets. To the 2½ million Americans whose jobs have already been offshored, the bill stands to right a terrible wrong: Bring them back and get a tax benefit for doing that.

I hope Republicans in Congress will finally see the light and join us in giving workers a fair shot at a good, stable job. On this legislation, the Bring Jobs Home Act, I know Senators on the Republican side always say they want amendments; unless they get a guarantee of amendments, they will kill the bill. On that, let me just say what I always say: We want to do something; that is, get something done. We should do what we have done on highway bills in the past, what we did recently on terrorism insurance, what we did on the Workforce Investment Act, and what we have done here for decades. We should work on a list of amendments and a path on getting the bill done. If there is going to be no list, I have no alternative but to procedurally move forward and get this matter off the floor. That would not be good for American workers. So everyone should know my answer: We need to get a list of amendments and a path for getting the bill done.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

WORKING FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, later today the President will sign a bipartisan workforce training bill into law. It is commonsense legislation that will help my constituents gain new skills to become more competitive. I was proud to support it. I am glad to see that the President is going to sign it.

Unfortunately, though, bipartisan accomplishments such as this one have become increasingly rare in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Last week President Obama took to the campaign trail to urge Congress to pass a new highway bill. He really did not need to, though; the Republican-controlled House of Representatives had already passed the highway bill earlier in the week. In fact, it sailed through on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, 367 to 55. The President said he would sign it if Congress sent it to his desk. I expect the Senate will do just that in fairly short order but only if the Democrats who run the Senate can put their never-ending political campaign on hold for just a minute because rather than focus on passing bipartisan legislation, not to mention the dozens of job-creation bills the House has already sent over to us, the Democratic majority seems to spend all of its time on bills designed primarily to create jobs for campaign consultants.

We got an especially vivid glimpse of this earlier this year when Senate Democrats admitted they were working with their campaign committee to craft a so-called agenda that was more about saving their own seats than anything else. Ever since, they have pretty much abandoned governing to use the Senate floor as a campaign studio. We saw the latest example last night when the majority brought up another recycled, designed-to-fail bill that has already been rejected by the Senate. It is a bill that is designed for campaign rhetoric and failure, not to create jobs here in the United States. That is not what it is about. But that is not stopping our friends on the other side from bringing it up yet again, just as they did right before the last election.

So, look. We have seen this movie before. Everyone knows the Democrats are simply not serious here. They specifically want the bill to fail.

What I am saying is let's just skip the campaigning and get something done for the middle class instead. Let's focus on bipartisan bills that can help families and create jobs here at home. Let's focus on things such as repealing the job-killing medical device tax and helping create energy jobs and reducing the tax burden on small businesses and restoring the 40-hour workweek and providing relief to Kentucky's coal families.

If we are going to have a debate about creating jobs here at home, then let's really have a debate about creating jobs here at home. This is not it. Senate Democrats, of course, know that. They also know all of their campaigning is getting in the way of focusing on passing bipartisan legislation—bipartisan legislation such as the highway bill.

Of course, we know the current highway bill is not perfect. Over the long term, Republicans have a lot of good ideas for reforming the highway trust fund in a more permanent way so it can be made sustainable for years to come, but for now we have to at least keep road and bridge projects moving forward in the meantime. The extension of the highway trust fund could be used to fund projects such as the resurfacing of several parkways that many Kentuckians use to commute to work, and it could be used to fund the widening of I–656 between Bowling Green and Elizabethtown. The judge executive of Hart County Terry Martin knows this transportation safety project is important for the Commonwealth, and he notes that the expansion to six lanes would allow for a smoother and safer flow of traffic for Kentuckians.

So let's focus on scoring bipartisan wins and jobs for our constituents instead of scoring political points. If Democrats can do that, then I am confident we will get this done because the American people didn't send us to Congress to campaign 24/7. When Senate Democrats do choose to work with us, there is a lot we can get done for the people of our country.

REMEMBERING JEREMIAH DENTON

I wish to say a brief word about our former colleague Jeremiah Denton, who will be laid to rest today at Arlington National Cemetery.

Admiral Denton is best known for the extraordinary bravery he showed in 1966, when instead of playing along in a propaganda film for his captors in Vietnam, he blinked the word ''torture'' in Morse code to U.S. military leaders.

All told, Admiral Denton would spend 7½ years in the infamous Hanoi Hilton and other camps, enduring terrible torture and barbaric conditions throughout. Later, after earning the deep admiration of Ronald Reagan, he would enlist the future President's help as a first-time political candidate, becoming the first-elected Republican Senator from Alabama since Reconstruction.

A staunch conservative throughout his time in the Senate, Admiral Denton was a man of deep and abiding faith who had an equally deep and abiding love for his country. This was never more clear than on the day he stepped off a plane to freedom at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Walking up to the microphone, the newly released POW said simply:

> We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are proudly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America.

Admiral Denton was predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years Kathryn Jane, and survived by their seven children: Madeleine, and Mary Beth, Jeremiah, William, Donald, James, Michael; and by his second wife Mary Belle. We send Mary Belle and the entire Denton family our sincere condolences today as Jeremiah Denton is laid to rest, and we honor the memory of this great man and distinguished former Member of this body.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until

10:45 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Washington.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I came to the Senate floor in April to warn my colleagues of a looming crisis in the highway trust fund. I told them if Congress didn't act and the fund reached critically low levels, it would cause construction shutdowns in communities across the country. It would cost jobs and threaten our fragile economic recovery. It would hurt families who depend on safe and efficient roads and bridges.

I had hoped that we could address this issue sooner. I had hoped those of us in Congress who understand the importance of strong infrastructure investments could have come together, not just to avoid a crisis but for a long-term solution. We weren't able to do that.

But today, after 4 months of warning of this looming crisis, I am pleased to come to the floor as we work to do what should be easy but too often isn't in the Senate—to avoid a completely unnecessary and completely damaging crisis. This is a step in the right direction. As many of us here know very well, it is a step that Congress has not taken each time a crisis approached.

For far too many years, Congress has been lurching from crisis to crisis, from debt limit scares to fiscal cliffs. That dysfunction hit a peak last October with a government shutdown over a misguided attempt to block the Affordable Care Act from covering millions of families and with another Federal default scare. The lurching from crisis to crisis with constant dysfunction and uncertainty hurt workers and our families, and it shook the confidence of people across the country who expect their elected officials to work together to get things done.

But when the government shutdown finally ended last year, I sat down with House Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN in a budget conference. We worked together, we compromised, and we reached a 2-year budget deal that prevented another government shutdown and rolled back devastating cuts from sequestration.

That bipartisan budget deal moved us away from these constant crises and showed the American people that we can do our jobs when we are willing to work together. I believe it showed my Republican colleagues that putting the American people through these constant artificial crises is not only bad for the country overall, it is not good for Republicans either.

Since that bipartisan budget deal, we have been able to build on that bipartisan momentum in some very important ways. I was proud to work with the junior Senator from Georgia and a number of Democrats and Republicans on a bipartisan bill to invest in workforce training.

Our legislation passed both the House and the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, and this week it will officially become law. That kind of bipartisan work to help our workers and the economy wouldn't be possible if we were still in a constant crisis mode.

That is why I have been so hopeful we could avoid lurching toward yet another needless crisis—this time in our highway trust fund. The consequences of Congress failing to shore up the highway trust fund are clear. In fact, many of our States have already been bracing for a worst-case scenario. Arkansas, for example, has already put the brakes on 15 highway projects that would have widened their highways and repaired their bridges.

In Colorado, State officials are planning a project to ease congestion to give some much-needed relief to drivers between Denver and Fort Collins, but a lapse in our Federal funding could have put that project on hold.

Those are not isolated cases. Across the country more than 100,000 projects would have been at risk next year and 700,000 jobs would have been on the line if Congress failed to replenish the highway trust fund according to the Department of Transportation.

I am pleased Congress is finally coming together and working to avoid a construction shutdown this summer. Republicans in the House have pushed aside the tea party branch and passed a bill to avoid a construction shutdown this summer, with no ransom demands, no programmatic spending cuts, and no tea party policy riders.

I do support the bipartisan Senate proposal from the Finance Committee, which includes provisions to improve compliance with tax laws.

My colleague, the junior Senator from California, is right. We need pressure on Republicans to come back before the end of this Congress to work with us toward a long-term solution, but I am very pleased we are working together to get this done and avoid this unnecessary crisis that would have put jobs and our economy at risk.

This bill will be a step in the right direction, but then we need to take the next step. We need to keep this bipartisanship going, and we need to work together to find a long-term solution to the highway trust fund's revenue shortfall. That is the only way we can truly put an end to constant crises and short-term patches, and it is the only way we can give our States and businesses the certainty they need and deserve to plan projects and invest in their economies.

Once again, I am pleased we are moving toward avoiding a completely unnecessary construction shutdown, and I am pleased that the House Republicans seem to understand that it is better for them and our country to push the tea party aside and work with us—not to push us into another crisis.

I am hopeful we can build on this bipartisan effort and keep working together to create jobs, economic growth, and a fair shot and true opportunity for families across our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, while the Senator from Washington is on the floor, I think it is appropriate to note and congratulate her for her work on the Workforce Investment Act.

She and Senator ISAKSON of Georgia led the effort of Senator HARKIN, me, and others in the Senate. Senator SCOTT of South Carolina was the principal sponsor of the House-passed SKILLS Act. Senator ENZI of Wyoming had worked for a long time—and as the Republican leader said, that bill is being signed today by the President of the United States.

It goes directly to the issue that most Americans care about. It is too hard to find a job. What this process showed was that Republicans and Democrats were able to take the nearly $10 billion that we currently spend on job training to give Governors the flexibility to help people develop skills and match job seekers with good jobs in their communities. I remember our former Democratic Governor from Tennessee told me that when he came into office, he threw up his hands when he found out about the $145 million that came to Tennessee through the Workforce Investment Act because it was too complicated.

Senator MURRAY, Senator ISAKSON, and others have worked together with Chairman KLINE in the House, and they produced a law that will be signed today. The Senate is far from functioning the way it ought to. There is too much talent in the Senate and too many pressing problems in the country for us to be anywhere close to satisfied with the result we are getting. But the committee upon which the Senator from Washington and I serve has done a pretty good job in this Congress. We reported to the Senate 20 pieces of legislation; 18 of them have passed the Senate, and 14 of them have been signed into law.

That may be more than the entire Senate put together.

The point is, those are big pieces of legislation. One is the jobs bill. That is the issue we care about more than any other.

Another was the track-and-trace legislation which makes medicines safer for 4 billion prescriptions. Senator BURR and Senator MIKULSKI worked on that.

Another was on compounding pharmacies. It was a terrible problem where we had tainted, sterile injections not being sterile and causing people to catch meningitis and die.

Last year another was the student loan program, where we took all the new loans—that is $100 billion a year—and put a market-pricing system on top and took it out of the political football stunt category.

All of that has happened on a committee which has, on its left, 12 Democrats, and on its right, 10 Republicans. We don't agree on everything by a long shot. But on these issues we came to a result, did the job, and the Senator from Washington has been a conspicuous example of looking for opportunities for us to get a result.

People expect us to come to the Senate, stand on our principles, but not stop there—not stop there—and then put our principles together where we can combine those and get a result for the American people. I am pleased to be a part of that action and I congratulate her for it.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Today I am here to say the world is watching Venezuela. The Senate especially is watching human rights abuse in Venezuela. I especially am watching the case of Leopoldo Lopez, who has been in prison for 5 months. For what? For leading a political party and exercising his constitutional rights.

Senator MENENDEZ, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, has spoken out about human rights abuse in Venezuela. Senator CORKER, the ranking Republican on Foreign Relations has spoken out about human rights abuse in Venezuela. Yesterday, Senator CRUZ of Texas gave an impassioned speech about Leopoldo Lopez in Venezuela and that conspicuous example of human rights abuse. Senator RUBIO of Florida has been at the forefront of this discussion with his leadership on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Today, I wish to speak about human rights abuse in Venezuela and to say to President Maduro in Venezuela that the world is watching. The world is watching him and his efforts to imprison his principal political opponent, Leopoldo Lopez.

Mr. President, many of us have visited Robben Island off South Africa's coast. When my family and I did that a few years ago, there was no moment that impressed me more in that visit than when some of those who were imprisoned there with Nelson Mandela still give tours of Robben Island, about where he lived and where he exercised and how he conducted himself in the 27 years he was there before he came back and was freed and became one of the most important persons in our world history.

It seems to me President Maduro of Venezuela is determined to turn Leopoldo Lopez into the Nelson Mandela of Venezuela by his unconscionable imprisonment of him principally because Leopoldo has spoken out and has expressed his political views about the country he loves.

Leopoldo was born in Venezuela and comes from a patriotic Venezuelan family, but he was educated in the United States which is where I met him. I met him when he was a student at Kenyon College. In fact, I made the graduation speech, when I was Secretary of Education, to the class in which he graduated, and he was a friend of my son who was also a student. I watched him over the years. He went on to Harvard and obtained a master's degree at the Kennedy School. He could have stayed in the United States and had a very successful career, but he chose instead to return to the country he loved, Venezuela. He was elected mayor of a municipality at the age of 28 in an important area outside of Caracas. Four years later he was reelected with 81 percent of the vote. He is a rising star in Venezuela. There is no brighter star rising in the skies of Venezuela.

Hugo Chavez's government knew that someone like Leopoldo, who is well educated, charismatic, purposeful, and honest, with a desire to help his fellow Venezuelans, would do nothing but cause problems for their socialist government, so they barred him from running for public office and accused him of misusing public funds.

I suppose a lot of us would like to bar our principal opponents from running against us. The Senator from New Jersey and I are both in elections this year, but it hasn't occurred to us that in the United States we could actually do that. Elections are the lifeblood of our political system and the lifeblood of this country and the lifeblood of our liberty and freedom, but in Venezuela if you don't like your opponent, you just say they cannot run for office. That is what they did to Leopoldo.

Leopoldo fought back, taking his case all the way to the Inter-American Court for Human Rights and he won. I had an opportunity to see him in 2011 when he did that. I knew he would win his case. Anyone who listened to it believed that. He then stayed in Venezuela. He faced assassination attempts, harassment, threats, but never wavered in his call for the Venezuelan people to take action against the oppressive regime of Hugo Chavez and more recently Nicolas Maduro.

Venezuela is a rich country and has lots of money, but people cannot get toothpaste, people cannot get tissues. The inflation there is more than 50 percent. You would expect there to be a leader demanding change from the government, someone who could express the views of the people. Leopoldo is that person, but he has been in jail for 5 months. He has been barred from running for public office because he is that leader.

He is a husband. He is the father of two young children. He chose to turn himself in to face trial. He could have come to the United States or some other country and said, ''I am in exile. I am a popular Venezuelan and I'll take the brave act of going into exile.'' No, he didn't do that. He turned himself in, with a crowd of hundreds of thousands of people behind him, because he is in the tradition of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mandela, and others is focusing his resistance in a nonviolent and a constitutional way. That is his lesson to the people of Venezuela.

However, he is in jail and has been for 5 months, and President Maduro keeps him there to silence the opposition. Or so the President thinks. Leopoldo's trial starts tomorrow. I say trial, although it is not a trial that we would recognize.

The distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee is on the floor today. He has been a leading spokesman for human rights across the country. He, too, is interested in human rights abuse in Venezuela. He would not recognize this trial.

The defense team of Leopoldo has attempted to bring forward 60 witnesses plus other experts to testify on their client's behalf. However, during a preliminary hearing every single witness for the defense was disqualified.

There is the distinguished lawyer, the Senator from Massachusetts, on the other side of the aisle. She knows what a trial is. She recognizes human abuse when she sees it, just as all of us do. So I think it is important for President Maduro, the people of Venezuela and the people in Venezuela who have been subjected to human rights abuse to know that is not going unnoticed in the United States of America, that there are Senators on the Democratic side and on the Republican side of the aisle who are paying close attention to this; that our State Department is reviewing this very carefully; that this sort of human rights abuse in Venezuela—a country badly in need of political discourse and leadership—is something we should not ignore. We should say to President Maduro: Free Leopoldo Lopez. By locking him up for 5 months you are not silencing him. You are helping to make him the Nelson Mandela of Venezuela.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Tennessee who has said that the trial he described is not a trial. It is a sham, and no honest and civilized country, no country that has even a pretense upon the rule of law should accept that kind of a trial. So I applaud the senior Senator from Tennessee for his comments.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have been on this floor many times to talk about the need to support law enforcement and to ensure our criminal justice system serves everyone fairly. I do so again in light of a very disturbing report issued by the Justice Department's inspector general last week which describes serious flaws in some of our Nation's crime labs. The report focused on 13 crime lab examiners whose work was seriously flawed, but the worst part is that their testimony contributed to the convictions of thousands of offenders, including 60 people on death row.

The FBI launched an investigation. They discovered these mistakes, but even after they discovered them, it took them 5 years to notify those who were impacted—5 years that people were sitting in prison. During that time 3 of the 60 people on death row who were convicted and put on death row on potentially flawed evidence were executed and thousands more sat behind bars.

It is shocking and unacceptable. I mention this because even in a country such as ours, our criminal justice system is not infallible, and that is why I again urge the Senate to take up and pass the Justice For All Reauthorization Act. It is a bill I introduced with Senator CORNYN last year. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation which includes the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program, which seeks to prevent travesties such as those described in the IG report.

It is named for Kirk Bloodsworth, a man who has become a friend to me over the years. He was convicted and sent to prison and could have been executed. In 1993, he became the first person in the United States to be exonerated from a death row crime through the use of DNA evidence.

Two hundred fifty additional people have been exonerated using this technology. Thomas Haynesworth was exonerated in 2011 after spending 27 years in prison for crimes he did not commit, thanks to a grant provided by the Justice for All Act. He was accused of rape in 1984, and wrongfully convicted. The real perpetrator went on to rape more than a dozen women.

The Justice for All Act takes important steps to strengthen the rights of victims of crime and reauthorizes the Debbie Smith Act which has provided significant funding to reduce the backlog of untested rape kits. The program is named for Debbie Smith, who waited years after being attacked before her rape kit was tested and the perpetrator was caught. She and her husband Rob have worked tirelessly to ensure that others will not experience such horror. I thank Debbie and Rob for their continuing help on this extremely important cause.

Just yesterday, a few blocks from here at the DC Superior Court, a man was exonerated by DNA evidence. Now that is the good news. He was exonerated. Kevin Martin was exonerated, but he spent 26 years in prison for the 1982 rape and murder of a Washington woman he had nothing to do with.

We know that in our criminal justice system mistakes are inevitable. But the Justice for All Act reauthorization gives us the chance to fix some of our most grievous errors.

Senator CORNYN and I believe that pursuit of justice is not a partisan issue, which is why we were pleased when our bill was unanimously approved by the Judiciary Committee back in October. Senate minority leader MITCH MCCONNELL is also a cosponsor of the bill. Every single Senate Democrat has signed off on passing this. Senator GRASSLEY, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, called the inspector general's report ''shocking.'' I agree completely, we all agree, which is why it is time for the full Senate to reach an agreement and consider the Justice for All Reauthorization Act.

I thank the many law enforcement, victim services and criminal justice organizations that have helped to pinpoint the needed improvements that this law attempts to solve and I appreciate their ongoing support in seeing it passed.

Let's pass the legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CFPB

Ms. WARREN. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am here today to say happy birthday to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. This week marks 4 years since Dodd-Frank was signed into law and 3 years since the consumer agency opened its doors.

The consumer agency was built to be a new kind of regulatory agency, one that would stand up for America's families, not for big banks or credit card companies.

The consumer agency was not popular with big banks and their friends in Washington. The financial services industry spent more than $1 million a day fighting tooth and nail against financial reforms and they vowed to kill the consumer agency before it was ever born. But thanks to the work of grassroots consumer groups across the country that worked very hard and got organized, we pushed back against the big banks' armies of lobbyists and lawyers, and we won. We succeeded in building a strong independent consumer agency with the tools necessary to protect consumers against the tricks and traps hidden in the fine print of mortgages, credit cards, and student loans.

Under Rich Cordray's leadership, the staff of the CFPB has made amazing progress since it opened. This little agency has already forced big financial institutions to return more than $4 billion to 15 million consumers they cheated, and it has helped tens of thousands of consumers resolve complaints about their financial institutions. It has put in place rules to protect consumers from a range of dangerous financial products and to make sure that companies cannot put out the kinds of deceptive mortgages that contributed to millions of foreclosures.

Recently the CFPB shared stories from people all across the country who have reached out to the agency for help with financial issues. One of these stories is from Ari, an Iraq veteran from Hull, MA. Ari and his father Harry told their story to CFPB. While serving in the military, Ari took out a car loan advertised directly to servicemembers. The dealership promised Ari that he would be able to afford the loan, but after Harry read the fine print, he figured out this was a terrible deal. So Harry filed a complaint with the CFPB and the agency's investigation helped to uncover scams targeting men and women in uniform. Ultimately, the consumer agency ordered the auto lenders to refund about $6.5 million to the servicemembers they cheated, and to agree to stop these practices immediately.

This is just one example of how people are fighting back, using the tools of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. It is also an example of how the consumer agency is standing up for families who have been targeted by scams and unfair practices. Together families and the agency are starting to clean up the market for consumer credit.

Sure, there is a lot left to do. The consumer agency still has important rules to put in place regarding payday lending, debt collection, and arbitration clauses. The biggest banks are dramatically bigger than they were during the financial crisis, and there is still too much risk in our system and too much need for reform. We need to keep pushing for changes that will make our financial system more stable and more secure to protect consumers and to keep our economy safe.

Stories such as Ari's and Harry's show that the consumer agency works and that the agency empowers people. In a badly tilted financial marketplace, the agency is giving consumers a fighting chance. This week is an opportunity to highlight these accomplishments and a reminder of how we can make Washington work for families all across this country.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Andre Birotte, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Begich,

Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andre Birotte, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 234 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Landrieu	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Walsh
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden
Hagan	Murphy	

NAYS—43

Alexander	Fischer	Moran
Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Chambliss	Hoeven	Scott
Coats	Inhofe	Sessions
Coburn	Isakson	Shelby
Cochran	Johanns	Thune
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Cornyn	Kirk	Vitter
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	McCain	
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Rockefeller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 43. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ANDRE BIROTTE, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Andre Birotte, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. This is Judge Robin Rosenberg who comes through this nonpartisan judicial nominating process Senator RUBIO and I have set up. Senator RUBIO and I certainly commend her for our Members' favorable consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robin L. Rosenberg, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robin L. Rosenberg, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 235 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Heinrich	Pryor
Begich	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Booker	Kaine	Rubio
Boxer	King	Sanders
Brown	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Landrieu	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Levin	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Udall (CO)
Coons	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	Menendez	Walsh
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warren
Franken	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hagan	Murray	
Harkin	Nelson	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Enzi	McCain
Ayotte	Fischer	McConnell
Barrasso	Flake	Moran
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Chambliss	Heller	Roberts
Coats	Hoeven	Scott
Coburn	Inhofe	Sessions
Cochran	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johanns	Thune
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Toomey
Crapo	Kirk	Vitter
Cruz	Lee	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote the yeas are 58, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ROBIN L. ROSENBERG TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Robin L. Rosenberg, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to the next cloture vote.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of John W. deGravelles, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John W. deGravelles, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Brown
Begich	Booker	Cantwell
Bennet	Boxer	Cardin

Carper	King	Reid
Casey	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Collins	Landrieu	Sanders
Coons	Leahy	Schatz
Donnelly	Manchin	Schumer
Durbin	Markey	Shaheen
Feinstein	McCaskill	Stabenow
Franken	Menendez	Tester
Gillibrand	Merkley	Udall (CO)
Hagan	Mikulski	Udall (NM)
Harkin	Murkowski	Vitter
Heinrich	Murphy	Walsh
Heitkamp	Murray	Warner
Hirono	Nelson	Warren
Johnson (SD)	Pryor	Whitehouse
Kaine	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—39

Alexander	Cruz	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Burr	Hatch	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeven	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Johanns	Sessions
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Corker	Kirk	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—4

Enzi	Isakson
Heller	Levin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 39. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF JOHN W. DEGRAVELLES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk reported the nomination of John W. deGravelles, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

MALAYSIA AIRLINES TRAGEDY

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the tragedy of the civilian airliner shot out of the sky by a Russian surface-to-air missile, cutting short the lives of 298 innocent civilians. Parents, children and spouses of victims have expressed deep anguish, and we all feel their grief.

All of us agree the images we are seeing from the crash site are heartbreaking and sickening. President Obama, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, leaders throughout the world, and many others have expressed their outrage at the vicious, uncivilized act that took place at 33,000 feet over the country of Ukraine. A few days ago, British Prime Minister David Cameron stated firmly:

> For too long there has been a reluctance on the part of too many European countries to face up to the implications of what is happening in eastern Ukraine. . . . Elegant forms of words and fine communiques are no substitute for real action. The weapons and fighters being funneled across the border between Russia and eastern Ukraine; the support to the militias; the half-truths, the bluster, the delays. They have to stop.

As the prime minister acknowledged: This is a moment when words of condemnation and expressions of grief are simply not enough. This is a moment when action must follow the outrage and rhetorical condemnation.

The tragedy of Malaysian Airlines 17 will be a defining event in history. It is a defining event for Russia, first and foremost, and for its President, Vladimir Putin. It is no secret that Putin has imperial ambitions, motivated by his pathological insecurities, and a quest to restore lost glory to Mother Russia. These are dangerous delusions. If they are not confronted firmly, they will come to threaten us all.

But it is also a defining event for the United States and its European allies. The festering danger in Ukraine is the result of the civilized world's faltering half-steps as a meager, timid and all too minimal response to Russia's invasion of a neighbor in violation of sovereign borders. This is an opportunity for American leadership, in step with our European allies, to spur the community of nations to act together and be a force for good and be a force for the right change that needs to take place—not later, but now.

It is a defining event for President Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Today these two leaders, the two who are most able to influence this situation, can stand up and demonstrate leadership that will shape history. So this is a pivotal moment—a pivotal moment for the United States, for Germany, for the European Union and for the world. Given the significance of this event in this moment, what are we to do? I do not have all the answers. I have been suggesting harsh sanctions, sanctions that bite, that hit Russia hard ever since their invasion of Crimea.

As I have said earlier, what has been done is far too short of what needs to be done to punish Russia for the breach of sovereignty and now this brutal and terrible tragic result and consequence of what they are doing in eastern Ukraine. So first we need to ask the entire civilized world to join the United States, our European allies, and everyone in condemning this outrageous act.

Events like this tragedy have no place in the modern world. This unassailable fact needs to be acknowledged globally and more than once. It needs to be acknowledged repeatedly until it becomes so loud that Putin and the Russians can hear it in Moscow and in the Kremlin and see that what has taken place is the direct result of their engagement in eastern Ukraine.

Secondly, I think we need to demand complete cooperation with the ongoing investigation. Positive steps are beginning to take place far too late, but at least they are starting to take place.

Our commitment to the rule of law, rules of evidence, and to the demands of justice require that we go through this investigative process, and we must insist on the access to do so. We must demand full, immediate, unhindered access to the site of the tragedy, including all parts of the aircraft, missile battery, site evidence and, most of all, proper treatment of the remains of the many victims. President Putin by himself can ensure that success and that access, and he absolutely must be required to do so.

Third, we need to demand an immediate Russian stand-down in Ukraine. Crimes like Malaysia Airlines flight 17 can only happen in such a lawless wasteland—renegades and desperados with their fingers on the triggers of the world's most advanced weapons. Lawlessness reigns in eastern Ukraine because the government of that nation still does not have sovereign control of its own territory.

The situation is greatly exacerbated as a result of President Putin's outrageous territorial aggression. He has already severed an arm of Ukraine and threatened an entire country's disintegration.

Make no mistake, the Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine have been organized, motivated, trained, equipped, unleashed, guided, and controlled by the forces of the Russian Federation which are controlled themselves—with totalitarian execution—by none other than President Vladimir Putin. Now we see a new tragic result of this aggression, of sponsorship, of ruthless renegades—a blatant act of terrorism inflicted on innocent people. This problem will only get worse unless we demand that Russian behavior change and Putin's aggression stop. It needs to be a voice that resounds from every nation, civilized nation, in the world.

The only solution to the Ukraine problem is doing what is consistent with our national law. The demands of order and civility and the requirements of justice are what Russia must acknowledge and that the Government of Ukraine must have sovereign control over its own territory.

No. 4, the United States and Europe must, at last, act vigorously and in unison if we are to succeed in this effort. Until now, President Obama has sent largely weak signals to Putin about the seriousness of Russia's actions. Our European partners have been reluctant to act, some hypnotized by anxiety about their economic dependency on Russian oil and gas. Let us hope that after this horrific act of terror against 298 innocent passengers on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, this view is changing and changing quickly.

History will see this event as a watershed moment. Some argue that the Soviet downing of Korean Airlines flight 007 in 1983 was an event that exposed the true nature of the Soviet regime and hastened its decay. Similarly, Malaysia Airlines flight 17 reveals to any remaining doubters the nature of Putin and his brutal ambitions and ruthlessness.

With illusions stripped away, the inadequacy of half measures revealed, we must now act and act together. We can respond to this tragedy by forming and forging a new unity. But only the most robust and concerted actions to impose economic sanctions on Russia have a chance to change Putin's behavior and end Russian support for the separatist militants and, to be effective, we and the Europeans must do this together, imposing these costs.

We need to target the fragile Russian economy through sanctions on Russia's energy sector and State-backed arms exporter. While it may take time for Russia to feel the effects of sanctions on the energy sector, we can take action today that would have an immediate effect.

I have previously introduced legislation that prohibits all government contracts with Putin's arms dealers. Taking steps to meaningfully obstruct this agency's work and the revenue it provides the Russian State is one of the most effective ways we can condemn Putin's aggression. Through these specific sanctions we can demand that Putin end his support for the separatists and accept and work toward a stable Ukraine. If not, I suggest we do whatever is necessary to bring Russia's economy to its knees. We need to see that stock market plummet. We need to see confidence and support for anything Russia makes or exports denied by the civilized nations of the world. We need to put measures there to prevent their manufacturing and shipment of arms to people such as Assad in Syria, to the Iranians, to the groups that are creating havoc around the world. Russia's arms exports are a major source of their revenue. We need to stop them.

The decision is in their hands. Following this horrific, brutal, tragic event, they have the responsibility to the world's nations to step up and address this issue.

This crisis has reached a point of high tension, great tragedy, and escalated consequences. These potential consequences are dangerous for all of us but, most of all, they are dangerous for Putin's Russia.

Russia's President holds in his hands the ability to de-escalate this crisis or to pay a very steep price. We need to define and implement that steep price if he doesn't take this action.

It is Putin's choice to bring this situation back from the brink. It is our obligation, along with our European partners, to make Putin's choice crystal clear.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HEITKAMP). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. What is the general order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time between now and 12:30 p.m. is equally divided, and the Republicans control 5 minutes.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 8 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. INHOFE. Later this week we are going to have the EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy come to our Environment and Public Works Committee to testify about the greenhouse gas rule being developed for existing fleets of powerplants. We know what the rule is for the new powerplants; this is for the existing.

In light of that, it is important to point out that the Senate has been debating global warming for well over a decade, actually around 14 years. The first cap-and-trade bill the Senate debated was when Republicans were in the majority. I was chairman at that time of the Environment and Public Works Committee.

The first bill was the McCain-Lieberman bill which would have set CO_2 limits on all utilities that emit at least 10,000 tons of greenhouse gases per year. That was defeated October 30, 2003, by a vote of 43 to 55. That was when I was all alone. Actually, everyone thought eventually something was going to pass and they were all afraid of the issue.

Now times have dramatically changed. Since that time we have had other bills come up. In 2005 we had the same bill by the same authors. It was defeated even at that time by a wider range.

Then in 2008 the Lieberman-Warner bill came up, and it failed also. That was actually when the Republicans had lost the majority. So even with the Democrats as the majority, they were not able to get it through.

Most recently, we debated the Waxman and Markey bill of 2009 which said emissions to facilities over 25,000 tons a year. That bill passed the House, but it was never brought to the Senate for a vote because they knew it would fail.

Each of these bills had one thing in common: Their cost was enormous. We found out—and there was testimony quite some time ago—that if we were to pass cap-and-trade, the cost would be in the area of $300 billion to $400 billion a year.

I do calculations every time I hear a large number and I go back. In my State of Oklahoma, I calculate the number of families who actually file Federal tax returns and do the math. That would cost each family in Oklahoma about $3,000 a year. We know it doesn't make any difference, because the testimony of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA, Lisa Jackson, who was appointed by President Obama, said in response to my question on the public record that even if we were to pass something it would not have the effect of reducing CO_2 emissions worldwide, because this isn't where the problem is. The problem is in China and other places.

Since this time—and it is not me saying this—Nature magazine, The Economist, and even the IPCC—the IPCC is the United Nations; they are the ones who started this—they admit for the past 15 years there has been no increase in global temperatures. Meanwhile, the CO_2 emissions have increased a lot. So obviously it is not warming and that is going back into a normal cycle.

Unfortunately, this hasn't deterred the President from making global warming a key part of domestic policy. What he could not have accomplished through legislation he is now doing through regulations at the EPA, but the American people don't want anything to do with this.

I can remember when the polls were something like the No. 1 or No. 2 issue. The last Gallup poll, this past week, had it as No. 14 out of 15 issues. The Pew Research Center—53 percent of Americans, when asked about the cause of global warming, said they don't believe there is enough evidence to blame human anthropogenic gases or to believe that it is caused by natural variation.

This problem explains why it is difficult for Tom Steyer. On the floor I showed his picture and read the comments he had made. He is raising $100 million to put into campaigns. He has already put up $50 million and has been unable to raise anything close to the next $50 million. So people are not rallying to pour money into this lost cause.

The international community is starting to give up too. I was with the Secretary of Defense of Australia last night, and he was one of them who was very strongly in opposition to the cap-and-trade they adopted in Australia and they have now, as of 1 month ago, repealed it. If you look at other countries, and not only Australia but others that were believing this at one time, are dropping off. So the Australian people should thank the Prime Minister.

It is my hope we will be able to protect the American people from the senseless global warming policies in the United States.

Tomorrow we are going to have a committee hearing, and the momentum has actually gone from the other side.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, here we are—another day in the Senate—facing another political gimmick. That is the way things seem to work in the Democratic Senate, and that is what is happening again this week.

Yesterday Democrats introduced their latest designed-to-fail bill, the Bring Jobs Home Act. It is a bill they

know is not going to pass. The reason I say the bill is designed to fail is because it has already failed. It has been voted on here before in the previous Congress, but that is not stopping the Democrats.

The Bring Jobs Home Act would supposedly encourage American companies to bring jobs back home to the United States and to discourage companies from sending jobs overseas. But the bill completely ignores the real problem and the reason American companies are sending jobs overseas: America's broken Tax Code and our sky-high tax rate on business. America has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the developed world and many companies simply can't afford to pay it and stay profitable.

If Democrats were truly serious about solving the problem of American jobs going overseas, they would be sitting down with Republicans to hammer out reform of our Tax Code. We should be substantially lowering overall tax rates to allow American businesses to keep jobs here at home while remaining competitive in the global marketplace. Instead of serious reform, however, Democrats have chosen to take up a bill that would do nothing to address the real problem we are dealing with. Democrats are not bringing up this bill in the hopes of actually fixing problems. They are bringing it up in hopes of winning a few votes in the November election. This is not a secret.

When Democrats first brought this bill up 2 years ago ahead of the 2012 election, Reuters described it as an example of Members of Congress ''offering up measures they know will not pass but can be used to fire up their respective supporters in the run-up to November's elections.'' That was from 2 years ago, the last time this was brought up. That has been the Democrats' preferred method of operating in the Senate.

Back in March the New York Times reported that Democrats planned to spend the spring and summer on messaging votes ''timed to coincide with campaign-style trips by President Obama.'' Again, that is from the New York Times earlier this year.

The ''Democrats concede,'' the Times continued, ''that making new laws is not really the point.'' ''Rather, they are trying to force Republicans to vote against them.'' That is also a quote which was in the New York Times story a few months ago. Making new laws is not really the point. What we are talking about here is not fixing problems; it is just creating political opportunities.

So 5½ years of Democratic policies have left American families hurting. Unemployment, which the President's advisers predicted would fall below 6 percent in 2012, is still above 6 percent 2 years later. Almost 10 million Americans are unemployed, and 3.1 million have been unemployed for 6 months or longer. Those numbers would be even worse if so many Americans had not given up on finding work and dropped out of the labor force all together.

Our current labor force participation rate is at lows we have not seen since the 1970s during the Presidency of Jimmy Carter. In fact, if the labor participation rate were today what it was when the President took office, the unemployment rate would not be a little over 6 percent, it would be 10.2 percent. That is how many people have entirely quit looking for work.

Household income has plummeted by more than $3,300 on the President's watch. At the same time, prices have risen. Food prices have increased. The price of gas has nearly doubled, college costs continue to soar, and family health insurance premiums have skyrocketed by almost $3,000, despite the President's promise they would fall. And what do you get when you combine high prices, fewer opportunities for employment and advancement and reduced income? You get a lot of struggling middle-class families.

Instead of spending this year taking up serious legislation to help those families, Democrats—by their own admission—have spent this year on political show votes they hope will win them a few votes in the November election.

Last week the Congressional Budget Office issued its yearly long-term budget outlet. The news on that front was grim. The Congressional Budget Office recorded that as early as 2039, under its baseline scenario, the Nation could see public debt reach 106 percent of GDP, which would be a level of debt seen only once before in our Nation's history.

By 2039, under an alternative fiscal scenario, the debt-to-GDP ratio could rise to more than 180 percent of GDP. By comparison, Greece's current debt-to-GDP ratio is 175 percent. In other words, our economy could go the way of Greece's in just a few short years if nothing is done.

We have to take up significant budget reform and reduce the size of government. We need to look for ways we can make government work more effectively and more efficiently by reforming programs that need to be reformed. Chipping away around the edges is not going to get the job done. It is not going to cut it.

Even before the President came into office, our national debt presented a serious and pressing problem. But over the last 5½ years of the current administration, the problem has gotten exponentially worse. If you look at our total debt—which includes the public and intergovernmental debt—when President Obama came into office, our national debt was $10.6 trillion. Today, just 5½ years later, our national total debt stands at $17.6 trillion. That is a 66-percent increase on the President's watch. That is horrifying. Yet President Obama and his party continue to act as if our country is not hurdling toward a fiscal crisis.

Among the President's many fiscally irresponsible policies, ObamaCare stands out as one of the worst offenders. Former Congressional Budget Office Director Douglas Holtz-Eakin has estimated that the President's health care law will increase the deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars in its first 10 years alone and by more than $1.5 trillion over the next 10 years.

Politico reports that the Congressional Budget Office attributes the coming growth of the debt to—among other things—''rising health care costs'' and ''the expansion of subsidies offered through ObamaCare.'' So much for the President's claim that the health care law would be ''the largest deficit reduction plan in over a decade.'' But that is par for the course for the Affordable Care Act.

The President also promised that the law would reduce Americans' health insurance premiums by $2,500. Instead, as I mentioned, they have already risen by almost $3,000, and they are still going up.

I have a few headlines from this past week that I will read into the RECORD. Yesterday's Kaiser Health News reported: ''Florida's Biggest Health Insurer Signals Rate Hikes Ahead.''

The Nebraska Radio Network had an expert who said: ''Nebraskans' premiums may bounce 30 percent under ObamaCare.''

Last Wednesday, the Nashville Business Journal reported, ''Here come higher premiums: Tennessee's insurance providers request rate increases.''

Last Tuesday, the Associated Press reported: ''Delawareans Could Face Higher Rates Under ACA.''

The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported: ''Some insurance carriers looking for double-digit increases for Affordable Care Act policies.''

Those are just a few of the most recent headlines from newspapers around this country last week. I could go on about the health care law's broken promises. I could also talk about the fact that the President promised that Americans would be able to keep their doctors and hospitals, but Americans are now finding the new health plans exclude doctors and hospitals they have literally been using for years or the fact that the health care bill was supposed to give more Americans access to health care but that many Americans are struggling to find doctors who will take their ObamaCare insurance.

One doctor reporting on her patient's experience with the ObamaCare plan said: ''We are running into problems with coverage in the same way we were when they were uninsured.'' Let me repeat that. This is from a doctor talking about one of her patient's experiences with the ObamaCare plan: ''We are running into problems with coverage in the same way we were when they were uninsured.'' If that doesn't sum up the law's failure, I don't know what does.

Then there was the President's promise that shopping for health care on the exchange would be like buying a TV on Amazon or a plane ticket on Kayak. As

Americans quickly found out or are still finding out almost 10 months later, shopping on the exchanges is a lot more like the world's most nightmarish experience with the DMV.

ObamaCare is failing Americans, and so is the Obama economy. Instead of focusing on making things better, Democrats are focused on trying to get reelected in November.

Republicans have solutions to the challenges facing the American people—solutions such as approving the Keystone Pipeline and the tens of thousands of jobs it would support; repealing the ObamaCare 30-hour workweek provision, which is slashing employees' hours and wages; stopping the job-killing national energy tax which will eliminate hundreds of thousands of jobs and drive up Americans' energy bills; enacting trade promotion authority to open new markets to American farmers, workers, and businesses; repealing the medical device tax which is costing American jobs and increasing the cost of health care; and passing real health care reform—the kind that will lower costs, increase choice, and put Americans back in charge of their health care. If Democrats were serious about helping American families, they would be working with us on these priorities instead of tying up the Senate with partisan legislation, and they would be taking up the 40 House-passed jobs bills currently gathering dust on the majority leader's desk.

Every day the Senate spends on designed-to-fail bills, designed-to-fail legislation—bills we know aren't going anywhere—is a day the Senate is not spending on bills to provide real relief to the American people.

It is high time for Democrats to stop wasting time on partisan legislation and start working with Republicans on real reform. Middle-class, middle-income families around this country have been squeezed for long enough. The American people have been waiting long enough. There are 40 House-passed jobs bills waiting for action here in the Senate. Instead, we are spending week after week of the Senate's time voting on bills designed to fail and designed to do nothing more than score political points heading into an election. That is wrong on so many levels. Most of all, it is wrong for the American people, and it has to change.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:34 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

NOMINATION OF ANDRE BIROTTE, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the Birotte nomination.

If no one yields time, time will be equally charged to both sides.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of André Birotte to be a U.S. district judge for the Central District of California.

I recommended Mr. Birotte to serve as U.S. attorney for this district in 2009. I have been very impressed by his performance in that role since his unanimous confirmation by the Senate in 2010. I believe he will be an outstanding district judge.

Mr. Birotte received his law degree from Pepperdine in 1991 and his bachelor's from Tufts in 1987. He then served as a deputy public defender for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's office. He later spent 4 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California, where he prosecuted violent crime, fraud, and narcotics cases.

In 1999, he spent a year in private practice before moving to the Los Angeles Police Commission, where he served as assistant inspector general and later as inspector general until he became U.S. attorney. As inspector general, Birotte built a strong reputation for fairness and earned the respect of all sides, including in the law enforcement community. In 2009, then-LAPD Chief Bill Bratton—who is deeply respected on both sides of the aisle in this body—wrote to me to express his ''strongest endorsement and support'' for Birotte. As Chief Bratton said: ''In the approximately six years that I have known André, our working relationship has been one of transparency, cooperation, trust, and respect.''

In 2009, as I said, I recommended him to the President for appointment as U.S. attorney. He earned high marks from my bipartisan advisory committee and an outpouring of support from a broad spectrum of respected individuals in the Los Angeles community. The Senate soon confirmed him unanimously and he has served in his current position with distinction ever since.

When I introduced Mr. Birotte to my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, I went through the impressive work the U.S. attorney's office has done under his leadership in a number of areas. I will not go into each of those cases today, except to note that they cover very important areas of Federal law enforcement, including: national security, gangs and organized crime, sex crimes and human trafficking, public corruption, and civil rights.

Since his nomination was approved by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote, the U.S. attorney's office has continued its impressive track record of enforcing the law. In one case, a Los Angeles doctor who ran medical clinics pleaded guilty to illegally prescribing addictive painkillers and laundering the cash payments, which amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Last month, the owner and employees of a Los Angeles-area immigration consulting firm were arrested after being indicted for filing fraudulent green card applications. The office's press release states that the defendants quoted fees for their services, but then more than tripled those fees and ''allegedly threatened to contact authorities and have the aliens deported'' after ''several of the foreign nationals sought refunds.''

Just 2 weeks ago, Mr. Birotte's office announced that two men from Long Beach, CA pleaded guilty to ''conspiracy charges arising from a sex trafficking scheme that exploited adult women for prostitution.'' Bill Lewis, assistant director in charge of the FBI Los Angeles field office, stated: ''In this case, the defendants defrauded victims and forced them to work as sex slaves under threat to themselves and their families.'' The office's press release states that both men now face up to life imprisonment.

Let me conclude by saying that throughout his career André Birotte has built a reputation for fairness and for a profound commitment to the rule of law. He has earned the deep respect of people on all sides of difficult issues. In fact, Birotte is supported not only by State and Federal law enforcement, but also by the Central District's Federal Public Defender, Sean Kennedy. Kennedy told my selection committee that Birotte has ''incredible judgment'' and would make a ''wonderful federal judge.'' It says something very special about the chief Federal prosecutor for the second-largest district in the Nation when the chief Federal Public Defender for the district has such high praise.

This is a nominee I am proud to have recommended, and that the Senate should be proud to confirm.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Andre Birotte, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	
Franken	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF ROBIN L. ROSENBERG TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the Rosenberg nomination.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, just to remind the Senate, Senator RUBIO and I have the nonpartisan process of the Judicial Nomination Commission for our Federal district judges. Robin Rosenberg is a product of that. So I commend to the Senate this bipartisan nominee from the two of us.

Judge Robin Rosenberg is from West Palm Beach, FL. She is a circuit judge for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida where she has served since 2007. Prior to her service on the bench, she was a partner at the law firm Rosenberg & McAuliffe from 2001 to 2006.

She worked as an attorney in many capacities including private practice at Holland and Knight, an assistant city attorney for the City of West Palm Beach and as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department. Judge Rosenberg began her legal career as a law clerk for Judge James C. Paine of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. She received her juris doctor and a master's degree in 1989 from Duke University and her B.A. in 1983 from Princeton University.

Judge Robin Rosenberg has the support of Senator RUBIO and myself, and was found to be unanimously qualified by the American Bar Association.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robin L. Rosenberg, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	
Franken	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF JOHN W. DEGRAVELLES TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the deGravelles nomination.

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John W. deGravelles, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana?

Mr. BLUNT. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Ex.]

YEAS—100

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murphy
Ayotte	Graham	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Paul
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reid
Booker	Heller	Risch
Boozman	Hirono	Roberts
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cantwell	Johanns	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Carper	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Casey	Kaine	Sessions
Chambliss	King	Shaheen
Coats	Kirk	Shelby
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Coons	Lee	Toomey
Corker	Levin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Markey	Vitter
Cruz	McCain	Walsh
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden
Flake	Moran	
Franken	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BRING JOBS HOME ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I see several other colleagues on the floor. I wish to speak for about 3 minutes on behalf of the nominee who was just confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEGRAVELLES NOMINATION

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it is truly my distinct privilege to be able to speak on behalf of John Weadon deGravelles, a nominee for the Middle District Court in Louisiana. I am very gratified that my colleagues gave him a very strong vote of approval—a unanimous vote—just a few minutes ago. President Obama nominated Mr. deGravelles earlier this year, and I am very pleased I was joined by Senator VITTER, my colleague from Louisiana, in recommending him for his confirmation today.

He is affectionately known to his friends and family as Johnny. He has the support of a wide cross section of community leaders in Louisiana, and that support is based on an extraordinarily impressive scholarship he received to attend college at Louisiana State University, where he majored in sociology and received his juris doctorate from the law school. He excelled

academically and has practiced law now for decades but is still fondly remembered as an extraordinary student.

After graduating from LSU, he served as a clerk at the firm Due & Dodson in Baton Rouge and would later become a partner in that firm. He is now practicing under his own name at deGravelles, Palmintier, Holthaus & Fruge.

As a partner in his well-established firm in Baton Rouge, he has honed his skills as one of the region's most capable litigators in both Federal and State court.

In addition to his work as a lawyer, respected by a broad cross section of leaders, he also taught for 20 years at both Tulane Law School and Louisiana State University. He is very popular, I understand, as a teacher. He is always open to students and his advice is sought after on a regular basis.

He is a very active member of a variety of bar associations, including the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Louisiana State Bar. He was admitted to practice, of course, in the U.S. District Courts for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of Louisiana, the Southern District of Texas, the Fifth, Sixth, and Eleventh U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has practiced for literally decades in front of the Federal bench.

He has also been recognized for his outstanding leadership by very distinguished organizations, including the Louisiana Trial Bar, the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, and the Council for a Better Louisiana.

He has written dozens and dozens of articles for legal publication. He is a sought-after speaker for seminars throughout the country.

Our former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana—also the first woman chief justice—Kitty Kimball described Johnny as ''an exceptional lawyer who enjoys the respect of both bench and bar.''

I think one of the most important aspects of his background is that after the devastating storms of Rita and Katrina in 2005, Mr. deGravelles was one of the real champions in helping to set up the Louisiana Association for Justice Hurricane Relief Committee which assisted many displaced attorneys who had no place to practice, clients who were distributed all over the country, and courthouses that were closed—to help the wheels of justice move forward during that very difficult time of upheaval and destruction.

I have every confidence Mr. deGravelles will serve the people of the Middle District as a fair, wise, and very experienced lawyer who will serve as a judge.

I am very proud that this body voted so overwhelmingly in favor of his confirmation today. I know his wife Jan is extremely proud of him, and he and Jan are proud of both children who followed in their father's footsteps. Kate and Neil are both practicing attorneys in Louisiana.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a piece of commonsense legislation the Senate is preparing to consider this week. The bill, which is called the Bring Jobs Home Act, sets out to do just what that name implies—bring good-paying jobs back to America.

Our Tax Code has a fundamental flaw. Right now a U.S. company can decide to cut American jobs, move them overseas, and then claim those expenses as a tax deduction, thereby lowering the amount of taxes the company pays.

If a company decides to move 75 good-paying U.S. manufacturing jobs overseas, not only do we lose good American jobs, but taxpayers in Colorado and West Virginia and throughout the country are footing the bill for the cost of killing those jobs. American taxpayers literally get billed for the cost of shipping jobs overseas.

I don't think it is right to reward companies for cutting American jobs, and I don't think it is right to ask taxpayers to subsidize the cost of moving those jobs overseas. That is why I am cosponsoring the Bring Jobs Home Act in an effort to provide better incentives for U.S. businesses to bring good-paying jobs back to our country and keep them here. Our country is at its best when we produce here in America.

Simply put, the Bring Jobs Home Act is about looking out for the best interest of Coloradans and not the bottom lines of corporations that want to ship their jobs to places such as China and India.

What is best about this legislation is that not only would it end taxpayer subsidies for outsourcing, it would take the money that is saved and invest it in America by offering a 20-percent tax credit for businesses that decide to bring jobs back to the United States.

This legislation is one piece of a larger conversation Congress ought to have about what the Tax Code should look like in the 21st century economy. What are the values it should reflect? What are the incentives it should provide? These are important questions we need to answer, and the Bring Jobs Home Act is an initial step to achieve fair and reasonable reform.

I have been a long-time proponent of tax reform to streamline and simplify the Federal Tax Code because I am convinced—as I believe the Presiding Officer is—that the certainty and predictability it will create will lead to job growth in our country.

Last week Colorado reported that its unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, the lowest since 2008. But we can do more, and this bill is one of the best places to start.

So let's join together and support this commonsense legislation so that we can reward companies that restore and create made-in-America jobs—jobs that shore up our economy and bolster our global competitiveness.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to make my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE DYSFUNCTION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the unique and essential role of the Senate in our constitutional system of government. In doing so, I am of course addressing the American people whom we all serve, but my message today is intended especially for my colleagues in this body.

I had the honor of serving here for more than three decades with one of my closest and dearest friends, the late Ted Kennedy. Our friendship inevitably invited others to describe us as the Senate's odd couple given the vast differences in our backgrounds and our outlooks and because of the many fights we had on the floor as well as the many successes we had together. But my friendship with Teddy flourished, as did our legislative partnerships. Even with polar-opposite political philosophies, we were able to find significant areas of mutual agreement, and we both maintained a great affection for the Senate—an institution to which we had each devoted most of our adult lives.

Toward the end of his life, as Teddy suffered through the terrible affliction that eventually took him from us, he watched his beloved Senate with growing concern. He observed a growing dysfunction beginning to overcome this body. He believed this institution, which he loved so dearly, was breaking down. The man rightly described as the liberal lion of the Senate concluded that this body was no longer working as it must.

My friend Teddy was right, and the Senate has only gotten worse since he diagnosed its ills several years ago. The Senate is more dysfunctional today than at any other point during my nearly four decades as a Member of this body.

I am not alone in this assessment. Former colleagues from both political parties—from Chris Dodd to Olympia Snowe—have spoken out with great passion about the breakdown of the Senate as an institution. It would be hard to find a current Member of this body who, in moments of honest reflection, did not feel as if the Senate is in many respects broken.

Most importantly, the American public has lost faith in this body and largely views the Senate as an institution characterized by dysfunction. To say that today Congress is held in low esteem is an understatement. Our approval rating ranges from the teens to the single digits. One survey found that the public has a higher opinion of

brussel sprouts, root canals, and used car salesmen than of Congress. In many respects, this popular assessment is justified. Throughout my 38 years of service in this body, I have never seen it this bad.

For the sake of our country and the well-being of our fellow citizens, we must restore order and function to the Senate so we can fulfill our constitutional responsibilities and once again conduct the people's business.

In reflecting on the past four decades in the Senate, I have come to realize that I possess an increasingly unique perspective. I have been in the majority for a total of 16 years and in the minority for a total of 22 years. I have served in this body with eight different majority leaders, four Republicans and four Democrats. By contrast, the majority of my colleagues—56, to be precise—have served in the Senate only during the tenure of the current majority leader. Nearly as many have served alongside only the current President. These numbers will increase in the coming months with the retirement of six of our senior colleagues and the potential electoral defeat of others.

To my colleagues who as a matter of firsthand experience don't know anything different, let me say this: The Senate has not always been as dysfunctional as it is today. Quite the opposite. Until recently, this Chamber often lived up to its reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body. We regularly worked together in an orderly and constructive fashion to advance the common good, and we routinely defended our institutional prerogatives against executive encroachment. Unfortunately, none of that is true of the Senate today.

I intend to speak in greater detail later this week about what I believe ails the Senate and how we can restore the health and dignity of this venerable institution. But to understand where we have come from and just how far we have strayed, we must begin at the beginning.

Remarking on the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention, James Madison wisely observed that in determining the form the Senate should take, it was necessary to consider the purposes it would serve. The Framers were clear about these objectives. The Senate was to serve as a necessary fence against what they described as the fickleness and passion that drives popular pressure for hasty and ill-considered lawmaking—what Edward Randolph called ''the turbulence and follies of democracy.'' In fulfilling this purpose, the Senate was to be a place of thoughtful deliberation, an assembly dedicated to careful scrutiny, and a body with great concern for the sovereign States and the individual liberties of all Americans. These were to be the purpose of the Senate. Its institutional design followed directly from these principles.

The relatively small membership of the Senate would amplify the importance of each individual Senator as opposed to Chamber leaders or large voting blocs. Unlike in the House of Representatives, where robust participation by individual Members would be impossibly cumbersome, in this body each Senator could become intimately involved in all aspects of the Chamber's deliberation and debate. Longer terms would allow Senators to resist initially popular but ultimately unwise legislation and allow for vindication of this more measured approach prior to facing reelection. Staggered terms would create a continuing body that could temper unwieldy swings of public passion. Statewide constituencies would require appealing to a broader set of interests than more narrow and homogenous House districts.

In addition, the Senate's authority to determine its own rules would allow the gradual development of traditions and precedents unique to this body and essential to its ends. Building upon the Constitution's defining institutional contours, these historic rules and traditions have shaped the Senate into a body that Gladstone called ''the most remarkable of all of the inventions of modern politics.''

The Senate's most characteristic operating procedure became unanimous consent, which requires the agreement of not just a majority or even a supermajority but of all Senators.

As Senate Parliamentarian emeritus Robert Dove testified before the Rules Committee in April of 2010, the two key features that have come to define to Senate through its history are ''the right of its members to unlimited debate and the right to offer amendments practically without limit.'' With these historic rules and defining modes of operation—unlimited debate and amendments—the Senate rightfully earned the title of the world's greatest deliberative body.

In his 1897 farewell address, the first Adlai Stevenson, then Vice President, captured the essence of the Senate:

> In this Chamber alone are preserved without restraint two essentials of wise legislation and good government: the right of amendment and of debate. Great evils often result from hasty legislation; [but] rarely from the delay which follows full discussion and deliberation.

Stevenson went on to locate in the Senate's time-honored rules and traditions the very foundation of our Republic:

> The historic Senate—preserving the unrestricted right of amendment and debate, maintaining intact the time-honored parliamentary methods and amenities which unfailingly secure action after deliberation—possesses in our scheme of government a value which cannot be measured by words.

In keeping with its institutional design and longstanding traditions throughout most of its history, the Senate has engaged in robust discussion and meaningful debate rather than being dominated by partisan grandstanding and cheap political theater; the Senate has sought to chart a path toward the common good rather than simply messaging to particular interests or serving narrow constituencies; the Senate has acted to cultivate common cause and has enabled constructive compromises and accommodations to advance national priorities even during times of great ideological division; and throughout the Senate's history, individual Members have worked to develop meaningful and enduring partnerships with colleagues on both sides of the aisle rather than marching lockstep with their respective parties and simply heightening the divisions in society.

This institution has served the Nation well when adhering to its enduring principles and characteristic practices. Indeed, for most of the last four decades, as I have witnessed firsthand, the Senate's robust deliberation and open amendment process has facilitated and enabled some of the greatest legislative achievements of the modern era.

One of the most historic of such debates in which I took part occurred in my fifth year as a Senator. President Reagan took office in 1981 facing enormous challenges—stagflation, out-of-control spending, a crushing tax burden, and an underfunded military. His first legislative priority was to cut marginal tax rates, restrain Federal spending, and bolster our national defense. As part of the vanguard of the Reagan revolution in the Senate, I steadfastly supported these policies and campaigned tirelessly to enact these landmark reforms.

In the Democrat-controlled House, the drama unfolded predictably between party leadership and various voting blocs, with conservative Democrats eventually joining Republicans to support what became the Gramm-Latta budget. But in the Republican-majority Senate, while debate was equally passionate, our deliberation was of a very different sort. We discussed many of the legislative provisions at length and voted on dozens of amendments from Senators of both parties covering a wide range of subjects. Many were tough votes on heart-wrenching issues—from child nutrition to cost-of-living adjustments for seniors—but we took those tough votes and ultimately made the difficult choices necessary to usher in unprecedented economic growth.

By allowing numerous votes on minority amendments, Democrats received the hearing they deserved on the issues about which they cared most, and having had the opportunity to fight for their causes, many of these Senators rightly felt they had done everything possible to improve the underlying bill. So when it came to final passage, the Senate's budget passed overwhelmingly by a vote of 88 to 10.

Given the nature of the reforms, that margin was striking. It demonstrates that the opportunity for extended deliberation and an open amendment process tends to yield a final product that can win broad support by giving Members confidence that the ultimate

result represents the considered judgment of the whole Senate.

From the perspective of committed conservatives such as President Reagan and myself, the final amended Senate bill was far from ideal. In the end, while we won support for the tax cuts that spurred growth and for the defense buildup that helped win the Cold War, we could not convince Congress to make meaningful cuts to Federal spending or even to restrain the growth of Federal spending. But to have opposed the final package because it wasn't perfect, because it only achieved some of our goals, would have been madness. Absent passage of the final bill's reforms, the central accomplishments of the Reagan years would never have come to fruition.

In reflecting on how the Senate can and should work, let me also commend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. I am struck by the similarities between the 1996 election and the 2012 election when voters reelected a Democrat to the White House and a Republican majority to the House. Back then, both sides understood the voters' mandate to seek areas of agreement and develop consensus wherever possible—in short, to set aside partisanship and work together for the common good on the critical issues of the day.

Republicans wanted significant tax cuts and spending controls that many Democrats opposed. Democrats—led by my friend Senator Kennedy—had for years sought an expansion of health care to uninsured children who neither qualified for Medicaid nor had families who could afford health coverage. The debate that transpired over these measures seems almost foreign in today's Senate. Rather than being presented with a final bill as a fait accompli, we had a truly deliberative committee process, a meaningful floor debate, and the opportunity to vote on numerous amendments.

Ted Kennedy and I used the opportunity of an open process to make a key step toward consensus. Teddy was wise enough to realize that I shared his desire to provide health care for uninsured kids who were in need, and I recognized that he was open to innovative means of delivering that care and did not insist on an inflexible, big government bureaucracy to control it. Together, we crafted an amendment that created the State Children's Health Insurance Program—fully paid for, with flexible means of delivery and true State authority over the program. SCHIP is not beloved by ideological purists, especially on the right. But I believe its approach is fully compatible with my conservative principles and a model for a basic, efficient social safety net run by the States.

More importantly, our partnership on this issue demonstrates how the Senate ought to work. This Chamber provides a unique environment—its constructive character, its respect for individual Senators' participation in the legislative process, its forum for thoughtful deliberation, and its open amendment process. Without these, we could never have passed SCHIP and the larger 1997 budget—that was a budget compromise—of which it was a part.

The same is true of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which has since served to safeguard fundamental individual liberties, and the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, which is arguably the most important law enforcement measure of the last half century, and so many other landmark accomplishments of the Senate during my time here.

I am proud to have played a role in shaping each of these laws—as part of a constructive legislative process that was possible only as a direct result of the Senate's longstanding rules and traditions. Without this body's characteristic structure and mode of operation, which facilitates meaningful deliberation and ultimate cooperation between diverse viewpoints, such legislative achievements could never have occurred.

Throughout its history, the Senate has advanced the common good—not simply through refining public opinion and translating it into well-considered legislation but also because this body has defended its institutional prerogatives and essential role in our system of constitutional government.

Senators of both political parties have often stood up to executive encroachment—not for partisan gain or political grandstanding but in defense of Congress as a coordinate and coequal branch of government with its own essential authorities and responsibilities.

Implicit in the constitutional design of separating the Federal Government's powers is the idea that each branch would have the incentive and authority to resist encroachments from the other branches, ensuring that unfettered power is not concentrated in any one set of hands.

The Founders recognized this as indispensable to preserving the individual liberty of all citizens. For as Madison counseled in Federalist 51: ''[T]he greatest security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others.''

Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia embodied this institutional ideal as much as anyone with whom I have served. Although he helped lead this body for more than a half century and left us just 4 short years ago, I was surprised and dismayed to learn that a full third of current Members never served alongside him.

Senator Byrd fiercely defended this body's prerogatives and independence against the encroachments of the executive branch. And he neither censored his criticisms nor weakened his defenses based on the President's political party. Even in his twilight years, when President Obama took office with extraordinarily high approval ratings, Senator Byrd was willing to hold the new President's feet to the fire to defend the Senate's right to give advice and consent to nominees.

He publicly chastised the new White House for its excessive reliance on czars, observing that unconfirmed policy chieftains ''can threaten the Constitutional system of checks and balances. At the worst, White House staff have taken direction and control of programmatic areas that are the statutory responsibility of Senate-confirmed officials.''

In addition to defending the Senate against executive encroachments, Senator Byrd was a stalwart defender of the Senate's most characteristic and historic features. He regularly spoke to newly elected Senators, admonishing each of us before we even took office to learn about the body to which we had been elected and in which we would serve. Senator Byrd was as good as anyone I have ever known at explaining the direct connection between the design of the Senate and the liberty that all Americans cherish.

In November 1996, for example, when speaking to the incoming freshman Senators, he stressed the two most critical and distinguishing features of the Senate's operation. Like so many other students of the Senate, he steadfastly maintained that ''as long as the Senate retains the power to amend and the power of unlimited debate, the liberties of the people will remain secure.'' That was Robert C. Byrd, one of the leading Democrats of all time. Throughout his time in this body, Senator Byrd never abandoned this message. He stood up for the Senate's defining characteristics, no matter which party was in the majority and no matter who occupied the Oval Office. He even took on his own President from time to time.

A few months before his death in 2010, he wrote to his colleagues identifying the right to amend and the right to debate as ''essential to the protection of the liberties of a free people.''

We need a renewed dedication to the special role of the Senate and its institutional prerogatives that Senator Byrd exemplified so well. He was right to counsel incoming colleagues to ''study the Senate in its institutional context, because that is the best way to understand your personal role as a United States Senator . . . [Y]ou must find the time to reflect, to study, to read, and, especially, to understand the absolutely critically important institutional role of the Senate.''

Many of my colleagues—even those with whom I rarely agree—have the potential to be great Senators and statesmen: worthy stewards of this institution, zealous guardians of its prerogatives, and true defenders of its role in our constitutional system of government.

But, sadly, whether blinded by partisan loyalty to the President or too inexperienced to understand the Senate

from any other perspective than having a like-minded Senate majority and President, too many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have allowed—even facilitated—the breakdown of the Senate's vital institutions and role.

From our right to debate and amend through regular order, to our role giving advice and consent to the President's nominees, the Senate has emasculated itself. By doing so, we only abandon our responsibilities, discard our authorities, and lay ourselves prostrate before a politically destructive President.

It is past time to restore the Senate's rightful place in our constitutional order. I urge my colleagues—both Democrats and Republicans—to join me, to stand and fight for the greatness of this body and start standing for the rights and the powers of the legislative branch. That is what we are here to do, in addition to enacting good laws. But you cannot enact really great laws without full and fair debate, without full and fair right to amendments. This is a great body, but it has gone downhill a long way over the last number of years. No President deserves total fealty by this body or by his or her party Members in this body.

All I can say is, it is time for us to start acting like the Senate. It is time for us to have full and fair debate. It is time for us to have open amendments. And that goes for Democrats and Republicans.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about something that I think we should all be able to agree on; that is, every American—every American worker—deserves a fair shot to get ahead. One of the great things about our country is that has been a fundamental value or belief, and we need to make sure that value still holds in America right now: If you work hard, you have a chance to have your fair shot to get ahead.

American workers are the best in the world. I can tell you that coming from Michigan, where we make things and grow things, and I am very proud of it. They can outcompete anyone and will win in a fair fight. Unfortunately, too often the fight is not fair today. We see a tax system that is really rigged against jobs in America too many times, and we need to fix that.

Right now our Tax Code contains a shocking loophole that forces taxpayers to foot the bill when companies move jobs overseas. I think most Americans would say: What? Say that again. Companies are packing up and leaving the country, and the Tax Code is rewarding it and we are paying for it?

Workers are forced to pay to ship their own jobs overseas to China or Mexico or other places around the world, and that is something that is very difficult to understand and believe.

Not only do you get laid off, but then you turn around and through your taxes, through tax writeoffs, you are forced to pay for sending your own job overseas. Communities see a factory close, and through their taxes they end up paying for that empty factory in the community. Of course, we have seen way too many in Michigan. Our country sees that.

This is outrageous. It is long past due to end. The good news is we have a chance to fix it tomorrow together on a bipartisan basis. I hope we will have 100 votes of people saying: We want to proceed to the Bring Jobs Home Act.

I want to thank Senator WALSH from Montana for taking the lead. He has very specific stories to tell about what has happened in Montana. Senator MARK PRYOR from Arkansas is the same—very passionate about this. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to join with them as we lead this effort to stand with American businesses that want to stay in America, and workers, families, and communities, and that we send a very strong message about what we think our Tax Code should incentivize by passing the Bring Jobs Home Act. We will have a chance to do that tomorrow.

It is very simple. It closes an outrageous tax loophole that forces taxpayers to foot the bill for companies that move job overseas and replaces it with a tax cut that rewards companies for coming home. In the great State of Michigan we make things. We have always done that. It is part of our identity and our source of pride. It is the backbone of who we are. It is the backbone of the middle class, quite frankly. I do not think we would have a middle class unless we made things and grew things, which is what we do in Michigan. I know that is done in West Virginia and around the country. It is certainly what has created the middle class of this country.

But here is what we have seen, because of a number of things. One of those is the Tax Code that does not make sense in terms of keeping jobs here. Between 2000 and 2009, in the last 10 years, 2.4 million jobs were shipped overseas. We have a lot of different ways we want to turn that around. In fact, it is being turned around for a number of reasons now. We are beginning to see them come back. But 2.4 million jobs shipped overseas.

To add insult to injury, the American taxpayers were asked to foot the bill. That is just the bottom line. So what you see is people who have worked all of their lives for a paycheck get a pink slip instead. They played by the rules, but they were left on the sidelines. The company takes the jobs overseas and gets a tax break for shipping jobs overseas.

When the Tax Code creates incentives to ship jobs overseas, it is a sign there is something seriously wrong. We have an opportunity to fix it. It starts tomorrow. Our Chair of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN from Oregon, believes this as fiercely as I do, that we need to fix this. I am so proud to be a part of his committee. I know he is committed to making our system more competitive in a global economy. We need to do that. But right now we can close a tax loophole. We have to close a tax loophole so we can stop the flow of jobs going overseas. That is the least we can do. In fact, we should be adding to this first step by stop paying for the move.

We ought to be closing the loophole that allows folks to act as though they are moving on paper, an inversion, when they do not actually move the plant. We ought to be focusing instead on how we are all in this ship together in America paying our fair share and moving the country forward, creating jobs, opportunity, strengthening the middle class.

We still have more jobs leaving than coming back, but we do have a number of companies that are doing the right thing. We need to support them. The smart thing they are doing is bringing jobs back. They are bringing them back to Michigan and to States all across the country. We say welcome back and we say thank you. We should reward these companies. For those companies that are still on the fence about whether to bring jobs back to America, we should help them make up their minds by giving them new tax incentives.

The Bring Jobs Home Act will not only end the practice of allowing companies to deduct the expenses of sending a job overseas, it will also allow companies coming back to deduct their expenses and give them an additional 20-percent tax credit for the cost of bringing jobs back.

This is very simple. Stop the subsidy that is paying for shipping our jobs overseas. Allow the tax writeoff to bring jobs back. Add to it an additional tax cut of 20 percent in order to be able to support our companies that are doing the right thing.

We have got a lot of examples of companies doing the right thing right now. For example, Whirlpool realized it needed to respond more quickly to customer requests in the United States and Canada, so they moved their washing machine manufacturing operations back from Mexico and Germany into Ohio.

GE used to make its hybrid water heater in China. The company needed to trim international shipping costs and wanted more control of the product. They brought manufacturing of appliances back to the United States.

But we are not just talking about manufacturing jobs, which of course

are so very important. Again, GE realized it needed the kind of IT engineering talent it could only find in Michigan. So work that was being done in India is now being done in Van Buren Township in Michigan, as they brought jobs home.

We know that because of the explosion in natural gas and the current low prices, this is an incentive. I want to thank the Presiding Officer for his understanding of that and the importance of supporting American manufacturing, American businesses. We have a number of advantages right now to bring jobs home, to create jobs in America, including not only low energy costs but the finest workers in the world.

We have creative minds with new ideas and hard work and innovation at university labs, and public research and public-private partnerships that are going on, forging technology, empowering world-class innovation. So there is a lot we can be proud of. Manufacturing is, in fact, coming back.

I am proud that part of that is we stood with our American automobile industry at a time when they needed America to be with them and keep manufacturing jobs.

More than 12 million Americans are working in manufacturing today. We created 7,000 new manufacturing jobs in Michigan last month alone. So we have the right policies. We can continue to keep that going. We are at such a tipping point. We are in a situation where we are saying: Okay, you can write off the move; hey, you do not even have to move; you can just change the paperwork, going through these changes of the inversion, and still get all of the benefits of America: the cleanest air and water, and our innovation, education, and roads, and all of the things that are great about America but you are allowed to just change the paperwork and avoid contributing as Americans, to strengthening and being a part of our country.

We are at a tipping point. We have to make some changes that make it very clear whose side we are on. If we want everybody to have a fair shot, part of that is starting with a Tax Code that actually incentivizes a fair shot, not a system that is rigged against the people going to work every day, working hard, trying to get ahead, playing by the rules, all of that which we have grown up believing was the right thing to do in America. We have to make sure the Tax Code reflects the right values and the right policies.

So we are at a point now where we need to put in place the Bring Jobs Home Act. That is going to nudge some of those companies. We need to make some other changes that are going to make it very clear that we want and are committed to jobs in America, manufacturing in America, IT innovation in America, all the other work we can do so well.

You know, if we do not speed this up, at the current rate of jobs coming home, it is going to take us 100 years to bring back all of the jobs we have lost throughout this time. We can do better than that. We have to do better than that. The good news is, we have the power to speed up this process by putting in place the right policies, giving the companies that want to do the right thing the right incentives, the incentives to bring jobs home.

It is time for our Tax Code to stop working against workers, families, communities, and the businesses that are in America, and start working for Americans, for the American middle class. It is smart tax policy we are talking about. I think it is plain old common sense. People in Michigan kind of look at this and go: Why are you even debating this? Why do you have to have a motion about proceeding to this bill? Why is that not something everyone agrees to on a voice vote? People cannot believe we are doing this in our Tax Code. So this is a very important step. We can do this on a bipartisan basis.

I know we have colleagues who are concerned about what is happening on both sides of the aisle. Now is the time to show we can come together and make sure we have the jobs we want for our children and our grandchildren, the next generation. I hope we see an overwhelming bipartisan vote tomorrow.

I cannot think of a single reason why anybody would be opposed to the Bring Jobs Home Act. Why would anyone be opposed to giving every American a fair shot, giving every worker a fair shot to a good job and the ability to care for their families and get ahead? A strong bipartisan vote would send a wonderful message that we can work together, that we get it, that this country will not succeed if it is just about a privileged few and everybody else losing ground, losing the grip to the middle class or having no chance to get into the middle class.

This is an opportunity, with our vote tomorrow, to not only bring jobs home but support the American middle class.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 60th anniversary of a Rhode Island institution, the Newport Jazz Festival. At this time, I wish to yield to my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE for his reflections on the Newport Jazz Festival. After he speaks, I will give my statement on this remarkable Rhode Island event. I yield now to my colleague.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I am delighted that Senator REED organized for the two of us to come down to the floor today.

Newport, RI, is a venue for many wonderful and remarkable events, from the America's Cup of the old day, to the Volvo Around the World ocean races now, to the Newport Folk Festival, and, of course, what we are here to celebrate today is the Newport Jazz Festival, celebrating its 60th anniversary.

Since 1954, this festival has provided generations of Rhode Islanders and visitors with the opportunity to experience some of the world's finest jazz music, and it has brought countless visitors to our Ocean State to witness these performances and enjoy our other great Rhode Island beaches and other amenities.

The Newport Jazz Festival began as the brainchild of Elaine and Lewis Lorillard, who financed the first festival as a way to bring some outdoor excitement and activity to Newport in the summer. In what would become a historic partnership, they reached out to George Wein, a Boston jazz club owner, to help them organize the event. Their creation became one of the first dedicated jazz festivals in the United States and ultimately came to shape the genre in ways they never could have anticipated.

The first festival was held on July 17 and 18, 1954, and included some of the finest performers ever to grace the stage, including Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Dizzy Gillespie. Held at the Newport Casino in Newport's Bellevue Avenue Historic District, that first festival included outdoor performances that allowed attendees to sit on the lawn and enjoy a beautiful Rhode Island summer day while reveling in the music. The event garnered national media attention, and it drew over 13,000 people to Newport on its very first start.

In the 60 years since that first festival, Newport has served as the backdrop for some of the most notable performances in the history of jazz. It was at the Newport Jazz Festival that Miles Davis first introduced the world to what would become known as hard bop jazz, mixing in sounds from the blues and gospel music. Duke Ellington's performance at the 1956 festival of ''Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue'' is considered one of the greatest single performances in the history of jazz and revitalized Ellington's career. A number of performances at the festival have gone on to be released as independent albums, including acts from Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Nina Simone, and Miles Davis. The list of legendary performances goes on, with every year bringing a new crop of inventive jazz musicians to put their own mark on the festival's history and on their original art form.

Since his original partnering with the Lorillards in 1953, George Wein has gone on to replicate his success in Newport throughout the country, while maintaining Rhode Island's event as

the flagship in the industry. He will do so again this year, still going strong as he closes in on his 89th birthday.

Under his leadership, on Friday, August 1, Newport will welcome thousands of eager music lovers looking to hear the best performers in modern jazz. The ticket this year includes Wynton Marsalis, Trombone Shorty, David Sanborn, and many others.

Additionally, in commemoration of this 60th anniversary, the festival will for the first time run for 3 full days, with shows lasting through the weekend.

The festival no longer takes place at the Newport Casino, as it has outgrown that original home and it has expanded to three stages that are set up on Narragansett Bay at the historic Fort Adams State Park, looking out on the Newport Bridge and the East Passage, with the ships sailing by. However, the Newport Jazz Festival still provides guests with the same opportunity it did 60 years ago to come and enjoy the Rhode Island summer and hear up close some of the finest jazz in the world.

I join my senior colleague Senator REED in applauding the city of Newport for its outstanding commitment to the arts, and I thank so many dedicated individuals who have worked so hard over those 60 years to keep this wonderful tradition alive. I look forward to another 60 years of amazing jazz in Rhode Island. I once again thank my senior Senator for organizing us to be on the floor together for this recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his eloquent remarks about the jazz festival, which is a great Rhode Island institution. Indeed, it is a great American invention.

The Newport Jazz Festival owes its beginnings to the vision and financial backing of Elaine and Louis Lorillard, who in 1954 wanted to do something with jazz in their community in Newport. Through their collaboration with George Wein, a jazz pianist and club owner with a vision, the jazz festival was born. Today the festival has grown to be one of the largest and most well-known jazz festivals in the Nation—indeed, I would say the world—attracting a whole new generation of artists and music fans. It also helped pave the way for the creation of the Newport Folk Festival—another pillar of the music festival community.

George Wein, in producing the Newport Jazz Festival, did not set out to change the world; he set out to make great music. But, as history has shown, great music and great art can change the world. What George Wein did over many summers was produce something more than extraordinary festivals; he produced the soundtrack of freedom for a generation of Americans.

Since its founding, the Newport Jazz Festival has seen an eclectic range of performers—emerging and established—many at the peak of their art—all embellishing their credentials through their performances. From Duke Ellington, to Frank Sinatra, to Led Zeppelin, the Newport Jazz Festival has seen them all. Its ongoing mission is to celebrate jazz music and to make the case for its relevance.

The 60th anniversary festival stays true to its core mission. It will kick off on August 1, 2014, and is scheduled to feature a variety of talent over 3 days, including Wynton Marsalis playing with the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Trombone Shorty, and Dr. John. It will also include one musician who played at the inaugural Newport Jazz Festival, Lee Konitz.

Newport continues to attract top-notch performers and is still a must-see event for jazz and music aficionados alike.

I would also like to recognize the impact the Newport Jazz Festival has had and continues to have in our great State of Rhode Island. Each year, the thousands who flock to Newport to witness the festival also have an opportunity to experience the treasure of a Rhode Island summer. In this way the Newport Jazz Festival has served as a major source of tourism—an important industry for our State—and should be viewed as a model for other communities to follow.

I am proud to call the Newport Jazz Festival a home State event. On this milestone anniversary, I wish to congratulate my dear friend George Wein, the festival board, and all those who have worked and those who continue to work to put this outstanding event forward each year. Best wishes on a successful 60th anniversary festival and for continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 510, submitted earlier today by Senator WHITEHOUSE and me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 510) congratulating the Newport Jazz Festival on its 60th anniversary.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REED. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 510) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. REED. I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER CRISIS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a pressing issue—really, a crisis, and I don't use that word lightly—of some 52,000 unaccompanied alien children streaming across our southern border with Mexico, coming into our country, and that number is continuing to grow. In fact, the Obama administration itself says that number could reach 90,000 or more by the end of the fiscal year on October 1—in just a few months.

Again, this is a crisis on many levels. It is a border crises. It is a national security crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis. It is a fiscal issue for our country. It is a very serious situation.

I talked about it on the floor last week and laid out, broadly speaking, the policy response I think we need to have so this flow does not continue to grow. Today I come back to the floor, and I wish to speak about two things—specifics I have learned about how this crisis is specifically affecting Louisiana. I am really concerned about that. I am sure every Member here is concerned about the direct impact on their State.

No. 2, there is legislation I have introduced to directly respond to this crisis. Again, it is a real crisis.

In Louisiana, just in the last week or so, I have learned a number of specifics that are significant and continue to raise my concerns. I wrote the Secretary of Homeland Security asking a number of detailed questions some time ago, including about impacts on Louisiana. Unfortunately, I have heard nothing from the Department. I have received no response yet to that letter. I will follow up and get a response. In the meantime, these are specifics I am hearing from other reliable sources:

First of all, the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, LA, has been apparently contacted by the Department of Homeland Security about locating space for the housing of illegal minors—setting up a camp, a facility specifically for that. No Member of our delegation was contacted. I had asked specific questions about any activity impacting Louisiana. I wasn't told, but they were contacted directly.

This isn't happening. It is impractical. It can't happen at the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum. They have many commitments and a lot of things they need to do there. So I don't think there is any chance of this sort of detention facility being set up there. But they were contacted.

In addition, there are thousands of new ICE cases regarding unaccompanied alien children. First of all, before the current crisis began there was a backlog of these UAC cases being sent to Louisiana with family members or sponsors. So there is a backlog of about 2,000 cases. Apparently, since

this crisis started developing in the last several months, we have 1,259 new juvenile cases for Louisiana alone. That is a significant number for a State the size of Louisiana.

We believe these are folks being sent through the Chicago detention facility to be united with family members or other sponsors in Louisiana. Again, this is exactly the sort of thing I had asked the Department of Homeland Security about. I haven't received any response to my letter. I haven't received any official formal response to my specific questions. We have had to learn this through other sources, talking to some ICE officials and others directly. This is really concerning. If this is going on in Louisiana, this is going on in every State of the country, and it underscores what a serious situation and in fact a crisis on many different levels this is.

That is why last week I introduced legislation to try to address this very serious situation, this border crisis. I introduced S. 2632 to address specifically the UAC issue. I will outline broadly what it will do.

Broadly speaking, it will make sure we detain these individuals, don't release them to relatives, family members, sponsors—don't release them out into society but detain them, and have a much quicker, more efficient process for deporting them and returning them to their home countries. Specifically, we would have mandatory detention of all unaccompanied alien children—UACs—upon apprehension.

No. 2, we would amend TVPRA to bring parity between UACs from contiguous and noncontiguous countries. As most Senators know, we have a more streamlined, workable process for unaccompanied alien children from contiguous countries—namely, Mexico as well as Canada—but it is much more of an issue with Mexico. We would bring noncontiguous countries—Central and South American countries apart from Mexico—into the same category and treat those aliens the same way.

Third, those UACs that do not voluntarily depart—which is part of the process dealing with Mexican UACs—will be immediately placed in a streamlined removal process and detained by the Department of Homeland Security. Currently, UACs are transferred to HHS and their Office of Refugee Resettlement, where they, quite frankly, disappear into the United States. They are reunited with parents or sponsors living in the United States, often illegally. What that means as a practical matter is they essentially disappear into our country.

Fourth, anyone with gang affiliations, whether those affiliations are renounced or not, will be immediately placed in expedited removal proceedings under INA 235(b). Therefore, that would make them ineligible for asylum status.

Fifth, we would raise the standard for asylum determinations, from a standard where it is now ''credible fear,'' which is extremely subjective and, quite frankly, a standard that is too easy for these folks to meet, simply by repeating the right magic words which they learn about as they come here. We would raise that standard from ''credible fear'' to ''substantiated fear of persecution.''

Sixth, within 72 hours of an initial screening, all UACs found not to have a claim for asylum will be given a final removal order and placed on the next available flight to their home country, subject to determinations of cost, feasibility, and any repatriation agreements with their home country.

Seventh, a final order of removal is not subject to review and sets, as a minimum, a 10-year bar to reentry.

Eighth, upon apprehension, biometric data—including, but not limited to, photographs and fingerprints—will be collected for future enforcement use.

Ninth, and finally, the Department of Homeland Security will report annually to Congress on the number of apprehensions, the number of removals, the number of voluntary departures, et cetera. And specifically, in no event shall a voluntary departure be counted as a deportation.

Now, what does all this mean? It is a very detailed bill. We put great time and effort into the specifics of the legislation. We need to get the specifics right. But what does it mean? It means we are stopping catch and release. It means we are stopping simply releasing these folks out into the country, to family members or to sponsors, where they are usually never heard from again. They don't show up for court dates and they don't respond to any enforcement actions. Catch and release is a complete failure because it essentially means being released in the country for an extended period of time, and it means we retain control and detention and then have a quick, efficient process for removing them from the country. That is the only way we will stem this increasing flow—still increasing. The number of unaccompanied alien children is still mounting and mounting and mounting.

I called this a crisis at the beginning of my remarks, and it is. It is a crisis on many different levels. It is a border crisis, it is a law enforcement crisis, and it is a fiscal issue. As many folks have correctly said—particularly on the left—it is a humanitarian crisis.

The biggest threat to these individuals in humanitarian terms is the fact that they are entrusted and put in the hands of outright criminal gangs, often drug lords and drug gangs, coyotes—folks who do not have their best interests in mind, and very often in that process they are abused in multiple ways. That is a humanitarian travesty and it is a humanitarian crisis.

The problem is we have a policy right now that encourages that treatment and allows for those numbers to grow and not to be brought back down to zero. We need a different policy that discourages and stops that. Fundamentally, the way to do that is to apprehend these individuals, and instead of releasing them into the country—which means the illegal gang smuggling operation has been successful—quickly and efficiently deport them back to their home country. That is the only action which will reverse the message that has gone out far and wide in Central and South America, which is to send your minors because President Obama has an Executive order that says we won't prosecute them. That is the message that has been heard and the fundamental message we have to reverse, and you only reverse that message if you reverse the policy through specific actions such as what I have described.

This is a graph which very clearly shows that deportations of this class of illegal aliens have plummeted under President Obama. President Obama often points to a change in the law in 2008 that was part of that equation. He complained about that for weeks and weeks when this crisis first hit the front page of the paper. The problem is when it comes to his proposal which was sent to Congress about how to deal with the crisis, he didn't ask to change the law. He didn't ask for any new authority to expedite the removal process. All he asked for was $3.9 billion, largely for the housing and feeding of these aliens and not for expedited and effective removal. That is what we need to change. This trendline is what we need to change in order to address the problem and stop this mounting flow and crisis at our border.

I hope we act in a responsible way by adopting this sort of policy and catch and release and detain these folks. Of course we need to treat them humanely and provide what we need to provide for them in the limited period of time we have them detained, but don't release them into the country with family members and often other illegals or sponsors. Detain them and deport them to their home countries. That is the only appropriate response which will stop this crisis from continuing to grow and stop the abuses and humanitarian crisis from continuing to grow.

I encourage my colleagues to come around to this commonsense solution. The American people have already done that. Have a townhall meeting on this. I don't care what State you come from. Look at the polling on this issue. The American people have already reached this commonsense consensus. The question is, is Washington going to catch up and follow? Are we going to reach the same commonsense consensus and respond in a commonsense way that solves the problem rather than just growing it or throwing money at it?

I encourage all of us from both sides of the aisle to come around to this sort of consensus approach. Of course I favor the specific legislation I have filed, S. 2632, but it doesn't have to be exactly that vehicle. It does have to be

that general approach in order to stop this mounting flood of illegals at our southern border and to deal with this crisis—including the humanitarian crisis—effectively rather than continuing to deal with it in a way where the numbers, the burden, the crisis, and the abuses continue to grow.

In closing, I will say I am, again, very concerned, as I am sure every Member in this body is, about the specific impact to my State. I mentioned some of those impacts. I didn't get those details from the Department of Homeland Security even though I specifically asked for that from the Department. I have had no real cooperation or information from the Department. I had to search out that information from other reliable sources. I will continue to do that, and I will continue to get the word out to Louisianans because they deserve to know what our State and communities may be dealing with.

In the meantime I hope the Department of Homeland Security will actually answer my letter, answer my questions, and give us the details directly so we all know exactly what we are dealing with as a country and in our individual States.

I thank the Presiding Officer, yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING DISABILITY RIGHTS MILESTONES

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, this is a very important week for Americans with disabilities. Just a few hours ago, at the White House, the President signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act which includes a reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. This will ensure that young people with disabilities have the skills and experiences to enter into competitive integrated work settings and will be ready to be economically self-sufficient—one of the key goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This bill received extraordinary bipartisan support from an overwhelming majority of Democrats and Republicans. The final vote in the House was 415 to 6 and the final vote in the Senate was 95 to 3. This is a great testament to the bipartisan support in Congress for advancing the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities in the United States.

Also this week, on Saturday, July 26, we will celebrate the 24th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act by then-President George Herbert Walker Bush. As the chief Senate sponsor of that law in 1990, I worked closely with Senate and House colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance the bill. Again, we couldn't have succeeded without the strong and active support of a Republican President, George H.W. Bush, and key members of his cabinet.

When we passed the ADA, as it is known, 24 years ago, the vote was overwhelmingly bipartisan. In the Senate, we passed it by a vote of 91 to 6, and in the House it was 403 to 20. So not only were the votes bipartisan, the arduous work of crafting the ADA and getting it to that point was also bipartisan. I worked shoulder to shoulder with indispensable partners, including Boyden Gray, President Bush's White House Counsel; Richard Thornburgh, Attorney General of the United States at that time; and here in the Senate Senator Bob Dole, who was so key in helping us to move this legislation forward at that time.

Senator Dole was instrumental. In fact, I always remind my colleagues the first speech Senator Dole ever gave on the Senate floor when he was elected to the Senate—his maiden speech—was on that topic, the topic of people with disabilities and their rights and how there should be more opportunity for people with disabilities. It was a great speech.

I think it is also known that today is Senator Dole's birthday. So I, and I am sure my colleagues will join with me, am wishing Senator Dole a very happy birthday today and asking to recommit ourselves, as he did at that time, to work in a bipartisan fashion to make sure people with disabilities not only in this country but around the world have more opportunities to live a full and meaningful life. So happy birthday, Bob Dole. We worked together for a long time on these issues.

Today is another interesting day. Today, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on a bipartisan vote of 12 to 6, passed out of the committee the United Nations treaty on disabilities, formally known as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A major part of my remarks today is about the United Nations treaty, now known as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities—or the shorthand version is CRPD as it is known here and globally.

For most of our recent history, support for disability rights, as I have just mentioned, has been across the political spectrum. But now, as the full Senate looks ahead to the consideration of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we are beginning to see an unfortunate erosion of the bipartisan support for disability policy.

Now, again, I wish to make clear that the Foreign Relations Committee reported the bill out this morning on a 12-to-6 vote. It was bipartisan. A couple things are in order: first, a recap of the history; and secondly, a very profound thank you to Senator BOB MENENDEZ, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, for his tremendous leadership in crafting and getting this bill through this Congress in his committee. I have spoken with Senator MENENDEZ many times about this issue. He has been dogged in his pursuit of getting a bill and getting it through the committee and to the Senate floor. And it hasn't been easy, quite frankly. Again, I will recap a little bit of that history for the benefit of my fellow Senators who may not follow this as closely as I follow it.

Again, this convention came through the committee this morning. It is now awaiting a 24-hour layover before it can go on the executive calendar. As I said, there has been some erosion in the bipartisan support for disability policy, but it is limited because I think most Republicans and Democrats agree there is no objective reason for partisan discord when it comes to disability rights. Senator JOHN MCCAIN is a tremendous supporter of disability rights and was with us when we passed the ADA in 1990 and was, again, a strong supporter at that time. He has been a strong supporter of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other legislation dealing with disability rights, including disability rights amendments we passed in 2008. So Senator MCCAIN has long been a strong supporter of enhancing and improving the rights of people with disabilities to have a full and meaningful life—to be able to have the opportunity to go to school, to learn, be educated, and to have people work and to live independently.

So here is what Senator MCCAIN said this morning in support of this disability treaty. He said: ''Ratifying this treaty affirms our leadership on disability rights and shows the rest of the world our leadership commitment continues.''

Senator MARK KIRK is not a member of the committee but he said this about the disability treaty:

> I want to say as a recently disabled American . . . how important it is to adopt this Convention . . . Too often we have a problem of thinking of our veterans as victims. They are victors. . . . This convention allows people to become victors instead of victims.

And again, one of the true giants of the Senate, former Senator Bob Dole, who, as I mentioned, celebrates a birthday today—had this to say about this disability treaty:

> U.S. ratification of the CRPD will increase the ability of the United States to improve physical, technological, and communication access in other countries, thereby helping to ensure that Americans—particularly, many thousands of disabled American veterans—have equal opportunities to live, work, and travel abroad.

The fact is this treaty is supported by many respected, thoughtful, conservative Republican leaders. I can cite many more statements from colleagues and other Republicans. The simple truth is that Republican leaders who care deeply about our Nation's sovereignty are equally impassioned in their support of this disability treaty.

So the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities does not need to be and should not be a partisan issue, despite the misguided efforts of

some to make it so. It is deeply unfortunate that narrowly focused opposition from groups with special interests that are far afield of the bipartisan consensus in support of disability rights have tried to drag this treaty into partisan warfare. These groups have spread fear about some imaginary, hypothetical, unreal loss of U.S. sovereignty. They try to scare parents into thinking they are going to lose control of the education of their children or that they won't be able to home school their children or they have raised the issue of abortion, which has nothing whatsoever to do with this treaty. None of these things are relevant to or are embedded in the treaty.

What we are seeing here is an action by some narrow special interest groups to advance their intentions by making utterly unfounded claims about the disability treaty.

So, again, this is rhetoric we should not be listening to. We should listen to the voices of the better angels of our nature. This is an important convention, an important treaty.

Even as recently as this morning I heard that in the Foreign Relations Committee someone raised the issue of sovereignty. Well, we passed a lot of treaties here in the past—lots of treaties over the lifetime of our Nation. Are we less sovereign today than we were 10 years ago? Are we less sovereign than we were 30, 50, 100 years ago? I would have to have someone prove to me how we have lost our sovereignty. We haven't—not at all. And in every treaty that we have signed in the past, there is always a clause in the reservations, understandings, and declarations that attaches to the resolution we pass here on the treaty. There is always one clause that is attached and I will read it to my colleagues. It says:

> Supremacy of Constitution. Nothing in the Convention requires or authorizes legislation or other action by the United States of America that is prohibited by the Constitution of the United States, as interpreted by the United States.

That is it. That goes on every treaty we sign. It says, look, we are signing the treaty, but our Constitution is supreme.

Continuing:

> Nothing in this treaty requires or authorizes any action by the United States prohibited by the Constitution as interpreted by the United States of America.

Who interprets the Constitution? The Supreme Court. But then we can always pass amendments and change it—by the United States of America.

So we have offered that this is the same language we ought to attach to this convention—the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Someone said: We don't know what the United Nations is going to do in the future. We don't know how they might want to change it.

It makes no difference. It makes no difference what the U.N. does in the future. Our Constitution is still supreme, and this is the clause we put on there to say so. We do it on every treaty.

We just passed a treaty here in 1999 that I was involved in—a treaty on the convention on the worst forms of child labor. It has that clause in it. We didn't give up any of our sovereignty by agreeing to that convention on child labor, and we won't give up any of our sovereignty here. So for anyone who is saying they are concerned about our sovereignty on this convention, we can put that clause in, as we have with every other treaty.

There are some Senators here who were here when we passed that treaty in 1999, and they didn't say anything about sovereignty or that they were concerned about sovereignty. But now some are saying they are concerned about sovereignty when it deals with people with disabilities. Why? Why? Why?

In 1999 we passed a convention dealing with the worst forms of child labor—a good treaty, by the way. No one here raised the issue of sovereignty. Today—what, 15 years later—we have a Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and a number of people say: Oh, no, we are worried about sovereignty.

Someone please explain this to me. It is not about sovereignty. Anyone who is hiding behind that issue does not want to vote for this treaty for some other reason, but it cannot be the reason of sovereignty.

Now, again, we have to look a little bit at the history of this treaty. The drafters of the convention modeled it after the Americans with Disabilities Act. In fact, if you read it, and you look at the ADA, we informed the United Nations—and I talked to people who have been involved in this in the U.N.—we, our laws, informed the U.N. as to what they ought to do in drafting this convention. Why shouldn't we then be a part of it, take the expertise we have and apply it globally?

So it was drafted. It was sent out to the nations for their adoption. It was sent to our President. Under our system, the President sends this proposed treaty out to all of the Departments of the executive branch, including the Office of Management and Budget to see what budget impact it will have, and their charge is to see what laws do we have to change in order to comply with this treaty or what budget impact does it have.

Well, it takes about a year to get this through all the Departments and agencies. But then, when it came back to the President, guess what: We do not have to change one law—not one—to conform to this treaty because the treaty is based on, basically, the Americans with Disabilities Act. So we do not have to change any laws. And, secondly, there is no budget impact.

So then the President sent it down to the Senate for ratification under our Constitution. Then Senator Kerry, who was the chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, had hearings. In fact, the two leadoff witnesses were Senator JOHN MCCAIN and me. Well, then there were other witnesses from the business community, from the disability community—from all over.

The treaty was reported out of the committee, I believe, in July of 2012. We were not able to get it on the floor until December 2012. Thirty-eight Republican Senators had signed a letter saying we should not vote on a treaty—on a treaty—in a lameduck session. Then there were some other things that came up about home schooling and stuff like that.

To make a long story short, when we brought it on the floor, and we thought we had the votes, we fell six votes short. We had 61 votes. We needed 67. We fell six votes short. A lot of Senators told me at that time we should not be voting on this in a lameduck session. In fact, if you check the RECORD, you will see remarks made by a lot of Members on the Republican side saying we should not vote on this in a lameduck session.

Well, OK. That Congress dies. We now have a new Congress starting in 2013. Then Chairman Kerry becomes Secretary of State and our new chairman is Senator BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey. So we started working to bring it back. Now again, it all has to come right back from the White House. It has to go back through the hurdles. It has to go back to the committee.

I talked a couple times with the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and he wanted to have some more hearings. So I talked to Senator MENENDEZ about it. Senator MENENDEZ agreed, and he held more hearings on it in this Congress—in this Congress—and a lot of voices were heard. A lot of people testified on it.

Then it has to work its way through the committee. The committee has been very busy on a lot of things, but Senator MENENDEZ never gave up, and so this morning, as I stated earlier, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reported out the treaty. I am so grateful to Senator MENENDEZ for not giving up, for being dogged in providing that kind of leadership to get this treaty through. So now it is ready for us to bring up here.

Well, guess what. We are not in a lameduck session, so that excuse has gone by the wayside. And we have answered, I believe, the questions on sovereignty and other issues. Now we have to look at who supports this.

Well, I know some people were kind of nervous about the treaty and voting for it because they were concerned, quite frankly, for their political life. I guess some people in the tea party were making this sort of a litmus test, which I thought was kind of interesting. Why? Why this, of all things?

So what we did was we wanted to see how broad the support was out there. It is immense. The support for this treaty cuts across all lines. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce—Tom Donohue—are strong supporters of it,

wrote a very strong letter and has been contacting Senators about the Chamber of Commerce's support for this treaty.

I spoke a couple months ago with former Governor John Engler, who is now the head of the Business Roundtable, and informed him about it. He said they would look at it, they would consider it. He took it to his Business Roundtable about a little over a month ago, I believe, if I am not mistaken, and the Business Roundtable wrote a very strong letter of support.

So two of the leading business groups in America are supporting this strongly. Every veterans group supports it. The American Legion, the VFW, the PVA—you name it—the Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans all support this. Every major religious group supports it. All the disability groups support it.

So what are we afraid of? Some people say, well, they are concerned about this sovereignty issue again. Are you telling me that former President George H.W. Bush is not concerned about our sovereignty? Are you telling me that former President George W. Bush is not concerned about our sovereignty? Are you trying to tell me that the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable are not concerned about our sovereignty or that Tom Ridge, former Governor of Pennsylvania, the first Director of Homeland Security, who strongly supports this treaty—are you telling me he does not care about our sovereignty?

Are there just a few people on this side of the aisle who know what sovereignty means? Of course not. Former President George H.W. Bush, former President George W. Bush, former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Boyden Gray, former counsel of the President—Steve Bartlett, former Congressman, a Republican from Dallas, a mayor of Dallas, came back and ran the Financial Services Roundtable, is a strong supporter—strong supporter—of this. Are you telling me Steve does not care about our sovereignty? I would like you to tell Steve that. He cares very much about our sovereignty. That is why it is a phony issue—a fraudulent phony issue.

We have it within our power now to join the rest of the world. I think 148 nations—148 countries—have now signed this.

I was recently in China, and I was meeting with disability groups there. China signed the convention. I met with some disability groups that are not governmental, NGOs, which is interesting. This is now springing up in China.

I also met with a person who is the head of the federation of disability groups in China. Madam Zhang, Haidi Zhang, is a very prominent woman in China, known all over the country because she is a famous author. She now heads this federation. They all told me they want the United States to be a part of this because it would strengthen them in working to change in their country, to make their country better and more supportive of disability rights.

I questioned that because some people said to me here: Well, we do not need to join this treaty. We can work with countries one-on-one. You are going to work with 100 countries one-on-one? I do not think we have the personnel to do that.

But here is what someone said to me who brought it home to me. They said: Look, if you come to our country and you want to discuss disability policy from the standpoint of your laws—the Americans with Disabilities Act—and we are a part of the CRPD, then we are talking two different languages. But if you are a part of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we speak the same language. Then we can start talking about how we work together to enhance the rights and opportunities of people with disabilities, not just in China but in Africa.

Earlier this year, 21 countries met in Malawi on this issue. I was asked to come to speak. I could not because I was here in the Senate. They desperately want the Americans—us—to be a part of this, to lend our expertise, our leadership—not as a single country but with other countries—to, again, advance the cause of the rights of people with disabilities in accommodations, accessibility.

This spring I was in Colombia—Cartagena—on a trip with other Senators, Congressmen, and I remember our colleague Senator JOHNSON from South Dakota and his wife were there. I remember Mrs. Johnson—Barbara—saying: Boy, I can't wait to get back to the United States because it is hard for Tim using his wheelchair to get around anywhere.

This is what I mean. We have to start working with these other countries to help them change their systems, their accessibility.

I have talked to many veterans who would like to travel with their families or maybe even work overseas. They cannot do it. They are not accessible. I have talked to students who got a Fulbright scholarship or one of those things to go to another country, but since they were disabled, they could not take advantage of it because there were not accessible places for them to live or to get around.

So if we are proud—and we should be—proud of the work we have done as a nation, bipartisanly—there has never been a partisan hint to anything we have ever done with disability policy in this country. So if we are proud of what we have done in this country to enhance the well-being of people with disabilities, to make sure they have a full and meaningful life, that they contribute to the best of their ability, to get them out of institutions, living in the community, working in jobs—not subminimum-wage, dead-end jobs, but I mean real jobs; and we have come a long way—so if we are proud of it, why shouldn't we be proud enough to join with the rest of the world in saying: Let's work together. Let's work together to provide in other countries that same kind of support and accessibility for people with disabilities?

It is not going to happen overnight. I understand that. Sometimes these things take a long time. This weekend will be the 24th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As I travel around, one thing that always catches my eye—when I see new buildings, new housing, and stuff—is it accessible? I just saw some this weekend—new housing, multifamily housing—not accessible. Well, someone said to me: Well, you know, maybe people with disabilities can't live here, but there are plenty of other places. I said: Well, that is not the point. What if I want to live there and I want to invite my nephew who is a paraplegic to come visit me and have dinner? He can't even get in the door. Oh, well, that kind of puts a different color on it. I cannot even associate with people with disabilities because they cannot even come over to my house.

So while we have come a long way, we have things we have to do. But we have to, again, be a part of this global effort to advance the cause of people with disabilities. Other countries are starting to catch on. They are starting to do things—some countries more than others. This treaty, and our joining it, means that we join with them in common effort—in common effort—to make sure people with disabilities are not shunted aside any longer.

I think it is beneath us as Senators, beneath us as a nation, to somehow not accede to this treaty because of phony issues such as sovereignty.

We can take care of that, as we have in other treaties. Or homeschooling or abortion. We can take care of that. We can say our laws are supreme. If someone says, ''Well, the U.N. might change it in the future,'' so what? It does not make any difference what they change. It does not affect our sovereignty whatsoever. So I think it is beneath us if we do not adopt this treaty, if we do not become a part of this global effort.

Ronald Reagan referred to America as the ''shining city on a hill.'' Well, I think it is. Nowhere is America more of a shining city on a hill than in how we treat our citizens with disabilities. We have the gold standard. Now it is time to empower us to work throughout the world, to assist countries as they implement the treaty founded on the rights and principles embedded in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

It is time for us to reassert our global leadership in disability policy. So let's rise above partnership. Let's rise above some unknown fear that something might happen in the future. Let's rise above those narrow interests that say ''Well, we will lose our sovereignty'' or something like that or all of those other phony issues that are coming up because they want to undermine the treaty. We can rise above

that, just as we have done many times in the past, just as we did in 1999 when we became a part of a convention on the worst forms of child labor. We put reservations and we put understandings and declarations in that convention, by the way. So we spelled out how we were adapting that to our own Nation. We can do the same with this one too.

I have been told—I do not know if this is true—I have been told that some say: Well, it does not make any difference what we put in there; there are some people who will not vote for it, period.

Well, are those the same people who would not vote for the Americans With Disabilities Act if we were to bring it to the floor today? Would they say: No, we should not change our policies that people with disabilities had to be institutionalized; that they do not deserve to work in the workplace; that they do not deserve the freedom to travel on buses that are accessible and trains that are accessible or subways that are accessible; that we do not need curb cuts and we do not need widened doors. No, we do not need to do any of that stuff.

Would that be what they would say today if the Americans with Disabilities Act were on the floor? Any Senator who says: I like the Americans with Disabilities Act, and I think it has done a good thing for our country—anyone who says that ought to be voting for this treaty. That is what we intend. That is what we would do—reject that kind of fear and be a part of this global effort.

Again, I commend Senator MENENDEZ for his great leadership on this issue. I am hopeful that before we leave here next week, we might reach a time agreement with the other side to have a meaningful debate, have amendments. There is nothing wrong with having some amendments on this if people have amendments that are germane to the treaty. Let's debate those in a timely fashion and then have a vote on it. We need to do this. We need to do this to reassert America's leadership worldwide on disability policy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, before I speak on a different topic, let me acknowledge my colleague and friend from Iowa and thank him for a lifetime of service in the House of Representatives and the Senate. He has announced his retirement at the end of this year. That is a loss for our great institution and for our country.

TOM HARKIN, more than any other Senator today, as much as any other Senator, has been a clarion voice for the disabled across generations and across country borders for decades. He has changed America and he has changed the world. There are not many people who serve in this Chamber who can say that. But when he joined with Bob Dole, a Republican World War II disabled veteran from Kansas—when this Democratic Senator from Iowa, a Navy veteran himself, joined with Bob Dole and passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, it held America to a higher standard. It guaranteed that our values we express so often would be values we live by.

Now he is calling on us to join a family of nations that have admired our leadership in disability rights and wonder why we have not approved this basic treaty or convention on disabilities. I was honored today to vote for that in the Foreign Relations Committee again. We had bipartisan support. We are going to continue to strive for it.

I thank the Senator for his unmatched contribution when it comes to speaking out for the disabled across America and around the world.

THE TAX CODE

Dickens wrote ''A Tale of Two Cities.'' I come to the Senate floor this evening to tell a tale of two Illinois corporations. One of them is a corporation which I visited recently called Wheatland Tube in Chicago. It is a division of JMC Steel. It employs about 2,000 people nationwide, 600 in Chicago, which I represent. JMC Steel is a good company. It is more than good; it is a great company. The average starting wage at Wheatland is $15 an hour. The company offers generous health care benefits with low deductibles. It offers various retirement benefits. Newer employees get a 401(k) with a company match up to 6 percent.

I tell this story because I want to salute a company that takes its mission seriously and treats its employees fairly. I believe a company such as JMC Steel and Wheatland should be encouraged and rewarded when it comes to our Tax Code and our laws.

We are hearing a lot from our Supreme Court across the street. They have come up with a new theory about businesses and corporations in America. Time and again they have told us that they now view corporations to be virtual flesh-and-blood citizens entitled to constitutional rights. They decided corporations have freedom of speech under the Bill of Rights and that corporations could spend unlimited amounts of money in an effort to elect or defeat candidates. They even went so far to say closely held corporations had religious freedoms that needed protection to the point where the owner of a closely held for-profit corporation could determine the contraception and birth control programs available to the employees of that company under their health insurance plans.

So we are told over and over by this Supreme Court that we should view corporations in a human context. Well, I am going to stick with that chain of thought for a moment and talk about another company that is much different from Wheatland Tube, which I have just described. It is a company known as AbbVie. That is the new name; it used to be known as Abbott Labs. It is roughly the eighth largest pharmaceutical company in America. It is headquartered in Illinois, in the city of North Chicago. AbbVie recently made the news because its board of directors sat down and made a decision about the future of this company.

First, let me tell you a little bit about AbbVie as a pharmaceutical company. AbbVie is a company which, like virtually every other pharmaceutical company, relies a great deal on our Federal Government. The National Institutes of Health—the leading biomedical research agency in the world—does basic research that our pharmaceutical companies use to develop new drugs and products. We pray that they will. When they find these drugs and products, pharmaceutical companies such as AbbVie go to the patent office run by our Federal Government to protect their property rights in their discoveries and their drugs. When they turn around to sell these drugs in America, after approval by a Federal agency, the Food and Drug Administration, they by and large sell them to programs such as Medicare and Medicaid—government-supported insurance programs.

The reason I tell this background is that AbbVie recently made a decision that they were going to renounce their American corporate citizenship and, in fact, at least on paper, move their corporate headquarters to an island off Ireland. Why would a great American corporation, the eighth largest pharmaceutical company, want to pick up and move to an island off Ireland? To avoid paying U.S. taxes. To avoid paying U.S. taxes, AbbVie is engaging in something known as inversion—in other words, relocating their corporate headquarter offices and declaring themselves to no longer be an American corporation. Does it not strike you as strange that a company that makes billions of dollars in profit based on America and the strength of our own system of government now is deserting America?

This inversion is not unique to AbbVie. We estimate that 50 or 60 corporations are doing the same. I think it is time for us as Members of Congress to put an end to this. These companies that are deserting America and heading overseas to avoid paying U.S. taxes have to be stopped.

Allan Sloan, whom I have heard a lot on radio and other places, is a writer for Fortune magazine. On July 7 he published an article in Fortune magazine entitled ''Positively un-American tax dodges.''

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD after my remarks.

Let me quote one paragraph from Allan Sloan about these ''Positively un-American tax dodges,'' such as the inversion planned by AbbVie of North Chicago. Here is what Sloan writes:

Inverters don't hesitate to take advantage of the great things that make America

America: our deep financial markets, our democracy and rule of law, our military might, our intellectual and physical infrastructure, our national research programs, all the terrific places our country offers for employees and their families to live. But inverters do hesitate—totally—when it's time to ante up their fair share of financial support for our system.

Exhibit A: AbbVie, a company that has been profitable and made billions of dollars in America, now wants to lessen its American tax bill by moving overseas—on paper.

I think this has to come to an end. I think that when we sit down and make decisions about a tax code and tax policy, we need to be rewarding companies such as Wheatland Tube. Wheatland Tube, with 600 employees in Chicago, is an American corporation and proud of it. They are not planning on moving overseas. They are not trying to cut corners when it comes to their employees. They are treating them fairly. They are getting a good work product for it.

What I propose is called a patriot employer's tax. If you have a corporation that is, in my view, patriotic, with its headquarters in America, that has not moved employees overseas, that pays its employees at least $15 an hour—why did I pick $15? Because at $15 an hour, most American workers would not qualify for government benefits.

Perhaps the WIC program is one exception, but the only one I can think of. But these are employees who are paid enough in the workplace that they don't qualify for food stamps to supplement their income. So we chose $15 an hour. We said if the company goes on to provide good health insurance, a good retirement plan, where the employer contributes at least 5 percent of an employee's income toward retirement, and the company will give a preference to hiring veterans, I think that company is entitled to a patriot employer tax credit. Wheatland Tube isn't the only company in Illinois that would qualify nor the only company in this country.

So should we be bending our Tax Code today so AbbVie and the other corporate deserters get a break by moving overseas or should we be changing our Tax Code to encourage good companies, such as Wheatland Tube, to stay in America, to pay a fair wage, to make a good product and make us proud. It seems a pretty simple choice as far as I am concerned. We are going to start debating that on the floor of the Senate this week—at least we are going to try.

There is going to be a bill coming before us that has been offered by Senator JOHN WALSH of Montana and Senator DEBBIE STABENOW of Michigan called the Bring Jobs Home Act. It is a variation on the theme that I just spoke of, but the bottom line is the same—to create Tax Code incentives for companies to bring jobs back into the United States. I can't think of a higher priority than to create and keep good-paying jobs in America.

We are going to vote on moving forward on this bill, creating an incentive to bring jobs home.

Here is what it will do. If a company moves a production line, trade or business outside of the United States back into the United States, it is eligible for a tax credit under the Walsh-Stabenow bill—a credit for the cost of moving the jobs back home.

To pay for it, companies that ship jobs overseas—jobs going in the wrong direction—will no longer be allowed to deduct the costs associated with outsourcing U.S. jobs from their tax bill.

Why would we want to incentivize a company to ship American jobs overseas? Why would we want to create a deduction to make it easier and cheaper to do that? It defies common sense.

The Walsh-Stabenow bill reverses it and says we will no longer incentivize shipping jobs overseas; we are going to incentivize shipping jobs home from overseas. It is pretty simple.

I would like to take that basic question to any town meeting in any town in my State and ask the folks sitting there whether they think that makes sense. I am very confident they will agree that it does. This is a commonsense approach to reward companies that are doing the right thing and eliminate tax breaks for companies that are doing the wrong thing.

The patriot employer tax credit I hope I can offer as an amendment. I want to give a break to those companies that pay a good wage, keep the jobs in the United States, and don't ship their headquarters overseas. I think they deserve an incentive to stay.

I guess I am old-fashioned, but a lot of Americans are old-fashioned the same way.

I like walking into the store and seeing products that say ''Made in the U.S.A.'' Sure, I buy things made overseas. It is hard to avoid them. And I don't consciously avoid them. But given a choice, I would love to see the ''Made in the U.S.A.'' label on these products so I have a choice to make this country stronger. That is what the Walsh-Stabenow bill does. That is what the Patriot Employer Tax Credit Act does. And that is what we need to do when it comes to these inversions.

There was an article that was printed in Fortune magazine after Allan Sloan's article on July 15 the following week. It quoted a man whom I have come to know and once worked with in Chicago. His name is Jamie Dimon. Jamie Dimon is the CEO of JPMorgan Chase.

It turns out JPMorgan Chase is the investment adviser to AbbVie, the company I mentioned earlier. They have been advising them about moving overseas to avoid tax liability.

Mr. Dimon, in this Fortune magazine piece said: '' . . . it was inappropriate for anyone to moralize against deals in which U.S. companies seek lower tax rates through mergers.''

And then he went on to say ''an inversion.'' He characterized moving your corporate headquarters overseas to avoid taxes as basically saying it is an acknowledgment how bad our Tax Code is today. It is a way of protesting what the Tax Code is doing to corporations.

Our Tax Code today has resulted in the highest corporate profits in history. Our Tax Code today has resulted in paychecks for Mr. Dimon and other CEOs unparalleled in the history of the world. For Mr. Dimon and the corporate CEOs to argue about this unfair Tax Code as a reason or rationale for picking up and deserting America doesn't square with the reality of corporate compensation or corporate profits.

Some people critical of what I have spoken to today will say: Well, now, don't go picking winners and losers in the Tax Code.

I have news for you. The Tax Code is all about picking winners and losers. Sadly, the losers too many times are working families in this country and the winners are the people in higher-income categories and the largest corporations.

Look at what the Tax Code incentivizes. It incentivizes drilling for oil, building wind turbines. It incentivizes holding stock for a longer period rather than a shorter period. It incentivizes saving for your retirement. It incentivizes buying health insurance. The Tax Code is full of incentives.

So let's rewrite that Tax Code. Let's create an incentive to keep jobs in America. Let's create an incentive to make sure that companies which pay a fair wage and make sure their operations are good for working people get a tax break, and let's disincentivize the effort to move American jobs overseas and to move American corporate offices overseas.

That to me is a Tax Code with the right incentives for building not only a strong American economy with good-paying jobs here at home but building our middle class and our working Americans into a strong entity, a strong force for progress and economic growth.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the articles I referred to earlier.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From @FortuneMagazine, July 7, 2014]

POSITIVELY UN-AMERICAN TAX DODGES

(By Allan Sloan)

Bigtime companies are moving their ''headquarters'' overseas to dodge billions in taxes . . . that means the rest of us pay their share.

Ah, July! What a great month for those of us who celebrate American exceptionalism. There's the lead-up to the Fourth, countrywide Independence Day celebrations including my town's local Revolutionary War reenactment and fireworks, the enjoyable days of high summer, and, for the fortunate, the prospect of some time at the beach.

Sorry, but this year, July isn't going to work for me. That's because of a new kind of

American corporate exceptionalism: companies that have decided to desert our country to avoid paying taxes but expect to keep receiving the full array of benefits that being American confers, and that everyone else is paying for.

Yes, leaving the country—a process that tax techies call inversion—is perfectly legal. A company does this by reincorporating in a place like Ireland, where the corporate tax rate is 12.5%, compared with 35% in the U.S. Inversion also makes it easier to divert what would normally be U.S. earnings to foreign, lower-tax locales. But being legal isn't the same as being right. If a few companies invert, it's irritating but no big deal for our society. But mass inversion is a whole other thing, and that's where we're heading.

We've also got a second, related problem, which I call the ''never-heres.'' They include formerly private companies like Accenture, a consulting firm that was spun off from Arthur Andersen, and disc-drive maker Seagate, which began as a U.S. company, went private in a 2000 buyout and was moved to the Cayman Islands, went public in 2002, then moved to Ireland from the Caymans in 2010. Firms like these can duck lots of U.S. taxes without being accused of having deserted our country because technically they were never here. So far, by Fortune's count, some 60 U.S. companies have chosen the never-here or the inversion route, and others are lining up to leave.

All of this threatens to undermine our tax base, with projected losses in the billions. It also threatens to undermine the American public's already shrinking respect for big corporations.

Inverters, of course, have a different view of things. It goes something like this: The U.S. tax rate is too high, and uncompetitive. Unlike many other countries, the U.S. taxes all profits worldwide, not just those earned here. A domicile abroad can offer a more competitive corporate tax rate. Fiduciary duty to shareholders requires that companies maximize returns.

My answer: Fight to fix the tax code, but don't desert the country. And I define ''fiduciary duty'' as the obligation to produce the best long-term results for shareholders, not ''get the stock price up today.'' Undermining the finances of the federal government by inverting helps undermine our economy. And that's a bad thing, in the long run, for companies that do business in America.

Finally, there's reputational risk. I wouldn't be surprised to see someone in Washington call public hearings and ask CEOs of inverters and would-be inverters why they think it's okay for them to remain U.S. citizens while their companies renounce citizenship. Imagine the reaction! And the punitive legislation it could spark.

WATCH: INVERSION: HOW SOME MAJOR U.S. COMPANIES ARE DODGING TAXES

Fortune contacted every company on our list of tax avoiders and asked why they incorporated overseas. Four of them—Carnival, Garmin, Invesco, and XL—said they were never U.S. companies. In other words, they are never-heres. Five more—Actavis, Allegion, Eaton, Ingersoll Rand, and Perrigo—said they inverted mainly for strategic purposes. The tenth, Nabors, refused to respond to our multiple requests.

Companies that have gone the inversion or never-here route but that act American include household names like Garmin, Michael Kors, Carnival, and Nielsen. Pfizer the giant pharmaceutical company, tried to invert this spring, but the deal fell through. Medtronic, the big medical-device company, is trying to invert, of which more later. Walgreen is talking about inverting too—it's easier to boost earnings by playing tax games than by fixing the way you run your stores.

Then there's the ''Can you believe this?'' factor. Carnival, a Panama-based company with headquarters in Miami, was happy to have the U.S. Coast Guard, for which it doesn't pay its fair share, help rescue its burning Carnival Triumph. (It later reimbursed Uncle Sam.) Alexander Cutler, chief executive of Eaton, a Cleveland company that he inverted to Ireland, told the City Club of Cleveland, without a trace of irony, that to fix our nation's budget problems, we need to close ''those loopholes in the tax system.'' Inversions, I guess, aren't loopholes.

Before we proceed, a brief confessional rant: The spectacle of American corporations deserting our country to dodge taxes while expecting to get the same benefits that good corporate citizens get makes me deeply angry. It's the same way that I felt when idiots and incompetents in Washington brought us to the brink of defaulting on our national debt in the summer of 2011, the last time that I wrote anything angry at remotely this length. (See ''American Idiots.'') Except that this is worse.

Inverters don't hesitate to take advantage of the great things that make America America: our deep financial markets, our democracy and rule of law, our military might, our intellectual and physical infrastructure, our national research programs, all the terrific places our country offers for employees and their families to live. But inverters do hesitate—totally—when it's time to ante up their fair share of financial support of our system.

Inverting a company, which is done in the name of ''shareholder value''—a euphemism for a higher stock price—is way more offensive to me than even the most disgusting (albeit not illegal) tax games that companies like Apple and GE play to siphon earnings out of the U.S. At least those companies remain American. It may be for technical reasons that I won't bore you with—but I don't care. What matters is the result. Apple and GE remain American. Inverters are deserters.

Even though I understand inversion intellectually, I have trouble dealing with it emotionally. Maybe it's because of my background: I'm the grandson of immigrants, and I'm profoundly grateful that this country took my family in. Watching companies walk out just to cut their taxes turns my stomach.

Okay, rant over.

The current poster child for inversion outrage is Medtronic Inc., the multinational Minnesota medical-device company that once exuded a cleaner-than-clean image but now proposes to move its nominal headquarters to Ireland by paying a fat premium price to purchase Covidien, itself a faux-Irish firm that is run from Massachusetts except for income-taxpaying purposes. For that, it's based in Dublin. That's where the new Medtronic PLC would be based, while its real headquarters would remain on Medtronic Parkway in Minneapolis. Of course, the company is unlikely to return any of the $484 million worth of contracts the federal government says it has awarded Medtronic over the past five years.

If the Medtronic deal goes through, which seems likely, it will open the floodgates. Congress could close them, as we'll see—but that would require our representatives and senators to get their act together. Good luck with that.

Now let's have a look at some of the more interesting aspects of the proposed Medtronic-Covidien marriage. I'm not trying to pick on Medtronic—but its decision to become the biggest company to invert makes it fair journalistic game.

Medtronic is one of those U.S. companies with a ton of cash offshore: something like $14 billion. That's money on which U.S. income tax hasn't been paid. Medtronic told me it would have to pay $3.5 billion to $4.2 billion to the IRS if it brought that money into the U.S.: That's the difference between the 35% U.S. tax rate and the 5% to 10% it has paid to other countries. Among other things, inverting would let Medtronic PLC use offshore cash to pay dividends without subjecting the money to U.S. corporate tax.

I especially love a little-noticed multimillion-dollar goody that Medtronic is giving its board members and top executives. Years ago, in order to discourage inversions, Congress imposed a 15% excise tax on the value of options and restricted stock owned by top officers and board members of inverting companies. Guess what? Medtronic says it's going to give the affected people enough money to pay the tax.

We're talking major money—major money that I'm glad to say isn't tax-deductible to Medtronic. The company wouldn't tell me how much this would cost its stockholders. So I did my own back-of-the-envelope math, starting with chief executive Omar Ishrak. Using numbers from Medtronic's 2014 proxy statement and adjusting for its stock price when I was writing this, I figure that his options and restricted shares are worth at least $40 million, and the ''equity incentive plan awards'' that he might get are worth another $23 million. Allow for the fact that Medtronic will ''gross up'' Ishrak et al. by giving them enough money to cover both the excise tax and the tax due on their excise tax subsidy, and you end up with $7.1 million to $11.2 million just for Ishrak. And something more than $60 million for Medtronic as a whole.

Why does Medtronic feel the need to shell out this money? The company's answer: ''Medtronic has agreed to indemnify directors and executive officers for such excise tax because they should not be discouraged from taking actions that they believe are in the best interests of Medtronic and its shareholders.''

But you know what, folks? These people are fiduciaries, who are legally required to put shareholders' interests ahead of their own. If they believe that inverting is the right thing to do (which, it should be obvious by now, I don't) they ought to pay any expenses they incur out of their own pockets, not the shareholders'. It's not as if these people lack the means to pay—the directors get $220,000 a year (and up) in cash and stock for a part-time job, and Ishrak gets a typical hefty CEO package.

One more thing: Normally, a company's shareholders don't have to pay capital gains tax if their firm makes an acquisition. But because this is an inversion, Medtronic shareholders will be treated as if they've sold their shares and will owe taxes on their gains. However, the deal won't give them any cash with which to pay the tab.

The company asked me to mention that its executives and directors, like other holders, will be subject to gains tax on shares that they own outright, and Medtronic won't compensate them for it. Okay. Consider it mentioned.

Second, the company contends that this deal will be so good for shareholders that it will more than offset their tax cost triggered by the board's decision to invert. Well, we'll see.

A major barrier to inversion used to be that companies moving offshore were kicked out of the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Given that more than 10% (by my estimate) of the S&P 500 stocks are owned by indexers, getting tossed out of the index—or being added to it—makes a big, short-term difference in share price. In 2008 and 2009, S&P, which has a few never-heres, tossed nine companies off

the 500 for inverting. But four years ago, S&P changed course, for business reasons. Companies were angry at being excluded, and index investors wanted to own some of the excluded companies. Moreover, S&P feared that a competitor would set up a more inclusive, rival index.

So in June 2010, S&P changed its definition of American. Now all it takes to be in the S&P 500 is to trade on a U.S. market, be considered a U.S. filer by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and have a plurality of business and/or assets in the U.S.

The result: S&P now has 28 non-American companies in the 500.

How much money are we talking about inverters sucking out of the U.S. Treasury? There's no number available for the tax revenue losses caused by inverters and neverheres so far. But it's clearly in the billions. Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation projects that failing to limit inversions will cost the Treasury an additional $19.5 billion over 10 years—a number that seems way low, given the looming stampede. But even $19.5 billion—$2 billion a year—is a lot, if you look at it the right way. It's enough to cover what Uncle Sam spends on programs to help homeless veterans and to conduct research to create better prosthetic arms and legs for our wounded warriors.

Rep. Sandy Levin (D–Mich.) and his brother, Sen. Carl Levin (D–Mich.), have introduced legislation that would stop Medtronic in its tracks by making inversions harder. Under current law, adopted in 2004 as an inversion stopper, a U.S. company can invert only if it is doing significant business in its new domicile and shareholders of the foreign company it buys to do the inversion own at least 20% of the combined firm.

The Levins propose to require that foreign-firm shareholders own at least 50% of the combined company for it to be able to invert and also that the company's management change. This would really slow down inversions—but the chances of Congress passing the Levin legislation are somewhere between slim and none.

Conventional wisdom holds that companies are inverting now because they've despaired of getting clean-cut reform that would widen the tax base and lower rates. But John Buckley, former chief Democratic tax counsel for the House Ways and Means Committee, has a different view. Buckley thinks that we're seeing an inversion wave not because there's no prospect of tax reform but because there is a prospect of reform. If reform comes, he says, there will be winners and losers—and it's the likely losers-to-be that are inverting. ''Even minimal tax reform would hurt a lot of these companies badly,'' he says.

For example, Buckley says, a company that inverts before reform takes effect will be able to suck income out of the U.S. to lower-tax locales much more easily than if it were still a U.S. company. ''A revenue-neutral tax reform requires there to be winners and losers,'' Buckley says. ''But by inverting, the companies that would be losers are taking themselves out of the equation . . . They're taking advantage of both U.S. individual taxpayers and other corporations.''

If you're a typical CEO who has read this far, about now you're shaking your head and thinking, ''What a jerk! Just cut my tax rate and I'll stay.'' To which I say, ''I wouldn't bet on it.'' In the widely hailed 1986 tax reform act, Congress cut the corporate rate to 34% (now 35%) from 46%, and closed some loopholes. Corporate America was happy—for awhile. Now, with Ireland at 12.5% and Britain at 20% (or less, if you make a deal), 35% is intolerable. Let's say we cut the rate to 25%, the wished-for number I hear bandied about. Other countries are lower, and could go lower still in order to lure our companies. Is Corporate America willing to pay any corporate rate above zero? I wonder.

So what do we need? I'll offer you a bipartisan solution—no, I'm not kidding. For starters, we need to tighten inversion rules as proposed by Sandy and Carl Levin, who are both bigtime Democrats. That would buy time to erect a more rational corporate tax structure than we have now—bolstered, I hope, by input from tough-minded tax techies.

We also need loophole tighteners along the lines of proposals in the Republican-sponsored, dead-on-arrival Tax Reform Act of 2014. One part would have imposed a tax of 8.75% a year on cash and cash equivalents held offshore, and 3.5% a year on other retained offshore earnings.

Another thing we need to do—which the SEC or the Financial Accounting Standards Board could do in a heartbeat, but won't—is require publicly traded U.S. companies and U.S. subsidiaries of publicly traded foreign companies to disclose two numbers from the tax returns they file with the IRS: their U.S. taxable income for a given year, and how much income tax they owed. This would take perhaps one person-hour a year per company.

That way we would know what firms actually pay instead of having to guess at it. Then we could compare and contrast companies' income tax payments.

What we don't need is another one-time ''tax holiday,'' like the one being proposed by Sen. Harry Reid (D–Nev.), to let companies pay 9.5% rather than 35% to bring earnings held offshore into the U.S. It would be the second time in a decade we've done that, and would signal tax avoiders that they should keep sending tons of money offshore, then wait for a tax holiday—presumably not on the Fourth of July—to bring it back.

Until—and unless—we somehow get our act together on corporate tax reform, companies will keep leaving our country. Those that try to do the right thing and act like good American corporate citizens will come under increasing pressure to invert, if only to fend off possible attacks by corporate pirates—I'm sorry, ''activist investors''—who see inversion as a way to get a quick uptick in their targets' stock price.

Now, two brief rays of sunshine: one in England, one here.

Starbucks, embarrassed by a 2012 Reuters exposé showing that it paid little or no taxes in England despite telling shareholders it made big profits there, has recently apologized and now makes substantial British tax payments. And eBay, God bless it, decided to bring $9 billion of offshore cash into the U.S. and pay taxes on it.

So I'm feeling a bit better about July than when I started writing this. In any event, a happy summer to you and yours.

JAMIE DIMON: COMPANIES SHOULD FEEL FREE TO BAIL ON THE U.S.

(By Stephen Gandel)

The JPMorgan CEO gave a thumbs up to inversions, the growing practice where American companies buy smaller foreign companies to relocate overseas and avoid paying U.S. taxes.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon says he's okay with companies using a hot tax dodge that could cost the U.S. tens of billions of dollars over the decade.

Dimon's public thumbs up for inversions—the growing practice where American companies buy smaller foreign companies to relocate overseas and avoid paying U.S. taxes—came in response to a question from Fortune on a media conference call after JPMorgan JPM 0.74% released its second quarter results. He said the real problem was the tax code, not CEOs trying to shirk their responsibilities.

''You want the choice to be able to go to Wal-Mart to get the lowest prices,'' Dimon said on a conference call with reporters on Tuesday morning. ''Companies should be able to make that choice as well.''

Dimon did not elaborate on the difference between choosing where to buy your underwear and where a corporation calls home. In a recent cover story for Fortune, Allan Sloan argued that U.S. companies are ''positively unpatriotic'' when they move their corporate headquarters overseas to pay lower taxes because of the benefits they receive by being (except for tax purposes) American companies. What's more, Sloan argued undermining the U.S. tax base will be bad for all shareholders in the long run.

Dimon seemed to brush aside those concerns. He said it was inappropriate for anyone to moralize against deals in which U.S. companies seek lower tax rates through mergers. No large U.S. bank has proposed an inversion deal. Since the financial crisis, there has been a debate about the size of the subsidizes that large banks like JPMorgan receive from U.S. taxpayers.

At least for now, inversions are good for Dimon and his shareholders. The firm has been an advisor on 19 inversion deals that have been announced since last year. The bank is advising drug maker AbbVie on its $53 billion bid for Dublin-based Shire, which was announced on Monday.

''I love America. I'm just as patriotic as anyone,'' said Dimon. ''But we have a flawed corporate tax code that is driving U.S. companies overseas.''

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TAX REFORM

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I was listening to my colleague from Illinois talking about the need for us to have economic patriotism and to keep people from moving jobs offshore.

I couldn't agree more, but the way to do it is to fix a broken Tax Code. It is frustrating to me that we have the President of the United States, we have Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle who have talked and talked and talked about the fact that we need to lower our tax rate and come up with a more competitive international tax system, and yet we do nothing about it. Instead, we are for these one-off political debates that we are going to have on the floor this week, apparently, that unfortunately aren't going to make any difference to the workers in America who are seeing this erosion of their wages, of their benefits, and often of their jobs because Washington is abdicating its responsibility. Washington is not doing what it has to do in order to meet its fiduciary responsibilities.

There is a lot of talk about that with these corporations. Our responsibility is to the people—to have the right tax system in place so that people can succeed so that if they work hard and play by the rules, the Tax Code is actually going to reward them and American companies can be competitive. That is simply not what is happening now. We need to do a lot of things too, such as to be sure we have a regulatory system that works, to have an international trading system that works for the workers of America, and to be sure we deal with our debt, deficit, and other issues.

But because the discussion of taxes is on the floor this week, I thought it would be helpful to talk just generally about where we are. We had a hearing today in the Finance Committee on this topic. We had experts in from across the spectrum. Although they disagreed on some of the specifics about what we ought to do today, they all agreed with one thing, which is that our Tax Code is broken. It is not working.

By the way, the Congressional Budget Office, which is the nonpartisan group that advises us on the economic impact of things, has looked at the Tax Code and said if you did deal with our high tax rates in this country and improved the corporate code, who benefits? It is the workers, and it is in terms of higher wages, better benefits, a job. This Congress has let the American people down, and it is time for us to deal with this issue and to deal with it in a way that can be nonpartisan.

We have, again, both sides of the aisle agreeing this is broken, and yet we can't seem to find that common ground to fix it. I would suggest there is common ground out there if we just get off the politics and start working on how we actually help people to be able to get ahead.

The issue that has come to the attention of all of us in Congress in the past few months the most is companies that are—what they call—inverting. These inversions are when a company in the United States buys a company overseas, merges with it, and then it becomes an overseas company. Often these companies they are buying are smaller than the U.S. company, and they become a foreign company because they are trying to get as far away from our Tax Code as they can. They want to become domiciled—they want to have their headquarters—in a foreign country because that country has a better Tax Code for a corporation to be able to succeed.

Again, there have been discussions on the floor recently about fiduciary responsibility. People do, if you are in corporate America, have a fiduciary responsibility to the shareholders. So they are making these decisions, and Washington sits by the sidelines and lets it happen.

I think the answer is to reform the Tax Code. I think we know what we have to do. I think we have to get busy on it.

Last week we saw another example of this. It was a Chicago drug company called AbbVie. Their bid to acquire a company called Shire looks like it is going to go through, and their combined company is going to move its tax headquarters to the UK, to England. This is hardly the first company to do this, and it won't be the last unless we change the code.

In fact, according to the Congressional Research Service, 35 companies have inverted in the past 5 years alone. I think the United States is still the best place to do business.

Despite our bad Tax Code, we have the most productive workforce; we have the best infrastructure; we have the rule of law; we have some great research institutions; we have a lot going for us; and we can compete and attract business from around the world.

So why are these companies going to England? Why are they going to the UK? Well, it turns out they have a tax code that was designed for this century, this decade—unlike here in America, where our international Tax Code was actually developed back in the 1960s. Things were a lot different then.

Our Tax Code itself and the rates of taxation were established in 1986. That is 25 years ago. The international system back to the 1960s, the rate we paid back to 1986—in 1986, ''Top Gun'' was the top at the box office. People still communicated by telegraph. The Mets were World Series champions. Pete Rose was playing for my hometown team, the Cincinnati Reds. That is how long ago it was.

A lot has changed since then. The world has changed. The global economy is far more competitive. It is very difficult for us in the United States of America to have a policy that is not affected by that global economy. And yet while every other one of our global competitors has reformed their tax code, we have not. They all have.

By the way, after the reform, the United Kingdom has a 21-percent corporate tax rate and they have a so-called territorial tax system. That basically means it taxes income in the UK if it is made in the UK, but otherwise it is taxed in the country where it is done. That means they have a competitive global tax system. By the way, about 93 percent of the companies that American companies compete with have that kind of more competitive international system. We have the old-style system.

We also have a higher rate. So we have a deadly combination—a higher rate, 39-percent tax rate, which is now the highest among all the developed countries in the world—not a No. 1 you want to be—but we have also got this international system that is not competitive.

So it is not a mystery why companies are leaving. When we look at the side-by-side, they are making decisions based on what is best for their shareholders. When we look at the changes in the tax rate since the 1990s and 2000s, we can see the United States is falling further behind.

Here is an interesting chart. This shows, just in 2004, what the tax rates were and now what they are in 2014. That is just 10 years ago. The United States is the same, 39 percent. And that 39 percent includes the Federal rate plus the State rate.

People say, well, the effective rate is less than that. Yes, it is less than that because people do take advantage of some of the so-called tax preferences. But even so, our rate is higher than these other countries.

We go from 39 percent to 39 percent; the UK, 30 to 21; Canada, 34.4 to 26, and they are going even lower at the Federal level; Netherlands, 34.5 to 25 percent; Ireland, 12.5; Switzerland, 24 to 21. And they have gone to these territorial tax systems that we talked about.

What has happened? Well, these are the companies that have left the United States of America to go to these countries. We mentioned Abbvi. That is the latest one last week. Medtronic, that was a couple weeks ago. On and on. There are companies in here from the State of Ohio. There is a company listed there from my home State of Ohio that chose to incorporate somewhere else because of the Tax Code. Guess what. They are going to save about $160 million on their tax bill this year. That is a pretty darned good savings, and that is wrong. We have to reform this Tax Code.

In 1960, 17 of the world's largest 20 companies were U.S.-headquartered. By 2010, only six were headquartered in the United States. In 2012 alone, our global 500 companies, the bigger companies' share fell from 36 percent to 26 percent.

I am not saying it is all due to taxes, but a lot of it is. If we talk to these companies, we find that out.

Again, I don't think anyone in the Senate—or in the White House, for that matter—disputes that tax reform is needed. I don't think so. Yet we aren't seeing it. Instead, again, we are hearing about these one-offsies, these small things that seem politically popular but aren't going to make a difference in terms of truly bringing the jobs back and attracting more jobs—attracting companies that want to headquarter here in the United States of America.

It is an admission that the United States is no longer the best place in the world to invest if we say we are going to require companies to do certain things so they can't follow the Tax Code. I think it is a futile effort to try to keep companies here with these new requirements, because ultimately if we do that and make it more disadvantageous to be an American company—so you have companies competing not just with one hand tied behind their back but with two hands tied behind their in a global economy—what will they do? Well, they will probably sell, because foreign companies can come in and buy them. And that has happened and is happening.

If you are a beer drinker, like I am, try to find an American beer these days. The largest share is probably Sam Adams, with about 1.4 percent market share. The rest are all foreign-owned. Yuengling is up there too at about 1.4 percent. But all of them. And foreign companies have come in here and bought these companies because they can pay a premium for them, because their aftertax profits are greater because their tax code in their country is more advantageous. Who does that hurt? It hurts American workers.

I am not saying they don't have facilities here. They do. But when they move their corporate headquarters out of the United States, the tax headquarters out of the United States, the history is, when you look at this, that jobs follow—including the higher paid executive jobs.

Also, an intangible but really important thing to American communities is, when you have a U.S. company headquartered here, they tend to invest in the communities. So think of the nonprofits involved with charities we help out with. There are probably some companies that help out there too and probably it is an American company.

So of course we have to keep up with the times, and we aren't doing that. If we don't, we are going to see more and more companies leave our shores. I don't think these companies want to leave our shores. I think they are doing it because Washington is letting them down.

Let's imagine for a second that a company did decide not to do one of these inversions because we did some one-off things, including to say: You ought to stay here. You ought to not take advantage of a company with a $160 million a year benefit.

I think what is going to happen is we will see more and more companies become foreign companies. American workers and American jobs are going to be lost because we are going to see foreign companies come in and buy these U.S. companies.

If we are truly patriots, economic patriots, we need to look at tax reform, and we need it as soon as possible. This can't, by the way, be just a Republican or Democrat priority. It needs to be an American priority. And it should be, because as far as I can tell in talking to people, the consensus is that it is broken. We have a pretty good sense of what we ought to do to try to fix it.

One, I think we have a pretty good sense that we ought to reduce the rate. So the corporate rate ought to be reduced. I think it has to get down to at least 25 percent for us to be competitive. Back when we last did this in 1986, we purposefully lowered the rate under Ronald Reagan to get it down to 34 percent so it would be below the average of the other developed countries of the world. That is what we have to do again. So, at least 25 percent.

And we need to do this, by the way, at the same time we eliminate some of these preferences, the deductions, the credits, the exclusions. I know that is tough, and some people are going to say: Well, gosh, I am going to lose my special preference or this is going to hurt my company. If they get a lower rate, one, they get a benefit. But, second, it helps the whole economy to have a lower rate.

Economists who look at this all agree, this will generate economic growth and will result, by the way, in more revenues coming in through growth as well. So we broaden the base by getting rid of a lot of the preferences, take those savings to lower the rate.

Then, finally, we need to do something about this international side. If we don't, we are not going to be able to be competitive. Even if we have a low tax rate, if we don't figure out a way to ensure we go to a system that is more like these other countries have all gone to—about 93 percent of the companies that we compete with have this what is called territorial system where you tax income where it is earned. If we don't do that, then I think we are going to end up making this problem worse, not better, by some of these proposals that say let's just kick the can down the road and immediately do something to create a requirement on companies to do this or that.

With regard to the anti-inversion rules, we are going to talk about that now. Let's not reform the Tax Code; let's just do something on inversions to make it harder to invert. We did that back in 2004. We enacted anti-inversion rules that were supposed to stop companies from moving overseas. As we saw in the first chart, that didn't work. Companies did anyway. And I don't think it is going to work today. In fact, I think it could make the problem worse, again, because those companies could then be targeted for foreign acquisition.

So if businesses are more valuable overseas than the United States and businesses can't move under the U.S. themselves, I think the foreign corporations will step in and buy them.

The Bring Jobs Home Act is a great title, and that is legislation we are going to consider here on the floor tomorrow. I think we ought to have a debate on it, so I am going to vote to proceed to have that debate. It is a great title, but I don't think there is anything in the legislation that is going to help to actually bring jobs back. I don't think anything in this legislation is going to address the fact that we have this high tax rate. I don't think there is anything in this legislation that is going to address the fact that we have a worldwide system that is way out of step with all our competitors.

It claims to remove deductions and tax credits and incentivize companies to move overseas. Unfortunately, that is not as easy as it sounds because, according to the Joint Committee on Taxes, which is the group here that advises us, under present law there are no targeted tax credits or disallowance of deductions related to relocating business units inside or outside the United States. There aren't any. So it is sort of tough to say we are going to do something with regard to credits or disallowances of deductions when there are none that relate directly to that.

There have been claims to the contrary that the media, looking at it routinely, says that is just false or misleading.

Finally, when it comes to proposed deductions for bringing jobs back to our shores, the proposal would likely pose some really serious administrative difficulties for an Internal Revenue Service that already has plenty of problems. The legislation, as I read it, gives the IRS authority to subjectively judge whether the IRS thinks that business deductions were made specifically for the purpose of bringing jobs to the United States or moving jobs overseas. Because there are no specific targeted tax deductions for this, the IRS would have to somehow subjectively determine whether that was true. That is going to be tough, because multinational businesses create and close businesses around the globe every day, most times because it is the most economically efficient thing to do from a business perspective. They start a company, close a company, move them around. Asking the IRS to determine whether those decisions were made specifically to move jobs to the United States or to move jobs overseas I think is going to be impossible. That is why this legislation, if passed, is not going anywhere.

I do appreciate my colleagues' hard work in trying to come up with real legislation to address the problem. Senator WYDEN, who is the Democratic Chair of the Finance Committee, has been working on that, as have others. But this particular one is just not going to help. It is just not going to help. That fact should serve as a stark reminder that the only way we are going to stop these so-called inversions, the only way we are going to stop people from saying I would rather be a foreign company than a U.S. company is to make it more attractive to be here—to do what we should have done over the last couple decades—and the rest of the world has; all of our competitors have—which is to reform our Tax Code so that it is good for American workers and good for American investors. If we do that, I think America's best days are ahead of us. I really do.

There are a lot of things we need to do, as we talked about earlier, to make this country more competitive and to be sure we are creating the best jobs and the greatest opportunities here for everybody. But one thing we can do that will give the economy a shot in the arm right away is this comprehensive tax reform. When people have analyzed this from a macroeconomic basis, they say: If we did this—lower the rate by broadening the base, go to this competitive international system—we would generate a lot more investment and business in America. That would in turn generate a lot more investments, a lot more business here in America. That would in turn generate more revenue.

So it is growth revenues, which is exactly what we want to see. We want to see more jobs, and we want to see us being able to have the kind of growth and prosperity so we can help to get out of this debt and deficit, which is a real problem. And, going forward, it is

a problem we are going to have to deal with, both because it affects the economy and because it affects what we are doing to future generations.

As legislators, it is our job to fix this problem. That is what we were hired to do. I know it is not easy. I know corporate tax reform is tough to do, because we would take away benefits from one company or another by lowering that rate. But, by the way, when we do this—when we do lower that rate and get rid of some of these preferences to do so, guess what. Everybody has to pay taxes.

People talk about it is unfair that some American companies in some years, because they get a tax break, don't pay taxes. Well, if they can't be as creative because there aren't all these deductions and credits and exemptions to be able to use, they are going to have to pay taxes. Everyone will pay. There will be a lower rate and they will be more competitive, and they won't be having this incentive to move offshore. But everybody will be paying taxes. And I think that is part of what we ought to be doing.

To be able to compete and to succeed and to help American workers, it is time for us to make tax reform a reality. Let's not do things that might feel good politically and do some of these one-offs and half steps that in the end could inadvertently actually make it worse, not better—because, again, if we make it even more difficult to be an American company, we are just not going to have as many American companies because they will be bought by foreign companies that can pay more for them and pay a premium. Let's instead get busy doing what we were elected to do, which is to work across the aisle to come up with sensible tax reform, lowering that rate, a competitive international system, and ensuring that we do create more opportunities for American workers to be able to compete—not just survive but thrive in the global economy.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MALAYSIAN AIRLINE FLIGHT 17

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise to talk about the deteriorating situation in Syria and in Iraq. However, before I address the situation in the Middle East, I wish to speak briefly about Russia and the downing of the Malaysian Airline flight 17.

Last week we all watched in horror as news came in of the almost 300 civilians who were callously murdered. I have seen the intelligence on this attack, and it is very clear Russia bears the responsibility for the death of these civilians. Vladimir Putin should be held accountable, regardless of whether it was a Russian soldier or a Russian-sponsored separatist who pulled the trigger. Russia either shot down the plane itself or directly gave separatists the order and the ability to do so.

Russia and its proxy separatists in eastern Ukraine are well armed, as was clearly demonstrated last week, and they are also very irresponsible. President Putin continues to flout the international community by sending heavy weapons and fighters into eastern Ukraine. In addition, Russia is supporting Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria and failing to comply with some of its international arms control obligations.

The limited sanctions put in place so far have done little to deter Putin. In addition to simply increasing sanctions, President Obama must show strength and leadership and rally the international community to secure the crash site, conduct a thorough investigation, and hold the Russians, and particularly Putin, accountable for this unthinkable attack. Now is not the time for half measures. Swift and decisive action is needed to deal with this situation.

THE MIDDLE EAST

With regard to the Middle East, the rise of the al-Nusra Front and ISIL—the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant—presents a serious and credible threat to the security of the region, to the United States of America, and to our allies. Yet despite repeated requests from me and other Members of this body on both sides of the aisle, the administration has yet to present a compelling plan to counter this growing threat. The administration seems determined to keep its head in the sand, but this threat simply cannot be ignored. This same wait-and-see mentality is just more of what got us into this mess with Syria in the first place.

ISIL is gaining strength, capturing arms and equipment, and closing in on Baghdad. ISIL in recent weeks has purportedly garnered hundreds of millions of dollars, thousands of fighters, and countless weapons. We have seen ISIL parade around with 4 U.S.-made howitzers and MRAPs. In the absence of resistance from MRAPs and other forces, ISIL is able to consolidate its gains, redistribute its captured material, and recruit additional fighters. As ISIL has taken territory, it has also ransacked several prisons, providing it with an even larger fighting force, all of this in preparation for an assault on Baghdad.

ISIL is clearly preparing to attack Baghdad, which will inevitably include terrorist attacks against Western interests and possibly including the international airport and the U.S. Embassy. ISIL fighters have plotted and conducted terrorist attacks in Baghdad over the past decade and it is naive to think they will not continue. We can wait for ISIL to descend on Baghdad with its newly acquired weaponry or we can take the fight to them before they reach the Capitol.

In addition to closing in on Baghdad, ISIL has its sights set on Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and other parts of the region. On June 25 of this year, we saw an ISIL suicide bomber detonate himself in a Beirut hotel after being discovered by security forces. This is not the only attack we have seen outside of Iraq and Syria. Lebanon in recent months has been besieged by violence linked to the conflict in Iraq and Syria, and it is only a matter of time before these attacks spread to Jordan as well as to Israel.

ISIL not only represents a credible threat to the region but to Europe and the United States as well. Earlier this year we witnessed an armed attack on a Jewish Museum in Brussels. The attacker, a 29-year-old French national, had returned from fighting in Syria and was arrested with an ISIL flag wrapped around his rifle. Alarmingly, the cell's leader had been arrested in Afghanistan in 2001 and was also a former Guantanamo Bay detainee. Individuals linked to ISIL and Syrian extremist groups have been arrested in other parts of Europe, including Germany and France.

ISIL's aspirations don't end in Europe but extend to the United States. The group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has been clear about the group's ultimate goal of confronting the United States, and as a country we must be prepared for this threat. Many of ISIL's leaders have threatened the United States for years under the banner of Al Qaeda and Iraq. These fighters have been planning attacks against Baghdad and are responsible for the deaths of many U.S. servicemembers over the last decade.

One of the biggest lessons we learned from the September 11 attacks was that we cannot give terrorists a sanctuary from which to plan attacks against us. Arguably, ISIL now has control of the largest territory ever held by a terrorist group. This safe haven provides ISIL with the time and space they need to train fighters and plan operations. It also has provided them with access to weapons and a network that can be used to support external operations. We knew about the threat we faced from Al Qaeda prior to 9/11, but we failed to act. I just hope we don't make the same mistake again.

ISIL isn't the only threat we face in Iraq and Syria. Experienced fighters and jihadists have flocked to Syria, forming several groups that could threaten the United States, including the Al Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front. Several U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents have traveled to Syria to join the al-Nusra Front and other groups. In May we witnessed Moner Mohammad Abusalha, the first American suicide bomber in Syria, carry out

an attack that is believed to have killed almost 40 Syrian personnel.

A Florida native, Abusalha was eulogized by a recruitment video featuring images of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and a burning American flag.

The White House recently announced plans to increase support for the Syrian opposition, including a $500 million plan to train and equip vetted elements of the Syrian opposition. Despite the announcement, few details are available on how this training would actually take place, and it may be quite some time before this program begins. It is also unclear how this new program to train Syrian opposition fighters will actually help counter the growing terrorist threat in Syria as opposed to simply countering the Assad regime. It is clear the administration has not prepared any plan that will fit into a cohesive and compelling foreign policy in the region.

The Middle East over the last 3 years has been besieged by a resurgence of instability, violence, and terrorism. The administration, unfortunately, has done little to stop it. Instead of focusing on countering rising groups in Iraq and Syria, the administration has been focused on ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which appears to have had the unfortunate consequence of letting America's enemies grow stronger.

Al Qaeda, its affiliates, and other terrorist groups are determined to attack the United States. We constantly face new plots and operatives looking for ways to murder Americans, such as the foiled May 2012 AQAP plot to put another IED on a U.S.-bound commercial aircraft. Thankfully, this plot and others have not materialized, but we are not going to always be so fortunate. Just this month TSA was forced to institute new security measures to mitigate the terrorist threat to commercial aviation. The administration must come to grips with the terrorist threats we face and put policies in place that will effectively counter them. I would encourage the administration to act immediately before another act of terrorism against our country occurs.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding rule XXII, that following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2569 on Wednesday, July 23, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 802, 786, and 599; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote with no intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that any rollcall votes following the first in the series be 10 minutes in length; that if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session; further, that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to S. 2569, all time consumed while in executive session under the terms of this agreement count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, we expect the nominations to be considered in this agreement to be confirmed by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PAMELA HARRIS TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 929.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara A. Mikulski, Benjamin L. Cardin, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Bernard Sanders, Dianne Feinstein, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Amy Klobuchar, Edward J. Markey, Tom Harkin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk reported the nomination of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BRENT T. ADAMS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the career of the Honorable Brent T. Adams, who is retiring from the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

For more than 25 years, Judge Adams has been the presiding judge in Department Six of the district court. Since being appointed to the distinctive position by Governor Bob Miller on July 4, 1989, his consistent leadership and responsiveness to the public and the court have not gone unnoticed, as he successfully won four elections to maintain his seat. Judge Adams' dedication to his profession was reflected in the Washoe County Bar Association's biennial surveys, where he consistently received exceptional judicial performance evaluations and high retention ratings.

Beyond his remarkable career at the district court, Judge Adams has had a tremendous impact on the entire legal community. He has served as a faculty member of the National Judicial College for 20 years, where he conducts national and international legal and judicial training on a wide array of topics. Judge Adams initiated the Washoe County drug court, the court services program, and the Washoe County Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, which he chaired from 1993 to 2002. He is also an active member of the Nevada Board of Continuing Legal Education and has served on the Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline, the Judicial Assessment Commission, the Nevada Supreme Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, and the Washoe County Law Library Board.

In addition to his impressive work in the legal community, he has worked to serve the greater Reno community by serving on the University of Nevada, Reno College of Liberal Arts Advisory Council, and the Reno Diocese Review Board of the Roman Catholic Church.

Through his years of professional and voluntary service, Judge Adams has become a fixture in the Reno community. I congratulate him on his many successes and decades of dedicated public service, and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DICK CLARK

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I served with Dick Clark and traveled with him to different parts of the country, including a very cold day in the winter in Vermont. One of the finest Senators I served with was Dick Clark from Iowa and I still think of all I learned from him. I was so happy to see David Rogers' article about him in Politico. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Politico, Dec. 20, 2013]

A NELSON MANDELA BACKSTORY: IOWA'S DICK CLARK

(By David Rogers)

Dick Clark was Mandela when Mandela wasn't cool.

A one-term Democratic senator from Iowa and for years afterward a leader of congressional discussions on apartheid, Clark is now 85 and long gone from the public scene. But the ups and downs of his career are an intriguing back story—and counterpoint—to the outpouring of praise for Nelson Mandela, the black liberation leader and former president of South Africa who died Dec. 5.

It wasn't always that way in Washington.

Indeed, Mandela turned 60 in South Africa's Robben Island prison in the summer of 1978 even as Clark—chairman of the African Affairs panel on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee—was fighting for his own re-election in Iowa.

It was a time when Republican challenger Roger Jepsen felt free to taunt the Democrat as ''the senator from Africa.'' Tensions were such that the State Department called in a South African Embassy official in May for making disparaging remarks about Clark in Iowa. And after Clark lost, South Africa's ousted information secretary, Eschel Rhoodie, said his government invested $250,000 to defeat Clark, who had become a thorn in the side of the white regime.

Jepsen denied any knowledge of South Africa's alleged role. Nor does Clark accuse him of such. But 35 years after, Clark has no doubt that the apartheid government led by Prime Minister B. J. Vorster wanted him out—and had a hand in his defeat.

Clark's liberal record and support of the Panama Canal Treaty, which narrowly cleared the Senate in the spring of 1978, also hurt his chances in Iowa. But the fatal blow was a fierce wave of late-breaking ground attacks from anti-abortion forces—something even conservative writers like Robert Novak had not anticipated in a published column weeks before.

''Abortion was the issue, and how much effect this apparent $250,000 had to do with promoting it more, I have no way of evaluating it,'' Clark said in a recent interview at his home in Washington. ''No question that they did it. They said they did, and I think they did.''

Clark had made himself a target for South Africa with his high-profile chairmanship of the Africa subcommittee. In Washington as well, he was not without critics who accused him of being too puritanical, too quick to fault U.S. policy. But like no senator before him, Clark used the panel to raise the visibility of human rights issues in the southern regions of the continent.

The roster of prior Africa subcommittee chairs reads like a Who's Who of national Democrats: John Kennedy in the late 1950s; Tennessee Sen. Albert Gore, father of the future vice president; future Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield; and former Vice President Hubert Humphrey after his return to the Senate. But all stayed for just one Congress before moving on. Clark stuck, challenging Cold War policies that he believed hurt the larger struggle against apartheid that Mandela symbolized.

''He was the icebreaker here,'' says his friend Rep. George Miller (D–Cal.). ''He was out breaking ice on Africa issues for the country and certainly for the Senate.''

What's more, after losing his Senate seat, Clark didn't stop. Instead, he found a new classroom via the Aspen Institute, where the former professor began what amounted to his own graduate program in 1983 to educate members of Congress about different policy issues.

Russia had been Clark's early academic interest and was as well in his first years at Aspen. But Africa tugged and he set out ''to try to get a cadre of Congress who would know about South Africa and what was going on in South Africa.''

These typically were nearly weeklong seminars—held at choice locales overseas to lure members of Congress but also to provide neutral ground for the warring parties inside South Africa.

Bermuda, for example, served as a meeting place in 1989. The island allowed officials from the South African government to shuttle in and out before the arrival of outlawed representatives for Mandela's African National Congress, which was operating then from outside South Africa.

''All of them were there, making their pitches,'' Clark said. And once Mandela was released from prison in 1990, the venue shifted to South Africa itself. ''We got Mandela, who had just gotten out of jail not long before, to come,'' Clark recalls of an April 1991 session in Cape Town a seminar that also included F. W. de Klerk, South Africa's white president.

Most striking here was Clark's impact on Republicans—the party that helped to throw him out of the Senate.

''He is a wonder,'' says former Sen. Alan Simpson (R-Wyo.). ''I had been told he was a lefty, the stereotype, but he just drew out people. He never showed bitterness toward the right or promoting one side.''

Just as ''Mandela made a difference, Dick Clark made a difference in awareness'' at home in Congress, Simpson adds.

Former Rep. John Porter (R-Ill.) remembers an Aspen meeting in Cape Town at which Clark surprised the participants on the last day by sending them out to walk through the neighborhoods of a black township to meet with families. ''Dick Clark would do things like that,'' Porter said.

''This was before all the big changes in South Africa when we were debating sanctions,'' said former Sen. John Danforth (R-Mo.). ''He was just so dedicated to it and knew all the players.''

In fact, Clark says he knew very little about Africa before coming to the Senate after the 1972 elections. But when a seat opened up on Foreign Relations in 1975, he grabbed it and fell into the Africa post just ahead of his classmate Sen. JOSEPH BIDEN (D-Del.), the future vice president.

Timing is everything in Congress and it was Clark's good fortune in this case. The legendary but very controlling Foreign Relations Committee Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) had just left the Senate at the end of 1974 and this allowed subcommittee chairs like Clark to act more on their own.

''Fulbright's attitude was the subcommittees couldn't do anything. Everything ought to be done by the full committee,'' Clark said. ''I was next to last on seniority. When it got down to me, the only thing left was Africa about which I knew very little. Some would say none. So I just figured: Here's a chance to learn something and I spent a lot of time doing hearings and learning about Africa.''

He also traveled venturing into southern, sub-Saharan Africa which was then unfamiliar to many on the Senate committee.

''Humphrey told me that he got as far south as Ethiopia,'' Clark said. ''It was new territory and interesting and of course we were putting a lot of covert money in Africa, as were the Russians.''

In the summer of 1975, Clark and two aides left Washington for what was to be a trip to just Tanzania, Zambia and Zaire. But that itinerary quickly expanded to include the two former Portuguese colonies, Mozambique and Angola.

The Angola detour was pivotal and included face-to-face meetings with Central Intelligence Agency personnel on the ground as well as the leaders of the three rival factions in Angola's post-colonial civil war. The Soviet Union and Cuba were then actively backing the new leftist government under Agostinho Neto. The CIA and South Africa had begun a covert partnership assisting rebel factions: chiefly Jonas Savimbi in the south, but also Holden Roberto, whose base was more in the north and Zaire.

Soon after Clark returned, the debate broke into the open after news reports detailing the U.S. and South African operations. Congress cut off new funding in a December 1975 appropriations fight. It then quickly enacted a more permanent ban the so-called Clark amendment prohibiting future covert assistance for paramilitary operations in Angola.

Signed into law in February 1976, the Clark amendment was repealed under President Ronald Reagan in 1985. Conservatives long argued that it was always an overreach by Congress, reacting to Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon's handling of the Vietnam War.

''The danger now is the pendulum will swing too far the other way,'' Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned Clark's panel in a January 1976 hearing.

But for all the echoes of Vietnam, Clark says he saw his amendment more as a way to separate the U.S. from South Africa's apartheid regime.

''The reason the amendment passed so easily in both houses was because of Vietnam, so I certainly related the two,'' Clark said. ''But my interest was really in Africa and South Africa. We were aligning ourselves with apartheid forces. The reason for my amendment was to disassociate us from apartheid and from South Africa.''

''Kissinger had really no feeling for human rights that I could ever discern and certainly not in South Africa,'' Clark said. ''His association with South Africa was obviously very close.''

A year later, visiting South Africa, Clark got a taste of how closely the white government under Vorster had been watching him.

That trip included an important meeting in Port Elizabeth with the young black leader, Steve Biko, who had just been released from jail and would die 10 months later after a brutal interrogation in the summer of 1977. Clark said he became a courier of sorts, taking back a Biko memorandum to Jimmy Carter's incoming administration.

But while in South Africa, Vorster himself wanted to see Clark and spent much of an hour quizzing the senator on his past public comments—even down to small college appearances in the U.S.

''He spent an hour with me,'' Clark said. ''They obviously had followed me to each of these, much to my surprise.''

''He would quote me. And then he would say, Did you say that on such and such a date and such and such a place?' ''We went through this for an hour. He just wanted the opportunity to tell me how wrong I was about everything I was saying.''

''He was the last great Afrikaner president,'' Clark said. ''In fact, he ultimately resigned over the embarrassment of the Muldergate thing years later.''

The Muldergate thing—as Clark calls it—was a major scandal inside South Africa in the late 1970s when it was revealed that government funds had been used by the ruling National Party to mount a far-reaching propaganda campaign in defense of apartheid.

This went well beyond placing favorable articles or opinion pieces in the press. Tens of millions of dollars were invested to try to undermine independent South African papers. There was even a failed attempt in the U.S. to buy the Washington Star in hopes of influencing American policy.

Muldergate got its name from Connie Mulder, South Africa's information minister at the time. But just as Watergate had its John Dean, Rhoodie—a top deputy to Mulder—proved the top witness: a suave propagandist who later gave detailed interviews and wrote his own book on the subject filling 900-plus pages.

Rhoodie, who was prosecuted for fraud but cleared by an appeals court in South Africa, ultimately relocated to the U.S., where he died in Atlanta in 1993. But by his account, the Vorster government had used its contacts with a Madison Avenue public relations firm, Sydney S. Baron & Co. Inc., to undermine Clark's reelection.

Rhoodie describes a meeting early in 1978 in South Africa attended by Mulder, Vorster and Baron at which Clark's election was specifically discussed, and the $250,000 was later moved into one of Baron's accounts ''to make sure that Clark was defeated.''

As South Africa's information secretary, Rhoodie was in fact the signatory of contracts with Baron, according to filings with the Justice Department. These show the New York firm initially received about $365,000 annually under a contract signed in April 1976. This was increased to $650,000 a year later. In August 1977, the same arrangement was extended through January 1979, including a $250,000 payment in April 1978.

Whether this $250,000 is a coincidence or what Rhoodie was speaking on is not clear. At this stage, most of the major players are dead and New York state corporate records show Baron's firm was dissolved in 1993—the year that Rhoodie died.

Watching it all is Clark's friend, old boss in the House and later Senate colleague, John Culver. The two met in 1964, when Clark signed on to help Culver win his first House election and then worked with Culver in Washington until 1972, when Clark went back to Iowa to run for the Senate.

A Harvard-educated Marine Corps veteran, Culver said he had his own fascination with Africa as a young man in the 1960s. But he remembered that era as a time of greater optimism, as new countries across the continent were emerging from colonial rule.

''Dick came to it when there was less political reward,'' Culver said. ''But he stuck to it.''

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STEVEN J. RAIRDON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to recognize CPT Steve Rairdon of Leslie County, KY. Captain Rairdon is a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and participated in commemorating the 70th anniversary of the D-day invasion in Normandy, France, last month.

As an airborne soldier, Captain Rairdon understands the indispensable role his predecessors—the first soldiers of their kind—played in the D-day invasion. In the earliest hours of June 6, 1944, Allied paratroopers dropped behind enemy lines in advance of the amphibious invasion to disrupt German lines of communication and to secure key roads and bridges. The success of their mission proved vital to the success of the invasion as a whole.

By participating in the 70th anniversary ceremonies, which included a jump into Normandy, Captain Rairdon and all those who joined him paid a wonderful tribute to our veterans who fought 70 years ago. It is these acts of remembrance that continue to illuminate the unimaginable sacrifices made by the members of the ''greatest generation''. Therefore, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in honoring Captain Steve Rairdon.

The Leslie County News recently published an article detailing Captain Rairdon's time spent in Normandy. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

[From the Leslie County News, July 3, 2014]

TELLING THE AMERICAN MILITARY STORY . . . ONE SERVICE MEMBER AT A TIME

NORMANDY, France.—Army Captain Steven J. Rairdon stands on hallowed ground, as he and hundreds of other American service members are here commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Normandy D-day invasion in 1944 that changed the course of World War II and history. ''Honoring our history, securing our future'' is the reason the American service members are here today. Rairdon is a member of C Company, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion from Vicenza, Italy, and spent approximately a week in the Normandy region, participating in ceremonies and representing the Americans who fought here 70 years ago.

''I'm extremely honored to have been given the opportunity to jump here. It's very humbling. I'm proud of our American World War II veterans. They made great sacrifices for our nation, and paved the way for today's airborne community. Thank you to all of our veterans and their families for their sacrifices they've made to keep our country and our NATO allies free,'' Rairdon said.

Soldiers such as Rairdon remain indebted to the veterans whose service demonstrated the selfless actions of the ''greatest generation'' who not only served to protect and defend our nation, but were part of a global force to defend peace and strengthen our ties with an emerging Alliance. The selfless actions by all allies on D-day continue to resonate 70 years later as U.S. forces in Europe remain steadfast in our commitment to our European partners and NATO Allies.

Rairdon is the husband of Myra Sizemore Rairdon, a 1992 graduate of Leslie County High School and the son-in-law of former Leslie County Superintendent Tommy Sizemore of Hyden, KY. Rairdon is the son of Steve Rairdon of Dewitt, Iowa, and Theresa Reeves of Tyler, Texas.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, on July 16, 2014, I was absent from votes on the confirmation of Mr. Ronnie L. White to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri Vote No. 227 and on S. 2578, the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act of 2014 Vote No. 228.

I wish to state for the record my strong support for Mr. White's nomination and the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act. I also wish to state that I would have voted aye on Mr. White's nomination and the Protect Women's Health from Corporate Interference Act had I been present.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT VINSON B. ADKINSON III

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Army SGT Vinson B. ''Trinity'' Adkinson III. Sergeant Adkinson and three other soldiers died August 31, 2010, when an improvised explosive device blew up next to their vehicle near Forward Operating Base Shank, Logar province, Afghanistan.

Known by family and friends as ''Trinity'' because he was the third Vinson in his family, he was born on December 13, 1983, and grew up in Empire City, OK, before moving in his junior year of high school to live with an aunt in Kansas. His father recalled interest in the Armed Forces was stoked early for Trinity as the first toys his son played with were G.I. Joes.

''He played army outside, he trick or treated as an armyman,'' Adkinson Jr. said. ''Me and him spent a lot of time outside in the woods. He was born to be a soldier.'' Trinity enlisted in the Army immediately after graduating from Chaparral High School in Harper, KS, in 2003.

He started his career with the 82nd Airborne Division followed by serving with the Honor Guard of the 4th Infantry Division. Later assigned to the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team based in Bamberg, Germany, Trinity served three tours in Iraq and was on his second tour in Afghanistan.

''I begged him not to go back,'' said grandmother Mary Adkinson after seeing her grandson earlier this year. She said he told her he needed to return to Afghanistan so that the people of that nation could have peace in their lives.

He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Vinson Bryon Adkinson, Sr., and Robert Allen Morgan, Sr., and is survived by his wife Veronica, father Vinson Bryon Adkinson, Jr., of Comanche, OK, brother Jacob Aaron Adkinson of Stillwater, OK, sister

Mary Kay Adkinson of Wichita, KS, his paternal grandmother Mary Ellen Adkinson of Duncan, OK, and maternal grandmother Sharon Kay Morgan of Wichita, KS.

SGT David Shearouse served with Trinity and was given the task of escorting his remains home. ''He always wanted to take point, he wanted to be the leader,'' he said of his fallen comrade. ''Everybody wanted to be like him. He was a good man. I lost my friend, my brother and my hero.''

The family held a funeral service for Sergeant Adkinson on September 13, 2010, and he was laid to rest with full military honors in Fort Sill National Cemetery in Elgin, OK.

Today we remember Army SGT Vinson B. Adkinson III, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

SERGEANT JASON L. MCCLUSKEY

Madam President, I would also like to pay tribute to SGT Jason L. McCluskey. Jason was tragically killed in action on November 4, 2010, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit with small-arms fire in Zarghun Shahr, Mohammad Agha district of Afghanistan.

Jason was born September 12, 1984, to Jimmy and Delores ''Darby'' McCluskey in Stockton, CA, and later moved to McAlester, OK. As a wrestler at McAlester High School he went to the State championship tournament several times before graduating in 2004. Quoting James Dean in his senior quote, he wrote: ''Dream as if you will live forever. And live as if you will die today.''

Upon enlisting in the Army in April 2006, he was assigned as a paratrooper to the 27th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC. ''SGT McCluskey was a true hero to us all,'' said 1SG Randolph Delapena, his company first sergeant. ''He was like my son that I saw come up the ranks to become an elite non-commissioned officer. He was the edge of the sword, he led from the front, and he cared deep down for not only his Soldiers, but every Soldier he came in contact with.''

His mother, Delores Oliveras, said shortly after her son's death that Jason was dedicated to serving in the Army. ''I asked him plenty of times to leave the Army,'' she said. ''But all he would say was, 'No, Mom, I really love what I do.' '' Shortly before his death, he was named his battalion's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

McCluskey is survived by his son Landon McCluskey, mother Delores Darby McCluskey Oliveras and her husband Ray, father Jimmy McCluskey, brother Joshua Stambaugh, stepfather Charlie Stambaugh, grandmother Anita McCluskey, grandmother Wilma Kohl and her husband Doyle, mother of his son, Cassie Wright, and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as many other relatives, friends, and loved ones too numerous to mention.

A funeral was held on November 12, 2010, at Chaney Harkins Funeral Home, and he was laid to rest in Tannehill Cemetery in McAlester, OK.

''Our Army and nation will be forever indebted to SGT McCluskey for his service,'' said Major General Rodney O. Anderson from Fort Bragg. ''SGT McCluskey laid down his life for his friends, his battle buddies, his unit, our Army and our nation.''

Today we remember Army SGT Jason L. McCluskey, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

CAPTAIN DAVID J. THOMPSON

Madam President, I am also honoring the life and sacrifice of a true American hero, Army CPT David J. Thompson. Captain Thompson died on January 29, 2010, at Forward Operating Base Nunez, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained while supporting combat operations.

Known as John Paul—JP for short—by many, he was born on May 25, 1970, and listed Hooker, OK, as his home of record. In 1989 he enlisted in the Army and completed basic combat training and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, SC.

John Paul served in a wide variety of jobs during his military career. His first assignment was as a radio telephone operator and team chief for the Regimental Signal Detachment, 75th Ranger Regiment and communications sergeant for the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment with the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA. From 1995 to 1998, he served in AK as a rifle squad leader and platoon sergeant with the 1st Battalion, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. He later served as a staff noncommissioned officer with the Command Operations Center, U.S. Army AK.

From January 1999 to May 2002, while attending East Carolina University, he served with the 514th Military Police Company, NC Army National Guard. In May 2002 he completed a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry and was commissioned as a chemical officer. Following his officer basic course, he was assigned to 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, as the division chemical logistics officer. In March 2003 he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment and served as a battle captain and rifle platoon leader for his first deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Then, from June 2004 to November 2005, he served as the battalion adjutant and rear detachment commander. From August to December 2008 he served as executive officer for Company C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) and held that position until taking command of Operational Detachment Alpha 3334, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC, in January 2009.

Captain Thompson was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA, on February 15, 2010.

John Paul is survived by his wife Emily and their two daughters, Isabelle and Abigail of Pinehurst, NC; parents Charles and Freida Thompson of Hinton, OK; and sister Alisa Mueller.

Today we remember Army CPT David J. Thompson, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

REGARDING U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, as the conflict in Gaza continues to escalate, we mourn the tragic loss of lives and hope for a speedy and peaceful resolution. Israelis and Palestinians have both seen far too much bloodshed and destruction.

I cosponsored S. Res. 498 because I stand by Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas' indiscriminate attacks. No country in the world would be expected to stand by as its people are threatened with rocket fire. But both sides should do everything possible to deescalate and end this battle. I urge Hamas to end its attacks and to renounce its mission of annihilating Israel, and I urge Israel to exercise restraint and proportional force, tailoring its tactics to protect innocent lives.

There can and must be an end in sight for the violence that is now engulfing the region. I support calls for an immediate ceasefire. The United States must continue to stand ready to help facilitate a solution and a path forward toward both security and economic development, which are essential elements for any enduring peace.

BOOTHBAY, MAINE 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President. I wish to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Town of Boothbay, ME. Boothbay was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

The year of Boothbay's incorporation, 1764, was but one milestone in a long journey of progress, a journey that is inextricably linked to the sea. For thousands of years the Boothbay Peninsula was a fishing grounds of the Etchemin Tribe, and the extensive shell middens and other archeological sites are today a treasure trove of this ancient history.

Drawn by one of the finest natural harbors in New England, English settlement began within a few years of the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth in 1620. The early English influence is underscored by the fact that some of the first deeds granted to the settlers were signed by the Etchemin Sagamore, who was called Chief Robinhood by the newcomers. By 1764, Boothbay was a growing town with an economy driven by

fishing, shipbuilding, and tidal-powered sawmills. The wealth produced by the sea and by hard work was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

Boothbay was a vital center for revolutionary activity during America's fight for independence. The strategic importance of the harbor put the small town under frequent enemy attack, and more than 100 patriots rose to its defense. During the war Captain Paul Reed established himself as one of our young nation's ablest and most courageous naval commanders. The Reverend John Murray was an eloquent and fearless voice for freedom, and his powerful words called many to its cause.

In the decades that followed, Boothbay became a place of industry and innovation with such endeavors as fish processing, canning, and fish-oil production. During the 1830s, Boothbay's bracing sea breezes and crystal-clear waters made it an early health spa, and by the end of the 19th century the town became a favorite destination for vacationers and summer residents.

Today the people of Boothbay continue to build on those traditions. Fishing and lobstering are mainstays of the economy. Fine hotels, inns, and restaurants support a thriving tourism industry. Boatyards build luxury yachts, fishing boats, and advanced vessels for military and law-enforcement purposes. Since its founding in 1974, the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences has become a global leader in oceanographic research. Lobster boat races, the annual Windjammer Days, and the Fishermen's Festival celebrate the town's maritime heritage, and the restored Opera House provides a beautiful venue for arts and entertainment.

This 250th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years. It is about human accomplishment, an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two and a half centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a community. Thanks to those who came before, Boothbay has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WILLIAM L. SHELTON

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I wish to recognize Gen. William L. Shelton, commander of Air Force Space Command, on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Air Force.

Over the course of his 38-year career in the U.S. Air Force, General Shelton has served with great distinction and made countless sacrifices for our country. I join with all Coloradans in commending his service, the sacrifices of his family—including his wife Linda and their two children, Sara and Joel—and I offer my great personal appreciation for his leadership and devotion to our Nation's security.

A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, General Shelton's selection as the commander of Air Force Space Command in January 2011 culminates a distinguished career that began in 1976 at the Space and Missile Test Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA. In a career dedicated to the space enterprise, he commanded units at Falcon-Schriever, F.E. Warren, Offutt, Vandenberg, and Peterson Air Force Bases. He also provided valuable leadership and counsel to the Secretary of the Air Force, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and the Joint Staff during multiple headquarters U.S. Air Force assignments. His positive leadership had a direct and positive impact on countless men and women in our Armed Forces, and his legacy will benefit the United States and our space policy for generations to come.

Throughout his career, General Shelton has been a vigilant advocate for our national security space programs. As the commander of Air Force Space Command, he was responsible for organizing, training and equipping more than 40,000 military and civilian personnel to assure space and cyberspace capabilities for the combatant commands and for the Nation. While those capabilities clearly contribute to our military's technological and strategic superiority, they also have become essential in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts—and they are now vital assets for the global community and world economy. As a result of his leadership, the Air Force has established a truly impressive record of successful space launches while developing an acquisition regime that has led to greater mission assurance and simultaneous cost savings across the Department of Defense. Further, his vision of future space capabilities will position the military to provide resilient, capable, and affordable space operations for the joint forces and the Nation well into the future.

General Shelton established and sustained an unmatched level of success during a time of increasing challenges. He has worked closely with the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, which I am proud to chair. It has been our great privilege to work with him. His frank and informed discussions of our space systems, including the global positioning satellite system, have helped leaders and citizens around the world appreciate the value and need to protect our Nation's foundational space capabilities. I am personally grateful for General Shelton's wise counsel and firm resolve to always do what is best for the Nation and for the airmen he has led. He is a leader of exceptional intellect, candor, and integrity, and his deeply held commitment to doing the right thing for the right reasons is clear to all who have been fortunate enough to work with him.

With nearly four decades of exemplary service to our Nation, Gen. William L. Shelton deserves our most heartfelt gratitude and praise. He and his family have my very best wishes for a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement. Our Nation and our Air Force are better for his leadership and distinguished service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HOWARD COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Howard County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $12.4 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memories of working together have to include their tremendous success in obtaining funds from a variety of programs I fought for including farm bill funding, public safety programs, and firefighter safety equipment.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal

dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Howard County has received $91,360 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Howard County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $35,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Howard County has received over $2.7 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Howard County has received more than $7.6 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Howard County's fire departments have received over $1.5 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment and over $337,000 in public safety dollars.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Howard County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Howard County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Howard County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WRIGHT COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Wright County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $9.5 million to the local economy.

Of course, one of my favorite memories of working together is the tremendous success that the Iowa Specialty Hospital Belmond had in obtaining a $21.6 million Community Facility Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Office to renovate the hospital facility.

Among the highlights:

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Wright County has received $967,434 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Wright County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $25,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Wright County has received over $5 million to remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—

including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Wright County has received more than $22 million from a variety of farm bill loan and grant programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Wright County's fire departments have received over $168,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Wright County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Wright County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Wright County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA BARRON

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Jessica Barron, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Jessica is a rising senior at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL. Currently, she is majoring in mass communications. Jessica is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jessica for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TREVOR IGOE

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Trevor Igoe, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Trevor is a graduate of University of Tampa, having majored in government and world affairs. Trevor is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Trevor for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FONSECA

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize David Fonseca, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

David is a freshman at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Currently, he is majoring in political science. David is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to David for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN GODOY

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Jonathan Godoy, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Jonathan is a student at the University of Chicago in Chicago, IL. Currently, Jonathan is majoring in political science. Jonathan is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jonathan for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SAM GRECO

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Sam Greco, a 2013 summer intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Sam is a junior at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Currently, he is majoring in international politics. Sam is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sam for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:51 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4719. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1528. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow a veterinarian to transport and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of veterinary practice outside of the registered location.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4719. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6545. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP): Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014'' (RIN0584–AE31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6546. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of Administrative Rules and Regulations Governing Issuance of Additional Allotment Base'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–13–0088; FV14–985–2 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6547. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Change in Size and Grade Requirements for Grapefruit'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–14–0015; FV14–906–2 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6548. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Modification of Aflatoxin Regulations'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–12–0068; FV13–983–1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6549. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Asian Longhorned Beetle; Quarantined Areas in New Jersey'' (Docket No. APHIS–2013–0078) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6550. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Zoxamide; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9913–35–Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6551. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Polyoxyalkylated Trimethylopropanes; Tolerance Exemption'' (FRL No. 9912–10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–6552. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Language Skill Proficiency Bonus program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6553. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense (DoD) intending to assign women to previously closed positions in the Department of the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6554. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6555. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry G. Robling, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–6556. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was established in Executive Order 13581 on July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6557. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's 2014 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6558. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6559. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6560. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Australia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6561. A communication from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Bureau of Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House'' (RIN1530–AA05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6562. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnace Fans'' (RIN1904–AC22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–6563. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Idaho Franklin County Portion of the Logan Nonattainment Area; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventory'' (FRL No. 9913–97–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6564. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Control of Nitrogen Oxide Emissions from Large Stationary Internal Combustion Engines'' (FRL No. 9913–79–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6565. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Auto Exhaust Emission Controls'' (FRL No. 9913–81–Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6566. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Grant County Sulfur Dioxide Limited Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9913–94–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6567. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Conformity of General Federal Actions'' (FRL No. 9913–92–Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6568. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9914–11–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York State; Transportation Conformity Regulations'' (FRL No. 9913–73–Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Idaho: Portneuf Valley PM10 Maintenance Plan Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets'' (FRL No. 9913–84–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6571. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Administrative Wage Garnishment'' (FRL No. 9913–63–OCFO) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6572. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a lease prospectus that supports the Administration's fiscal year 2015 Capital Investment and Leasing Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6573. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: RFS Pathways II, and Technical Amendments to the RFS Standards and E15 Misfueling Mitigation Requirements'' ((RIN2060–AR21) (FRL No. 9910–40–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6574. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''RFS Renewable Identification Number (RIN) Quality Assurance Program'' ((RIN2060–AR72) (FRL No. 9906–55–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6575. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Comprehensive Medicaid Integrity Plan for Fiscal Years 2014–2018''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6576. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nonqualified Deferred Compensation from Certain Tax Indifferent Parties'' (Rev. Rul. 2014–18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6577. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates'' (Notice 2014–43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6578. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Debt Collection'' (RIN1400–AD60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–6579. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Closing of the Jamieson Line, New York Border Crossing'' (CBP Dec. 14–08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6580. A communication from the Acting District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''District of Columbia Agencies' Compliance with Fiscal Year 2013 Small Business Enterprise Expenditure Goals''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6581. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2013 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation (No FEAR) Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6582. A communication from the General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits'' (29 CFR Part 4022; 29 CFR Part 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6583. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Priorities. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers'' (CFDA No. 84.133B–6; CFDA No. 84.133B–7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6584. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. Turboprop Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0416)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6585. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–1419)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 18, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6586. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0724)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6587. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2012–0482)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6588. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Safety Zone; Celebrate The Amboys Fireworks; Raritan Bay, Perth Amboy, NJ'' ((RIN1625–AA00) (Docket No. USCG–2014–0188)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6589. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''The New York North Shore Helicopter Route'' ((RIN2120–AJ75) (Docket No. FAA–2010–0302)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6590. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened and Endangered Status for Distinct Population Segments of Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks'' (RIN0648–XA798) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–317. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to follow Federal Housing Administration guidelines as they apply to site condominiums and view them as single-family homes as long as they meet certain criteria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 371

Whereas, Financing condominium ownership using government-backed loans is challenging. Traditional condominium units can be riskier for lenders because of the rights afforded to condominium associations, how associations are structured, and deed restrictions. This has made loans backed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) difficult to obtain unless the condominium development meets occupancy requirements and is approved by the agency; and

Whereas, Site condominiums are single-family condominium developments that have the benefit of reducing some lending risks. Here, condominium units are stand-alone structures similar to single-family dwellings where owners are responsible for the upkeep of the entire structure rather than the interior alone and the association is responsible for maintaining the grounds; and

Whereas, In 2009, the FHA began allowing site condominium buyers in certain non-approved condominium developments to receive FHA financing so long as the development met certain criteria. This included requiring each unit to be a detached single-family unit where the entire structure is considered the condominium unit. The unit owner is also responsible for all insurance and maintenance costs of the structure; and

Whereas, The VA has not yet adopted a similar policy. The FHA's site condominium policy has been beneficial to low- and medium-income home buyers and would be beneficial to veterans as well. Allowing VA-backed loans to finance site condominiums ownership without needing condominium developments to be approved by the agency will help connect elderly and disabled veterans unable to perform day-to-day property maintenance with affordable housing in desirable neighborhoods: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to follow Federal Housing Administration guidelines as they apply to site

condominiums and view them as single-family homes as long as they meet certain criteria; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–318. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan condemning certain individuals for their violent attacks on civilian targets in Nigeria, and supporting efforts by the President of the United States and the United States Congress to assist the Nigerian government in the safe return of the abducted women and girls in Nigeria, to prevent further attacks, and to promote the human rights of women and girls in Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 396

Whereas, Boko Haram is an acknowledged militant, terrorist organization. Since 2011, it has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings, killing nearly 4,000 innocent people in Nigeria It has targeted schools, mosques, churches, villages, agricultural centers, and government facilities in its escalating armed campaign to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria: and

Whereas, On April 14, Boko Haram abducted at gunpoint 276 teenage girls from the Government Girls Secondary School in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. While as least 53 girls immediately escaped, the remaining girls remain missing. Boko Haram has a history of kidnapping girls in the past for use as cooks and sex slaves, and there are reports that the abducted girls have been sold as brides to Islamist militants for the equivalent of $12 each: and

Whereas, In support of the Nigerian government, the United States dispatched drones over Nigeria to search for the abducted girls and deployed 80 soldiers to guard the drone base in nearby Chad. Other nations have also pledged support to help safely bring back the abducted girls. Despite these cooperative efforts, the abducted girls remain missing, and on June 9, Boko Haram abducted at least 20 additional women and girls from a village just miles from the earlier incident: and

Whereas, Boko Haram's increasingly bold attacks must be countered by a strong initiative to recover the abducted women and girls and prevent future attacks. This extremist group represents a growing threat to peace and stability in this region and to the United States' interests in this region. There are legitimate fears that Boko Haram may be emboldened to carry out attacks against Western targets, such as the U.S. Embassy and hotels frequented by Westerners: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we condemn Boko Haram for its violent attacks on civilian targets in Nigeria and call for the immediate, safe return of the women and girls abducted by them: and be it further

Resolved, That we express strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and families of the abducted women and girls, and encourage the Nigerian government to strengthen efforts that protect children seeking to obtain an education and to hold those who conduct violent acts against them accountable; and be it further

Resolved, That we support offers of United States assistance to the Nigerian government in the search for the abducted women and girls and courage the U.S. Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue support for initiatives that promote the human rights of women and girls in Nigeria; and be it further

Resolved, That we support our nation's efforts to hold terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, accountable and urge the President of the United States to provide a comprehensive strategy to counter the growing threat posed by radical Islamist terrorist groups in West Africa, the Sahel, and North Africa; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM–319. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 388

Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental illness is defined as ''health conditions that are characterized by alterations in thinking, mood, or behavior (or some combination thereof) associated with distress and/or impaired function.'' The National Institute of Mental Health states, ''While mental disorders are common in the United States, the burden of illness is particularly concentrated among those who experience disability due to serious mental illness (SMI)''; and

Whereas, In a given year, approximately ten million Americans experience serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder. Furthermore, approximately four million Americans experiencing serious mental illness do not receive treatment in a given year. Laws, regulations, and misinterpretations frequently shut out families attempting to get effective appropriate treatment for their loved ones in a mental health crisis; and

Whereas, There are ten times more individuals with serious mental illness in jails and prisons than in state psychiatric hospitals. Federal laws and billing policies restrict the ability of persons on Medicaid to receive high-quality inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment; and

Whereas, Current spending needs to be more focused on the most effective services and most severe mental illnesses. United States Congressman Tim Murphy of Pennsylvania has introduced the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 (H.R. 3717). The act would create a new Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance-Abuse Disorders to coordinate funding between agencies, collect increased data on treatment outcomes, and drive evidence-based care. To address issues regarding the shortage of psychiatric professionals, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 would advance alternatives to inpatient care and prioritize early intervention: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the Helping Families in Mental Crisis Act of 2013; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs:

Report to accompany S. 1219, a bill to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113–215).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1818. A bill to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Partrick J. Donahue II, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Lee E. Payne, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Ricky N. Rupp, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Walter J. Lindsley, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. John L. Gronski, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Mark A. Brown, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Roger W. Teague, to be Major General.

*Marine Corps nomination of Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., to be General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel, to be General.

*Army nomination of Gen. John F. Campbell, to be General.

*Navy nomination of Adm. William E. Gortney, to be Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. James K. McLaughlin, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, to be General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Mark A. Milley, to be General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Sean B. MacFarland, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Lori J. Robinson, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Gen. Herbert J. Carlisle, to be General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Frederick B. Hodges, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with John T. Aalborg, Jr. and ending with Michael A. Zrostlik, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Air Force nominations beginning with Roy G. Allen III and ending with John M. Williamson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2014.

Air Force nomination of Mark D. Levin, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Craig H. Rhyne and ending with David E.

Vizurraga, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 14, 2014.

Air Force nominations beginning with Steven E. Koehl and ending with Christopher Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 14, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Curtis L. Abendroth and ending with Michael J. Wise, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 26, 2014.

Army nomination of Brian C. Copeland, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Paul E. Linzey and ending with Gary L. Taylor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 26, 2014.

Army nominations beginning with Joel R. Burke and ending with Michael J. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 26, 2014.

Army nomination of Norman A. Hetzler, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Steven F. Finder and ending with Daniel H. Aldana, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 26, 2014.

Army nomination of Jason S. Hetzel, to be Major.

Army nomination of Felipe O. Blanding, Sr., to be Major.

Army nomination of Douglas T. Mo, to be Major.

Army nomination of Ruben J. Vazquez, to be Major.

Navy nomination of Jody M. Powers, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of James R. Powers, Jr., to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Christopher D. Snyder, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Richard Jimenez, Jr., to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Jaime A. Quejada and ending with Stephen S. Donohoe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 26, 2014.

Navy nomination of Timika B. Lindsay, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Christopher A. Middleton, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Joseph S. Gondusky and ending with Hasan A. Hobbs, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 14, 2014.

Navy nomination of Richard A. Portillo, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Henry S. Thrift III, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Leah M. Tunnell, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Travelyan M. Walker, to be Lieutenant Commander.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2634. A bill to provide tax relief for major disaster areas declared in 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2635. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage charitable contributions of real property for conservation purposes by Native Corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2637. A bill to modify the small business intermediary lending program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HOEVEN:

S. 2638. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to provide certainty with respect to the timing of Department of Energy decisions to approve or deny applications to export natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2639. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2640. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2641. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide that residential mortgage loans held in portfolio qualify and qualified mortgages for purposes of the presumption of the ability to repay requirements under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2642. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation, and to ensure that employers consider these requests; and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain growing low-wage occupations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2643. A bill to require a report by the Federal Communications Commission on designated market areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 510. A resolution congratulating the Newport Jazz Festival on its 60th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 511. A resolution establishing best business practices to fully utilize the potential of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 15

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 15, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to certain exceptions to discharge in bankruptcy.

S. 240

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the per-fiscal year calculation of days of certain active duty or active service used to reduce the minimum age at which a member of a reserve component of the uniformed services may retire for nonregular service.

S. 315

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008.

S. 544

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 544, a bill to require the President to develop a comprehensive national manufacturing strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic

medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to impose certain limitations on consent decrees and settlement agreements by agencies that require the agencies to take regulatory action in accordance with the terms thereof, and for other purposes.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 896, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1040

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1040, a bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy.

S. 1224

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1224, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1330

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1330, a bill to delay the implementation of the employer responsibility provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 1739

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1739, a bill to modify the efficiency standards for grid-enabled water heaters.

S. 2033

At the request of Mr. KAINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2033, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow the Secretary of Education to award job training Federal Pell Grants.

S. 2154

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.

S. 2301

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2301, a bill to amend section 2259 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. KAINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the Secretary to provide for the use of data from the second preceding tax year to carry out the simplification of applications for the estimation and determination of financial aid eligibility, to increase the income threshold to qualify for zero expected family contribution, and for other purposes.

S. 2406

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2406, a bill to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents.

S. 2441

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2441, a bill to extend the same Federal benefits to law enforcement officers serving private institutions of higher education and rail carriers that apply to law enforcement officers serving units of State and local government.

S. 2449

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2449, a bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to and the affordability, reliability, and sustainability of power, and for other purposes.

S. 2539

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2539, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research.

S. 2543

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2543, a bill to support afterschool and out-of-school-time science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2549

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2549, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada.

S. 2569

At the request of Mr. WALSH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a rule to require child safety packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2607, a bill to

extend and modify the pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

S. 2611

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2611, a bill to facilitate the expedited processing of minors entering the United States across the southern border and for other purposes.

S. 2624

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2624, a bill to provide additional visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2631

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2631, a bill to prevent the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program unlawfully created by Executive memorandum on August 15, 2012.

S. 2633

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2633, a bill to require notification of a Governor of a State if an unaccompanied alien child is placed in a facility or with a sponsor in the State and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Galvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Galvez.

S. RES. 420

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 420, a resolution designating the week of October 6 through October 12, 2014, as ''Naturopathic Medicine Week'' to recognize the value of naturopathic medicine in providing safe, effective, and affordable health care.

S. RES. 499

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 499, a resolution congratulating the American Motorcyclist Association on its 90th Anniversary.

AMENDMENT NO. 3377

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3377 intended to be proposed to S. 2410, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2635. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require publication on the Internet of the basis for determinations that species are endangered species or threatened species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2635

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act''.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT TO PUBLISH ON INTERNET BASIS FOR LISTINGS.

Section 4(b) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) PUBLICATION ON INTERNET OF BASIS FOR LISTINGS.—The Secretary shall make publicly available on the Internet the best scientific and commercial data available that are the basis for each regulation, including each proposed regulation, promulgated under subsection (a)(1), except that, at the request of a Governor or legislature of a State, the Secretary shall not make available under this paragraph information regarding which the State has determined public disclosure is prohibited by a law of that State relating to the protection of personal information.''.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 2637. A bill to modify the small business intermediary lending program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Small Business Intermediary Lending Program Act of 2014.

This bill would make permanent a successful small business financing program which provides startups and growing small businesses with access to capital. As a long-time member of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, I have been a strong supporter of efforts to help small firms expand and thrive so they can create jobs and grow the economy.

The need for creative and effective ways to expand access to capital for small businesses is greater than ever. According to a study issued by the Brookings Institute in May, entrepreneurship is experiencing a troubling decline in the United States, a trend the authors document over the last 30 years, across all 50 States and almost all metropolitan areas. They conclude that we need to pursue policies that better foster entrepreneurship if we want to create more jobs.

One way we can foster entrepreneurship and address the lingering unemployment affecting so many of our communities is to make permanent the Small Business Intermediary Lending Pilot Program.

I proposed and helped enact the Intermediary Lending Pilot Program into law in 2010. Over the last three years, the program has provided loans of $1 million to nonprofit intermediary lenders to make small to mid-sized loans to small businesses. The program gets financing to small businesses that are not being served by banks or conventional loan programs currently available through the Small Business Administration. Small businesses seeking this flexible debt financing may have graduated from the Small Business Administration's Microloan Program, and for a variety of reasons, especially lack of adequate collateral, do not qualify for guaranteed 7(a) loans or other private capital.

Given the slow economic recovery, high demand exists for the Intermediary Lending Pilot Program. In the short life of the program, intermediaries in 20 States across the country have already made more than 300 small business loans, totaling more than $26 million. If not for the Intermediary Lending Pilot Program, the small businesses receiving these loans would have been hard-pressed to find this financing elsewhere. Almost 90 percent of the loans were in the $50,000–$200,000 range, making these loans larger than microloans. The average loan size in the pilot has been about $88,000.

The loans facilitated by the Intermediary Lending Program have done more than help small businesses; they have created or retained thousands of jobs. Building on this success and keeping the program going will strengthen our economy, get small businesses sorely-needed capital, and catalyze job creation.

Merit Hall, a full service staffing firm located in downtown Detroit, provides services and staffing to construction, landscape and facility maintenance contractors throughout southeastern Michigan. In 2013, Merit Hall received a $200,000 ILP loan to support the company's growth. Merit Hall used those funds to retain and create 10 office jobs and 300 jobs in the field. In addition, this loan allowed Merit Hall to grow their revenues to the point where they were bankable and were able to receive a $350,000 loan from a commercial bank and pay off their ILP loan.

Rubber Technologies of Coleman, Michigan, recycles tires to create premium recycled products such as playground surfacing and rubber mats. The Intermediary Lending Program loan they received will help strengthen their business, allowing them to add

equipment and retain 12 jobs. Roaming Harvest, a small business in Traverse City, Michigan, started out as a food truck and now thanks to a loan from the Intermediary Pilot program has opened a café featuring local food, retaining two jobs and creating two new jobs.

These small loans can add up. An intermediary lender in the state of Washington, Craft3, has already made 34 loans through the program and created 98 jobs as a result.

Intermediary lenders do more than provide loans; they provide technical assistance and counseling which often does not accompany conventional loans, helping business owners start and grow successful enterprises.

The Intermediary Lending Program is modeled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Loan Program, which has existed since 1988. Like the USDA program, this SBA counterpart is a decentralized initiative relying on the capacity and market expertise of local, nonprofit intermediary lenders, but it expands this approach, serving both rural and urban areas.

The legislation I am introducing today makes the Intermediary Lending Program permanent and authorizes a funding level of $20 million for each of the next three fiscal years. The legislation authorizes nonprofit lending intermediaries, chosen on a competitive basis, to participate in the program. As in the pilot, each intermediary will receive a loan of up to $1 million at a low interest rate to create a revolving loan fund through which they will make small business loans.

The nonprofit lenders who participate in this program already tap a variety of financing programs to meet the needs of the small businesses in their states and localities. SBA has observed that one of the benefits of the Intermediary Lending Program as compared to the Microloan Program is the longer repayment term, 20 years versus 10 years, respectively. This patient capital helps to facilitate larger loans that some businesses need, up to $200,000, and it allows the revolving loan fund to revolve about 2.5 times before the intermediary fully repays the initial SBA loan.

In addition to authorizing the program, this bill makes a technical correction to the language of the pilot program. While the pilot program limited the amount that an intermediary can borrow under the Intermediary Lending Program to $1 million, it did not intend to take into account money an intermediary borrowed through other SBA programs. Unfortunately, SBA interpreted the language in a way that placed an overall cap on how much a participating intermediary can borrow from the SBA under all SBA programs. The result was that more experienced lenders with higher loan volumes, especially many strong microlenders, were unable to participate. That was simply not the intent of Congress. Rather, this program was designed to complement the microloan and 7(a) programs and add another tool to the portfolio of nonprofit community-based lenders. The bill I am introducing today changes the language to clarify our intent, maintains the $1 million loan limit, and increases the overall amount intermediaries can have outstanding from SBA under the Intermediary Lending Program to $5 million.

The Intermediary Lending Program is a small program which has already made a big difference. It is modeled on a program which has been operating successfully for almost 30 years, and it shields the government from any risks involved in lending to small businesses by having experienced intermediaries take on that risk. As we all look for ways to bolster our economy, we should build on this record of success. The Intermediary Lending Pilot is addressing a lending gap and helping create jobs across the nation. If we adopt my legislation, this program will continue to be an engine for small business growth. I urge its swift enactment.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2641. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide that residential mortgage loans held in portfolio qualify and qualified mortgages for purposes of the presumption of the ability to repay requirements under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the importance of community banks to our financial system and economy. Community banks are critical to the economic recovery and success of our local economies and small businesses. As our Nation continues to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression, we need to do everything possible to provide measured, targeted regulatory relief for community banks, who were not part of the problem during the financial crisis.

America's nearly 7,000 community banks are the primary source of lending for our Nation's small businesses and farms. Though they compose just 10 percent of the banking industry by assets, community banks make over 57 percent of outstanding bank loans to small businesses. In Louisiana, we have approximately 140 community banks. These institutions are vital parts of their local communities; their boards are often made up of local citizens who are personally invested in advancing the interests of the towns and cities in which they live.

Today I am offering a very simple, common sense provision that would cut back on some of the onerous regulations community banks are facing without compromising the safety and soundness of our financial system or important consumer protections. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, released its final rule on consumers' ability to repay mortgage loans under Dodd-Frank in January 2013. The final rule, implemented in 2014, defines the qualities of a ''qualified mortgage'', QM, which presume that the lender has satisfied the ability to repay requirements. While I was encouraged by many aspects of the rules, I feel there is more to be done to ensure that community banks and Main Street lenders are not stifled by onerous regulations.

My bill will allow any residential mortgage held in portfolio by lenders with less than $10 billion in total assets to qualify as a ''qualified mortgage.'' A strong indication of a bank's view of the credit risk of a loan is the decision to hold a loan in portfolio. When a bank holds a loan in portfolio, rather than selling in on the secondary market, it assumes 100 percent of the credit risk, so it has the incentive to ensure that each and every loan is well underwritten and affordable to the borrower. Community banks are in the business of knowing their borrowers, understanding their ability to repay and structuring loans accordingly. This protects the financial health of borrowers, lenders, and the economy as a whole.

I am proud to also serve as a cosponsor of S. 1349, the Community Lending Enhancement and Regulatory, CLEAR, Relief Act, which was introduced by my colleagues, Senators MORAN and TESTER and contains a number of other regulatory relief measures for small and community-based lenders. I encourage my colleagues to support these provisions to help community banks serve their customers, protecting the well-being of borrowers, and spur economic growth in local communities across the Nation.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2642. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation, and to ensure that employers consider these requests; and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain growing low-wage occupations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I want to bring to our attention a large and growing problem laced by American workers today that has negative consequences for working families and our national economy. They are hourly service workers holding jobs that we all rely on—the folks who are serving customers in stores and restaurants, who are cleaning our offices and hotels, who are making sure that shelves are stocked, food is cooked properly, and businesses run smoothly. They are also white collar workers: professionals, managers, teachers, and more. All of these workers want to go to work and be successful at their jobs. But today, too many do not have access to one of

the most basic parts of a job: a stable, predictable schedule.

For hourly service workers, jobs are often scheduled on a ''just in time'' basis. This means that schedules are given out last minute, workers are often required to be on call, and schedules and the number of assigned hours vary week to week and month to month. Schedules are often made with no input from workers or consideration for family needs or even sleep time. A worker may have 8 hours of work one week, 24 hours the next week, and no hours for the next two weeks. A worker may have the night shift followed by the day shift, or a split shift with a few hours in the morning and a few more hours in the evening. A worker may show up after arranging and paying for child care and taking a 2 hour trip by public transportation, only to be sent home for lack of work. Assigned time on schedules is a perk, while being left off the schedule is a punishment.

These abusive scheduling practices mean that workers often can't predict their income, which makes it very difficult to budget and pay bills. It also wreaks havoc on family life. Working parents can't be home for family dinner, help with afternoon homework, or put kids to bed. Workers with elderly parents or relatives who are in need of care cannot be available when they are needed. And the inability to predict a schedule means that taking classes or getting a second job to further one's career or increase income become difficult to impossible. And yet, because these practices have become so common among hourly service jobs, moving to a different job is not an option. Workers are simply stuck.

Meanwhile, white collar workers are working longer than ever. They have to stay late long into the night and come in on the weekends. If they want a 40–hour workweek or time with family, they are too often criticized as uncommitted to the job. They, too, miss family dinners and other family events. They, too, are unable to be with children or elders when their care is required.

What these workers have in common is their lack of control over their hours and their schedules. That is why I have joined with Senator WARREN and Representatives GEORGE MILLER and ROSA DELAURO to introduce the ''Schedules That Work Act.'' This bill will help workers to meet scheduling challenges in ways that respect their needs and the needs of businesses.

First, the bill will allow all workers, both hourly and salaried in any job or industry, to make requests about their schedules, and it will prohibit retaliation against them for doing so. Employers will be required to engage in an interactive process in response to scheduling requests—much like that required to determine reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. An employer has to consider a request, consider alternatives, and provide an answer to a worker's request. Certain requests will have some extra consideration: if an employee makes a request because of caregiving duties, to deal with a serious health condition, to take a career-related training or education course, or to meet the demands of a second job in the case of part-time workers, then an employer must have a bona fide business reason to deny the request. This ''right to request'' will open a line of communication that ensures workers have a voice but respects employers' business needs.

Second, the Schedules That Work Act will ensure that workers in retail, food service, and janitorial and cleaning jobs are paid when they are required to report in or be on call. If a worker is scheduled for at least four hours and reports to work, the worker must be paid for at least four hours, even if she is sent home early. An employer will have to provide an extra hour's pay if he requires an employee to be on call. If an employer schedules a ''split shift''—with non-consecutive shifts within a single day—a worker will earn an extra hour's pay.

Finally, this bill will require 2 weeks' advance notice of schedules for workers in retail, food service, and janitorial jobs. If changes are made with less than 24 hours' notice, employers will be required to provide an extra hour's pay. While employers can continue to make changes to schedules, we hope that this requirement will reduce the chaos that can be created by continual last-minute scheduling.

A schedule should be a basic part of almost any job. Predictability and stability in hours helps workers meet their personal and family demands. In turn, workers are more likely to stay in their jobs, reducing the expensive turnover that can cost businesses dearly A simple consideration like advance notice of a schedule goes a long way toward creating good will, fostering loyalty, and raising morale among employees.

What this bill is really about, at its heart, is respect. Respect for workers' lives and businesses' needs. I encourage all of my Senate colleagues to join me on this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2642

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Schedules That Work Act''.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The vast majority of the United States workforce today is juggling responsibilities at home and at work. Women are primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in 63 percent of families in the United States and 26 percent of families with children are headed by single mothers.

(2) Despite the dual responsibilities of today's workforce, workers across the income spectrum have very little ability to make changes to their work schedules when those changes are needed to accommodate family responsibilities. Only 27 percent of employers allow all or most of their employees to periodically change their starting and quitting times.

(3) Although low-wage workers are most likely to be raising children on their own, as more than half of mothers of young children in low-wage jobs are doing, low-wage workers have the least control over their work schedules and the most unpredictable schedules. For example—

(A) roughly half of low-wage workers reported very little or no control over the timing of the hours they were scheduled to work;

(B) many workers in low-wage jobs receive their schedules with very little advance notice and have work hours that vary significantly from week to week or month to month;

(C) some workers in low-wage jobs are sent home from work when work is slow without being paid for their scheduled shift;

(D) in some industries, the use of ''call-in shift'' requirements—requirements that workers call in to work to find out whether they will be scheduled to work later that day—has become common practice; and

(E) at the same time, 20 to 30 percent of workers in low-wage jobs struggle with being required to work extra hours with little or no notice.

(4) Unfair work scheduling practices make it difficult for low-wage workers to—

(A) provide necessary care for children and other family members, including arranging child care;

(B) qualify for and maintain eligibility for child care subsidies, due to fluctuations in income and work hours, or keep an appointment with a child care provider, due to not knowing how many hours or when the workers will be scheduled to work;

(C) pursue workforce training;

(D) get or keep a second job that some part-time workers need to make ends meet; and

(E) arrange transportation to and from work.

(5) Unpredictable and unstable schedules are prevalent in retail sales, food preparation and service, and building cleaning occupations, which are among the lowest-paid and fastest-growing occupations in the workforce today. For workers in those occupations, often difficult and sometimes abusive work scheduling practices combine with very low wages to make it extremely challenging to make ends meet.

(6) Retail sales, food preparation and service, and building cleaning occupations are among those most likely to have unpredictable and unstable schedules. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 66 percent of food service workers, 52 percent of retail workers, and 40 percent of janitors and housekeepers know their schedules only a week or less in advance. The average variation in work hours in a single month is 70 percent for food service workers, 50 percent for retail workers, and 40 percent for janitors and housekeepers.

(7) Those are among the lowest-paid and fastest-growing occupations, accounting for 18 percent of workers in the economy, some 23,500,000 workers. The median pay for workers in those 3 occupations is between $9.15 and $10.44 per hour, and women make up more than half of the workers in those occupations.

(8) Employers that have implemented fair work scheduling policies that allow workers

to have more control over their work schedules, and provide more predictable and stable schedules, have experienced significant benefits, including reductions in absenteeism and workforce turnover, and increased employee morale and engagement.

(9) This Act is a first step in responding to the needs of workers for a voice in the timing of their work hours and for more predictable schedules.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) BONA FIDE BUSINESS REASON.—The term ''bona fide business reason'' means—

(A) the identifiable burden of additional costs to an employer, including the cost of productivity loss, retraining or hiring employees, or transferring employees from one facility to another facility;

(B) a significant detrimental effect on the employer's ability to meet organizational needs or customer demand;

(C) a significant inability of the employer, despite best efforts, to reorganize work among existing (as of the date of the reorganization) staff;

(D) a significant detrimental effect on business performance;

(E) insufficiency of work during the periods an employee proposes to work;

(F) the need to balance competing scheduling requests when it is not possible to grant all such requests without a significant detrimental effect on the employer's ability to meet organizational needs; or

(G) such other reason as may be specified by the Secretary of Labor (or the corresponding administrative officer specified in section 8).

(2) CAREER-RELATED EDUCATIONAL OR TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ''career-related educational or training program'' means an educational or training program or program of study offered by a public, private, or nonprofit career and technical education school, institution of higher education, or other entity that provides academic education, career and technical education, or training (including remedial education or English as a second language, as appropriate), that is a program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential (as identified under section 122(d) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act), and provides career awareness information. The term includes a program allowable under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2801 et seq.), the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), or the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), without regard to whether or not the program is funded under the corresponding Act.

(3) CAREGIVER.—The term ''caregiver'' means an individual with the status of being a significant provider of—

(A) ongoing care or education, including responsibility for securing the ongoing care or education, of a child; or

(B) ongoing care, including responsibility for securing the ongoing care, of—

(i) a person with a serious health condition who is in a family relationship with the individual; or

(ii) a parent of the individual, who is age 65 or older.

(4) CHILD.—The term ''child'' means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis to that child, who is—

(A) under age 18; or

(B) age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

(5) COVERED EMPLOYER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered employer''—

(i) means any person engaged in commerce or in any industry or activity affecting commerce who employs 15 or more employees (described in paragraph (7)(A));

(ii) includes any person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of such an employer to any of the employees (described in paragraph (7)(A)) of such employer;

(iii) includes any successor in interest of such an employer; and

(iv) includes an agency described in subparagraph (A)(iii) of section 101(4) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611(4)), to which subparagraph (B) of such section shall apply.

(B) RULE.—For purposes of determining the number of employees who work for a person described in subparagraph (A)(i), all employees (described in paragraph (7)(A)) performing work for compensation on a full-time, part-time, or temporary basis shall be counted, except that if the number of such employees who perform work for such a person for compensation fluctuates, the number may be determined for a calendar year based upon the average number of such employees who performed work for the person for compensation during the preceding calendar year.

(C) PERSON.—In this paragraph, and paragraph (7), the term ''person'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).

(6) DOMESTIC PARTNER.—The term ''domestic partner'' means the person recognized as being in a relationship with an employee under any domestic partnership, civil union, or similar law of the State or political subdivision of a State in which the employee resides.

(7) EMPLOYEE.—The term ''employee'' means an individual who is—

(A) an employee, as defined in section 3(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(e)), who is not described in any of subparagraphs (B) through (G);

(B) a State employee described in section 304(a) of the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-16c(a));

(C) a covered employee, as defined in section 101 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301), other than an applicant for employment;

(D) a covered employee, as defined in section 411(c) of title 3, United States Code;

(E) a Federal officer or employee covered under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code;

(F) an employee of the Library of Congress; or

(G) an employee of the Government Accountability Office.

(8) EMPLOYER.—The term ''employer'' means a person—

(A) who is—

(i) a covered employer, as defined in paragraph (4), who is not described in any of clauses (ii) through (vii);

(ii) an entity employing a State employee described in section 304(a) of the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991;

(iii) an employing office, as defined in section 101 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995;

(iv) an employing office, as defined in section 411(c) of title 3, United States Code;

(v) an employing agency covered under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code;

(vi) the Librarian of Congress; or

(vii) the Comptroller General of the United States; and

(B) who is engaged in commerce (including government), in the production of goods for commerce, or in an enterprise engaged in commerce (including government) or in the production of goods for commerce.

(9) FAMILY RELATIONSHIP.—The term ''family relationship'' means a relationship with a child, spouse, domestic partner, parent, grandchild, grandparent, sibling, or parent of a spouse or domestic partner.

(10) GRANDCHILD.—The term ''grandchild'' means the child of a child.

(11) GRANDPARENT.—The term ''grandparent'' means the parent of a parent.

(12) MINIMUM NUMBER OF EXPECTED WORK HOURS.—The term ''minimum number of expected work hours'' means the minimum number of hours an employee will be assigned to work on a weekly or monthly basis.

(13) PARENT.—The term ''parent'' means a biological or adoptive parent, a stepparent, or a person who stood in a parental relationship to an employee when the employee was a child.

(14) PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP.—The term ''parental relationship'' means a relationship in which a person assumed the obligations incident to parenthood for a child and discharged those obligations before the child reached adulthood.

(15) PART-TIME EMPLOYEE.—The term ''part-time employee'' means an individual who works fewer than 30 hours per week on average during any 1-month period.

(16) RETAIL, FOOD SERVICE, OR CLEANING EMPLOYEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''retail, food service, or cleaning employee'' means an individual employee who is employed in any of the following occupations, as described by the Bureau of Labor Statistics Standard Occupational Classification System (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act):

(i) Retail sales occupations consisting of occupations described in 41–1010 and 41–2000, and all subdivisions thereof, of such System, which includes first-line supervisors of sales workers, cashiers, gaming change persons and booth cashiers, counter and rental clerks, parts salespersons, and retail salespersons.

(ii) Food preparation and serving related occupations as described in 35–0000, and all subdivisions thereof, of such System, which includes supervisors of food preparation and serving workers, cooks and food preparation workers, food and beverage serving workers, and other food preparation and serving related workers.

(iii) Building cleaning occupations as described in 37–2011, 37–2012 and 37–2019 of such System, which includes janitors and cleaners, maids and housekeeping cleaners, and building cleaning workers.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term ''retail, food service, or cleaning employee'' does not include any person employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, as defined for purposes of section 13(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 213(a)(1)).

(17) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Labor.

(18) SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITION.—The term ''serious health condition'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611).

(19) SIBLING.—The term ''sibling'' means a brother or sister, whether related by half blood, whole blood, or adoption, or as a stepsibling.

(20) SPLIT SHIFT.—The term ''split shift'' means a schedule of daily hours in which the hours worked are not consecutive, except that—

(A) a schedule in which the total time out for meals does not exceed one hour shall not be treated as a split shift; and

(B) a schedule in which the break in the employee's work shift is requested by the employee shall not be treated as a split shift.

(21) SPOUSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''spouse'' means a person with whom an individual entered into—

(i) a marriage as defined or recognized under State law in the State in which the marriage was entered into; or

(ii) in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any State, a marriage that is recognized in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least 1 State.

(B) SAME-SEX OR COMMON LAW MARRIAGE.—Such term includes an individual in a same-sex or common law marriage that meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(22) STATE.—The term ''State'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).

(23) WORK SCHEDULE.—The term ''work schedule'' means those days and times within a work period when an employee is required by an employer to perform the duties of the employee's employment for which the employee will receive compensation.

(24) WORK SCHEDULE CHANGE.—The term ''work schedule change'' means any modification to an employee's work schedule, such as an addition or reduction of hours, cancellation of a shift, or a change in the date or time of a work shift, by an employer.

(25) WORK SHIFT.—The term ''work shift'' means the specific hours of the workday during which an employee works.

(26) VARIOUS ADDITIONAL TERMS.—

(A) COMMERCE TERMS.—The terms ''commerce'' and ''industry or activity affecting commerce'' have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611).

(B) EMPLOY.—The term ''employ'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).

SEC. 3. RIGHT TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE A FLEXIBLE, PREDICTABLE OR STABLE WORK SCHEDULE.

(a) RIGHT TO REQUEST.—An employee may apply to the employee's employer to request a change in the terms and conditions of employment as they relate to—

(1) the number of hours the employee is required to work or be on call for work;

(2) the times when the employee is required to work or be on call for work;

(3) the location where the employee is required to work;

(4) the amount of notification the employee receives of work schedule assignments; and

(5) minimizing fluctuations in the number of hours the employee is scheduled to work on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

(b) EMPLOYER OBLIGATION TO ENGAGE IN AN INTERACTIVE PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an employee applies to the employee's employer to request a change in the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in subsection (a), the employer shall engage in a timely, good faith interactive process with the employee that includes a discussion of potential schedule changes that would meet the employee's needs.

(2) RESULT.—Such process shall result in—

(A) either granting or denying the request;

(B) in the event of a denial, considering alternatives to the proposed change that might meet the employee's needs and granting or denying a request for an alternative change in the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in subsection (a); and

(C) in the event of a denial, stating the reason for denial.

(3) INFORMATION.—If information provided by the employee making a request under this section requires clarification, the employer shall explain what further information is needed and give the employee reasonable time to produce the information.

(c) REQUESTS RELATED TO CAREGIVING, ENROLLMENT IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING, OR A SECOND JOB.—If an employee makes a request for a change in the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in subsection (a) because of a serious health condition of the employee, due to the employee's responsibilities as a caregiver, or due to the employee's enrollment in a career-related educational or training program, or if a part-time employee makes a request for such a change for a reason related to a second job, the employer shall grant the request, unless the employer has a bona fide business reason for denying the request.

(d) OTHER REQUESTS.—If an employee makes a request for a change in the terms and conditions of employment as set forth in subsection (a), for a reason other than those reasons set forth in subsection (c), the employer may deny the request for any reason that is not unlawful. If the employer denies such a request, the employer shall provide the employee with the reason for the denial, including whether any such reason was a bona fide business reason.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING TIME PAY, SPLIT SHIFT PAY, AND ADVANCE NOTICE OF WORK SCHEDULES.

(a) REPORTING TIME PAY REQUIREMENT.—An employer shall pay a retail, food service, or cleaning employee—

(1) for at least 4 hours at the employee's regular rate of pay for each day on which the retail, food service, or cleaning employee reports for work, as required by the employer, but is given less than four hours of work, except that if the retail, food service, or cleaning employee's scheduled hours for a day are less than 4 hours, such retail, food service, or cleaning employee shall be paid for the employee's scheduled hours for that day if given less than the scheduled hours of work; and

(2) for at least 1 hour at the employee's regular rate of pay for each day the retail, food service, or cleaning employee is given specific instructions to contact the employee's employer, or wait to be contacted by the employer, less than 24 hours in advance of the start of a potential work shift to determine whether the employee must report to work for such shift.

(b) SPLIT SHIFT PAY REQUIREMENT.—An employer shall pay a retail, food service, or cleaning employee for one additional hour at the retail, food service, or cleaning employee's regular rate of pay for each day during which the retail, food service, or cleaning employee works a split shift.

(c) ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) INITIAL SCHEDULE.—On or before a new retail, food service, or cleaning employee's first day of work, the employer shall inform the retail, food service, or cleaning employee in writing of the employee's work schedule and the minimum number of expected work hours the retail, food service, or cleaning employee will be assigned to work per month.

(2) PROVIDING NOTICE OF NEW SCHEDULES.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), if a retail, food service, or cleaning employee's work schedule changes from the work schedule of which the retail, food service, or cleaning employee was informed pursuant to paragraph (1), the employer shall provide the retail, food service, or cleaning employee with the employee's new work schedule not less than 14 days before the first day of the new work schedule. If the expected minimum number of work hours that a retail, food service, or cleaning employee will be assigned changes from the number of which the employee was informed pursuant to paragraph (1), the employer shall also provide notification of that change, not less than 14 days in advance of the first day this change will go into effect. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit an employer from providing greater advance notice of a retail, food service, or cleaning employee's work schedule than is required under this section.

(3) WORK SCHEDULE CHANGES MADE WITH LESS THAN 24 HOURS' NOTICE.—An employer may make work schedule changes as needed, including by offering additional hours of work to retail, food service, or cleaning employees beyond those previously scheduled, but an employer shall be required to provide one extra hour of pay at the retail, food service, or cleaning employee's regular rate for each shift that is changed with less than 24 hours' notice, except in the case of the need to schedule the retail, food service, or cleaning employee due to the unforeseen unavailability of a retail, food service, or cleaning employee previously scheduled to work that shift.

(4) NOTIFICATIONS IN WRITING.—The notifications required under paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be made to the employee in writing. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting an employer from using any additional means of notifying a retail, food service, or cleaning employee of the employee's work schedule.

(5) SCHEDULE POSTING REQUIREMENT.—Every employer employing any retail, food service, or cleaning employee subject to this Act shall post the schedule and keep it posted in a conspicuous place in every establishment where such retail, food service, or cleaning employee is employed so as to permit the employee to observe readily a copy. Availability of that schedule by electronic means accessible by all retail, food service, or cleaning employees of that employer shall be considered compliance with this subsection.

(6) EMPLOYEE SHIFT TRADING.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent an employer from allowing a retail, food service, or cleaning employee to work in place of another employee who has been scheduled to work a particular shift as long as the change in schedule is mutually agreed upon by the employees. An employer shall not be subject to the requirements of paragraph (2) or (3) for such voluntary shift trades.

(d) EXCEPTION.—The requirements in subsections (a), (b), and (c) shall not apply during periods when regular operations of the employer are suspended due to events beyond the employer's control.

SEC. 5. PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHTS.—It shall be unlawful for any employer to interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise or the attempt to exercise, any right of an employee as set forth in section 3 or of a retail, food service, or cleaning employee as set forth in section 4.

(b) RETALIATION PROHIBITED.—It shall be unlawful for any employer to discharge, threaten to discharge, demote, suspend, reduce work hours of, or take any other adverse employment action against any employee in retaliation for exercising the rights of an employee under this Act or opposing any practice made unlawful by this Act. For purposes of section 3, such retaliation shall include taking an adverse employment action against any employee on the basis of that employee's eligibility or perceived eligibility to request or receive a

change in the terms and conditions of employment, as described in such section, on the basis of a reason set forth in section 3(c).

(c) INTERFERENCE WITH PROCEEDINGS OR INQUIRIES.—It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any individual because such individual—

(1) has filed any charge, or has instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding, under or related to this Act;

(2) has given or is about to give, any information in connection with any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under this Act; or

(3) has testified, or is about to testify, in any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under this Act.

SEC. 6. REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To ensure compliance with this Act, or any regulation or order issued under this Act, the Secretary shall have, subject to paragraph (3), the investigative authority provided under section 11(a) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 211(a)).

(2) OBLIGATION TO KEEP AND PRESERVE RECORDS.—Each employer shall make, keep, and preserve records pertaining to compliance with this Act in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary under section 8.

(3) REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS GENERALLY LIMITED TO AN ANNUAL BASIS.—The Secretary shall not under the authority of this subsection require any employer to submit to the Secretary any books or records more than once during any 12-month period, unless the Secretary has reasonable cause to believe there may exist a violation of this Act or any regulation or order issued pursuant to this Act, or is investigating a charge pursuant to subsection (c).

(4) SUBPOENA POWERS.—For the purposes of any investigation provided for in this section, the Secretary shall have the subpoena authority provided for under section 9 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 209).

(b) CIVIL ACTION BY EMPLOYEES.—

(1) LIABILITY.—Any employer who violates section 5(a) (with respect to a right set forth in section 4) or subsection (b) or (c) of section 5 (referred to in this section as a ''covered provision'') shall be liable to any employee affected for—

(A) damages equal to the amount of—

(i) any wages, salary, employment benefits (as defined in section 101 of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611)), or other compensation denied, lost, or owed to such employee by reason of the violation; or

(ii) in a case in which wages, salary, employment benefits (as so defined), or other compensation have not been denied, lost, or owed to the employee, any actual monetary losses sustained by the employee as a direct result of the violation;

(B) interest on the amount described in subparagraph (A) calculated at the prevailing rate;

(C) an additional amount as liquidated damages equal to the sum of the amount described in subparagraph (A) and the interest described in subparagraph (B), except that if an employer who has violated a covered provision proves to the satisfaction of the court that the act or omission which violated the covered provision was in good faith and that the employer had reasonable grounds for believing that the act or omission was not a violation of a covered provision, such court may, in the discretion of the court, reduce the amount of liability to the amount and interest determined under subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(D) such equitable relief as may be appropriate, including employment, reinstatement, and promotion.

(2) RIGHT OF ACTION.—An action to recover the damages or equitable relief set forth in paragraph (1) may be maintained against any employer (including a public agency) in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction by any one or more employees for and on behalf of—

(A) the employees; or

(B) the employees and other employees similarly situated.

(3) FEES AND COSTS.—The court in such an action shall, in addition to any judgment awarded to the plaintiff, allow a reasonable attorney's fee, reasonable expert witness fees, and other costs of the action to be paid by the defendant.

(4) LIMITATIONS.—The right provided by paragraph (2) to bring an action by or on behalf of any employee shall terminate on the filing of a complaint by the Secretary in an action under subsection (c)(3) in which a recovery is sought of the damages described in paragraph (1)(A) owing to an employee by an employer liable under paragraph (1) unless the action described is dismissed without prejudice on motion of the Secretary.

(c) ACTIONS BY THE SECRETARY.—

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—The Secretary shall receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints of violations of this Act in the same manner that the Secretary receives, investigates, and attempts to resolve complaints of violations of section 6 and 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206 and 207), and may issue an order making determinations, and assessing a civil penalty described in paragraph (3) (in accordance with paragraph (3)), with respect to such an alleged violation.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.—An affected person who takes exception to an order issued under paragraph (1) may request review of and a decision regarding such an order by an administrative law judge. In reviewing the order, the administrative law judge may hold an administrative hearing concerning the order, in accordance with the requirements of sections 554, 556, and 557 of title 5, United States Code. Such hearing shall be conducted expeditiously. If no affected person requests such review within 60 days after the order is issued under paragraph (1), the order shall be considered to be a final order that is not subject to judicial review.

(3) CIVIL PENALTY.—An employer who willfully and repeatedly violates—

(A) paragraph (1), (4), or (5) of section 4(c) shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount to be determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed $100 per violation; and

(B) subsection (b) or (c) of section 5 shall be subject to a civil penalty in an amount to be determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed $1,100 per violation.

(4) CIVIL ACTION.—The Secretary may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction on behalf of aggrieved employees to—

(A) restrain violations of this Act;

(B) award such equitable relief as may be appropriate, including employment, reinstatement, and promotion; and

(C) in the case of a violation of a covered provision, recover the damages and interest described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (b)(1).

(d) LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), an action may be brought under this section not later than 2 years after the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which the action is brought.

(2) WILLFUL VIOLATION.—In the case of such action brought for a willful violation of section 5, such action may be brought within 3 years of the date of the last event constituting the alleged violation for which such action is brought.

(3) COMMENCEMENT.—In determining when an action is commenced by the Secretary under this section for the purposes of this subsection, it shall be considered to be commenced on the date when the complaint is filed.

(e) OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.—

(1) BOARD.—In the case of employees described in section 2(7)(C), the authority of the Secretary under this Act shall be exercised by the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance.

(2) PRESIDENT; MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.—In the case of employees described in section 2(7)(D), the authority of the Secretary under this Act shall be exercised by the President and the Merit Systems Protection Board.

(3) OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—In the case of employees described in section 2(7)(E), the authority of the Secretary under this Act shall be exercised by the Office of Personnel Management.

(4) LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.—In the case of employees of the Library of Congress, the authority of the Secretary under this Act shall be exercised by the Librarian of Congress.

(5) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—In the case of employees of the Government Accountability Office, the authority of the Secretary under this Act shall be exercised by the Comptroller General of the United States.

SEC. 7. NOTICE AND POSTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each employer shall post and keep posted, in conspicuous places on the premises of the employer where notices to employees and applicants for employment are customarily posted, a notice, to be prepared or approved by the Secretary (or the corresponding administrative officer specified in section 8) setting forth excerpts from, or summaries of, the pertinent provisions of this Act and information pertaining to the filing of a complaint under this Act.

(b) PENALTY.—Any employer that willfully violates this section may be assessed a civil money penalty not to exceed $100 for each separate offense.

SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (f), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act.

(b) BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act with respect to employees described in section 2(7)(C).

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In prescribing the regulations, the Board shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the Board, and applicable to rights and protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.), under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this Act shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this Act, except to the extent that the Board may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Board, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this Act.

(c) PRESIDENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act with respect to employees described in section 2(7)(D).

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In prescribing the regulations, the President shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the President and the Merit Systems Protection Board, and applicable to rights and protections under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, under chapter 5 of title 3, United States Code.

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this Act shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this Act, except to the extent that the President may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the President, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this Act.

(d) OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of Personnel Management shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act with respect to employees described in section 2(7)(E).

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In prescribing the regulations, the Office shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the Office under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this Act shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this Act, except to the extent that the Office may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Office, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this Act.

(e) LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Librarian of Congress shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act with respect to employees of the Library of Congress.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In prescribing the regulations, the Librarian shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the Librarian of Congress under title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this Act shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this Act, except to the extent that the Librarian may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Librarian, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this Act.

(f) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to implement this Act with respect to employees of the Government Accountability Office.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In prescribing the regulations, the Comptroller General shall take into consideration the enforcement and remedies provisions concerning the Comptroller General under title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

(3) MODIFICATIONS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) to implement this Act shall be the same as substantive regulations issued by the Secretary to implement this Act, except to the extent that the Comptroller General may determine, for good cause shown and stated together with the regulations issued by the Comptroller General, that a modification of such substantive regulations would be more effective for the implementation of the rights and protections under this Act.

SEC. 9. RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide information and technical assistance to employers, labor organizations, and the general public concerning compliance with this Act.

(b) PROGRAM.—In order to achieve the objectives of this Act—

(1) the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, shall issue guidance on compliance with this Act regarding providing a flexible, predictable, or stable work environment through changes in the terms and conditions of employment as provided in section 3(a); and

(2) the Secretary shall carry on a continuing program of research, education, and technical assistance, including—

(A)(i) conducting pilot programs that implement fairer work schedules, including by promoting cross training, providing three weeks or more advance notice of schedules, providing employees with a minimum number of hours of work, and using computerized scheduling software to provide more flexible, predictable, and stable schedules for employees; and

(ii) evaluating the results of such pilot programs for employees, employee's families, and employers;

(B) publishing and otherwise making available to employers, labor organizations, professional associations, educational institutions, the various communication media, and the general public the findings of studies regarding fair work scheduling policies and other materials for promoting compliance with this Act;

(C) sponsoring and assisting State and community informational and educational programs; and

(D) providing technical assistance to employers, labor organizations, professional associations, and other interested persons on means of achieving and maintaining compliance with the provisions of this Act.

(c) GAO STUDY.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on—

(A) the impact of difficult scheduling practices on employees and employers, including unpredictable and unstable schedules and schedules over which employees have little control, and particularly how these scheduling practices impact absenteeism, workforce turnover, and employees' ability to meet their caregiving responsibilities;

(B) the prevalence in occupations not described in section 2(16)(A) of employees routinely receiving inadequate advance notice of the shifts or hours of the employees, being assigned split shifts, being sent home from work prior to the completion of their scheduled shift without being paid for the hours in their scheduled shift, being assigned call-in shifts (where the employee is required to contact the employer, or wait to be contacted by the employer, less than 24 hours in advance of the potential work shift to determine whether the employee must report to work), or being called into work outside of scheduled hours;

(C) the effects on employees in occupations not described in section 2(16)(A) of providing advance notice of work schedules, reporting time pay when employees are sent home without working their full scheduled shift or are assigned to call-in shifts but given no work for those shifts, and split shift pay when employees are assigned split shifts; and

(D) the effects on employers in occupations not described in section 2(16)(A) of providing advance notice of work schedules, reporting time pay when employees are sent home without working their full scheduled shift or assigned to call-in shifts but given no work for those shifts, and split shift pay when employees are assigned split shifts.

(2) REPORTS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress concerning the initial results of the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1). Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit a follow-up report to such committees concerning the results of such study.

SEC. 10. RIGHTS RETAINED BY EMPLOYEES.

This Act provides minimum requirements and shall not be construed to preempt, limit, or otherwise affect the applicability of any other law, regulation, requirement, policy, or standard that provides for greater rights for employees than are required in this Act.

SEC. 11. EXEMPTION.

This Act shall not apply to any employee covered by a bona fide collective bargaining agreement if the terms of the collective bargaining agreement include terms that govern work scheduling practices.

SEC. 12. EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as creating or imposing any requirement in conflict with any Federal or State law or regulation (including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.), the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), and title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.)), nor shall anything in this Act be construed to diminish or impair the rights of an employee under any valid collective bargaining agreement.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2643. A bill to require a report by the Federal Communications Commission on designated market areas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Let Our Communities Access Local TV Act, or the LOCAL TV Act.

I am pleased that I've had the opportunity to collaborate with my friend and colleague, Senator FISCHER, and I know we both look forward to working with our fellow colleagues on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to see that this legislation is enacted.

The LOCAL TV Act directs the Federal Communications Commission to study the impact of media market areas and to assess their impact on the ability of individuals to receive relevant, local news and information.

The current structure of media markets is one in which market areas can sprawl across State lines, creating situations in which you can live in one State, but be exclusively saddled in the media market of another.

My state of New Jersey is particularly affected by this situation because

it is one of only two States in the entire Nation that is served exclusively by out-of-state media markets. We are served by New York and Pennsylvania—both great places but not New Jersey.

Why does this matter? When someone in Patterson, Freehold, or Cape May, New Jersey turns on their local broadcast station—they are lucky when they find stories about their community's latest news, schools, and our local governments. This kind of New Jersey news, unfortunately, takes a back seat to that of neighboring Philadelphia and New York.

These pre-determined media markets often stifle our ability to hear about what's happening back home. We hear more about Philadelphia and New York City than we do about Morristown, Montclair, Camden and Jersey City.

To be sure, broadcast TV plays an important role in communities. It is particularly essential during emergencies and extreme weather events—for instance during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Even while technology continues to grow and change the way we receive information, still 74 percent of adults get their news from their local broadcast stations, or from their broadcasters' websites.

Because of the existing digital divide, the number of people who rely on broadcast television is even higher when we look at low income communities. We owe them quality coverage of the local news and information they care about.

It is my hope that with further study and recommendations from the Federal Communications Commission we can continue the dialogue on how stations can best serve local communities, especially those who find themselves in media markets that cross state lines. I urge my colleagues to support the LOCAL TV ACT so that we can obtain more data and information on these markets.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 510—CONGRATULATING THE NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 510

Whereas, in 1954, the first Newport Jazz Festival featured icons of American jazz such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and Dizzie Gillespie;

Whereas the Newport Jazz Festival has provided some of the most memorable moments in jazz history, including the Duke Ellington Orchestra's 1956 performance of ''Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue'', featuring a 27-chorus saxophone solo by Paul Gonsalves;

Whereas the ongoing mission of the Newport Jazz Festival is to celebrate jazz music and to make the case for its relevance;

Whereas the Newport Jazz Festival has become a world-renowned event featuring established and emerging artists and bringing together music lovers, musicians, academics, and critics;

Whereas for the past 60 years, the Newport Jazz Festival and the Newport Folk Festival have made a difference in the cultural life of the people of the United States and have provided a soundtrack of freedom for generations; and

Whereas, from August 1, 2014, through August 3, 2014, thousands of people will come together in Newport, Rhode Island, to celebrate the 60th Newport Jazz Festival: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 60th Newport Jazz Festival taking place from August 1, 2014, through August 3, 2014, in Newport, Rhode Island;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of the Newport Jazz Festival and the role the festival has played in celebrating jazz music and making it relevant to generations of people in the United States; and

(3) recognizes the musicians, sponsors, volunteers, and the community of Newport, Rhode Island for continuing the tradition of the Newport Jazz Festival.

SENATE RESOLUTION 511—ESTABLISHING BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES TO FULLY UTILIZE THE POTENTIAL OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 511

Whereas the Rooney Rule, formulated by Daniel Rooney, chairman of the Pittsburgh Steelers football team in the National Football League (referred to in this preamble as ''NFL''), requires every NFL team with a coach or general manager opening to interview at least 1 minority candidate;

Whereas the Rooney Rule has been successful in increasing minority representation among the higher leadership positions in professional football, as shown by the fact that in the 80 years between the hiring of Fritz Pollard as coach by the Akron Pros and the implementation of the Rooney Rule in 2003 there were only 7 minority head coaches but since 2003 there have been 13 minority head coaches;

Whereas the Rooney Rule has shown that once highly qualified and highly skilled diversity candidates are given exposure during the hiring process their abilities can be better utilized;

Whereas the RLJ Rule, formulated by Robert L. Johnson, founder of Black Entertainment Television (commonly known as ''BET'') and of The RLJ Companies, and based on the Rooney Rule from the NFL, similarly encourages companies to voluntarily establish a best practices policy to identify minority candidates and minority vendors by implementing a plan to interview a minimum of 2 qualified minority candidates for managerial openings at the director level and above and to interview at least 2 qualified minority businesses before approving a vendor contract;

Whereas, according to Crist-Kolder Associates as cited in the Wall Street Journal, at the top 668 companies in the United States, only 27 Chief Financial Officers are African-American, Hispanic, or of Asian descent;

Whereas underrepresented groups contain members with the necessary abilities, experience, and qualifications for any position available;

Whereas business practices such as the Rooney Rule or the RLJ Rule are neither an employment quota nor Federal law but rather a voluntary initiative instituted by willing entities to provide the human resources necessary to ensure success;

Whereas experience has shown that people of all genders, colors, and physical abilities can achieve excellence;

Whereas increased involvement of underrepresented workers would improve the economy of the United States and the experience of the people of the United States; and

Whereas ensuring the increased exposure and resulting increased advancement of diverse qualified candidates would result in gains by all people of the United States through stronger economic opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate encourages corporate, academic, and social entities, regardless of size or field of operation, to—

(1) develop an internal rule modeled after a successful business practice such as the Rooney Rule or RLJ Rule and, in accordance with title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.), adapt that rule to specifications that will best fit the procedures of the individual entity; and

(2) institute the individualized Rooney Rule or RLJ Rule to ensure that the entity will always consider candidates from underrepresented populations before making a final decision when searching for a business vendor or filling leadership position.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3575. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3576. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3577. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3578. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3579. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3580. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3581. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3575. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal

year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 141. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROCUREMENT OF ADVANCED THREAT EMITTERS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Joint Threat Emitter system provides vital electronic warfare training for combat aircrews by simulating the multiple threat scenarios of a hostile integrated air defense system; and

(2) the Department of the Air Force should prioritize the acquisition of the Joint Threat Emitter system beyond the one unit requested in the President's fiscal year 2015 budget and evaluate ways to accelerate the fielding of these systems.

SA 3576. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 531 and insert the following:

SEC. 531. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''professional accreditation'' and all that follows through ''certification'' and inserting ''State-imposed licenses, Federal occupational licenses, and professional certification''.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The authority'';

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

''(2) The authority under subsection (a) may not be used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain professional credentials unless such credentials are recognized and approved by the armed force concerned as necessary to meet—

''(A) readiness requirements or professional occupational development goals of such armed force; or

''(B) the self-development requirements of the member.

''(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), the authority under subsection (a) may not be used to pay the expenses of obtaining professional credentials unless—

''(A) such credentials are accredited under International Organization for Standardization/International Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard 17024-2012, entitled 'General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons'; and

''(B) the entity accrediting such credentials provides documentary evidence to the Secretary of Defense that it complies International Organization for Standardization/International Commission Standard 17011, entitled 'Conformity assessment–General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies'.

''(4) During the three-year period beginning on the date of the authorization of the Credentialing agency by the Department of Defense, the authority under subsection (a) may be used to pay the expenses of obtaining professional credentials from an entity not complying with the Standards referred to in paragraph (3) if the entity certifies in writing to the Secretary of Defense that the entity agrees to seek to obtain certification of compliance with the Standards before the end of such period.'.

(c) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''may pay'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting ''may, using funds described in subsection (c), pay''; and

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

SA 3577. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1268. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON EFFORTS TO REMOVE JOSEPH KONY FROM THE BATTLEFIELD AND END THE ATROCITIES OF THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY.

Consistent with the provisions of the Lord's Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–172), it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the ongoing United States advise and assist operation in support of regional governments in Central Africa and the African Union to remove Joseph Kony and his top commanders from the battlefield and end atrocities perpetuated by the Lord's Resistance Army, also known as Operation Observant Compass, has made significant progress in achieving its objectives;

(2) the Department of Defense should continue its support of Operation Observant Compass, particularly through the provision of key enablers, such as mobility assets and targeted intelligence collection and analytical support, to enable regional partners to effectively conduct operations against Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army;

(3) Operation Observant Compass must be integrated into a comprehensive strategy to support security and stability in the region; and

(4) the regional governments should recommit themselves to the Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army authorized by the African Union.

SA 3578. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1047. USE OF SPECIAL USE AIRSPACE BY NON-DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

The Secretary of Defense, or the designee of the Secretary, may authorize use of Special Use Airspace by any department or agency of the Federal Government if the use of such Airspace by such department or agency—

(1) either—

(A) directly supports the Department of Defense;

(B) provides a direct or indirect benefit to the Department; or

(C) directly supports a specific national security interest; and

(2) does not interfere with the assigned mission of the commander of the installation, or the use, for which such Special Use Airspace was established.

SA 3579. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS WITH INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2338. Prohibition on contracts with inverted domestic corporations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not enter into any contract with any foreign incorporated entity which is treated as an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

''(b) DEFINITION OF INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

''(A) the entity has, directly or indirectly, acquired—

''(i) most of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

''(ii) most of the assets of, or most of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

''(B) either—

''(i) after the acquisition at least 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

''(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

''(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

''(ii)(I) the expanded affiliated group which after the acquisition conducts most of its business activities in the United States; and

''(II) the management and control of the entity (or of any other member of the expanded affiliated group which after the acquisition includes the entity and to which this subclause applies under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate) occurs, directly or indirectly, mostly within the United States.

''(2) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subclause (II) of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an entity is to be

treated as occurring mostly within the United States.

''(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall provide that—

''(i) the management and control of an entity shall be treated as occurring mostly within the United States if most of the executive officers and senior management of the entity who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the entity are located mostly within the United States; and

''(ii) individuals who are not executive officers and senior management of the entity (including individuals who are officers or employees of other members of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity) shall be treated as executive officers and senior management if such individuals exercise the day-to-day responsibilities of the entity described in clause (i).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 2337 the following new item:

''2338. Prohibition on contracts with inverted domestic corporations.''.

SA 3580. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 830. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS WITH INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS.

(a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 4713. Prohibition on contracts with inverted domestic corporations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not enter into any contract with any foreign incorporated entity which is treated as an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

''(b) DEFINITION OF INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

''(A) the entity has, directly or indirectly, acquired—

''(i) most of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

''(ii) most of the assets of, or most of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

''(B) either—

''(i) after the acquisition at least 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

''(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

''(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

''(ii)(I) the expanded affiliated group which after the acquisition conducts most of its business activities in the United States; and

''(II) the management and control of the entity (or of any other member of the expanded affiliated group which after the acquisition includes the entity and to which this subclause applies under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate) occurs, directly or indirectly, mostly within the United States.

''(2) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subclause (II) of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an entity is to be treated as occurring mostly within the United States.

''(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—The regulations required under subparagraph (A) shall provide that—

''(i) the management and control of an entity shall be treated as occurring mostly within the United States if most of the executive officers and senior management of the entity who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the entity are located mostly within the United States; and

''(ii) individuals who are not executive officers and senior management of the entity (including individuals who are officers or employees of other members of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity) shall be treated as executive officers and senior management if such individuals exercise the day-to-day responsibilities of the entity described in clause (i).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 4712 the following new item:

''4713. Prohibition on contracts with inverted domestic corporations.''.

(b) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 2338. Prohibition on contracts with inverted domestic corporations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may not enter into any contract with any foreign incorporated entity which is treated as an inverted domestic corporation or any subsidiary of such entity.

''(b) DEFINITION OF INVERTED DOMESTIC CORPORATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, a foreign incorporated entity shall be treated as an inverted domestic corporation if, pursuant to a plan (or a series of related transactions)—

''(A) the entity has, directly or indirectly, acquired—

''(i) most of the properties held directly or indirectly by a domestic corporation; or

''(ii) most of the assets of, or most of the properties constituting a trade or business of, a domestic partnership; and

''(B) either—

''(i) after the acquisition at least 50 percent of the stock (by vote or value) of the entity is held—

''(I) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic corporation, by former shareholders of the domestic corporation by reason of holding stock in the domestic corporation; or

''(II) in the case of an acquisition with respect to a domestic partnership, by former partners of the domestic partnership by reason of holding a capital or profits interest in the domestic partnership; or

''(ii)(I) the expanded affiliated group which after the acquisition conducts most of its business activities in the United States; and

''(II) the management and control of the entity (or of any other member of the expanded affiliated group which after the acquisition includes the entity and to which this subclause applies under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate) occurs, directly or indirectly, mostly within the United States.

''(2) MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subclause (II) of paragraph (1)(B)(ii), the Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall prescribe regulations for purposes of determining cases in which the management and control of an entity is to be treated as occurring mostly within the United States.

''(B) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall provide that—

''(i) the management and control of an entity shall be treated as occurring mostly within the United States if most of the executive officers and senior management of the entity who exercise day-to-day responsibility for making decisions involving strategic, financial, and operational policies of the entity are located mostly within the United States; and

''(ii) individuals who are not executive officers and senior management of the entity (including individuals who are officers or employees of other members of the expanded affiliated group which includes the entity) shall be treated as executive officers and senior management if such individuals exercise the day-to-day responsibilities of the entity described in clause (i).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 2337 the following new item:

''2338. Prohibition on contracts with inverted domestic corporations.''.

SA 3581. Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 531 and insert the following:

SEC. 531. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of section 2015 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''professional accreditation'' and all that follows through ''certification'' and inserting ''State-imposed licenses, Federal occupational licenses, and professional certification''.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The authority'';

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

''(2) The authority under subsection (a) may not be used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain professional credentials unless such credentials are recognized and approved by the armed force concerned as necessary to meet—

''(A) readiness requirements or professional occupational development goals of such armed force; or

''(B) the self-development requirements of the member.

''(3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), the authority under subsection (a) may not

be used to pay the expenses of obtaining professional credentials unless—

''(A) such credentials are accredited under International Organization for Standardization/International Commission (ISO/IEC) Standard 17024-2012, entitled 'General Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Persons'; and

''(B) the entity accrediting such credentials provides documentary evidence to the Secretary of Defense that it complies International Organization for Standardization/International Commission Standard 17011, entitled 'Conformity assessment–General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies'.

'' '(4) During the three-year period beginning on the date of the authorization of the Credentialing agency by the Department of Defense, the authority under subsection (a) may be used to pay the expenses of obtaining professional credentials from an entity not complying with the Standards referred to in paragraph (3) if the entity certifies in writing to the Secretary of Defense that the entity agrees to seek to obtain certification of compliance with the Standards before the end of such period.'.

(c) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''may pay'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting ''may, using funds described in subsection (c), pay''; and

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

''(c) FUNDS AVAILABLE.—Payments may be made under the authority under subsection (a) by the Secretary making such payments from amounts available to such Secretary for tuition assistance for members under the jurisdiction of such Secretary. Payments for funds are not limited to eligible programs, as that term is defined in section 481 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088).''.

(d) COVERED EXPENSES.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) EXPENSES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'expenses' means expenses for class room instruction, hands-on training (and associated materials), manuals, study guides and materials, text books, processing fees, and test fees and related fees.''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to sallie___derr@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224–7571 or Sallie Derr at (202) 224–6836.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

H.R. 412, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the mainstem of the Nashua River and its tributaries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

S.1189, to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, and for other purposes;

S. 1389 and H.R. 1501, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System;

S. 1520 and H.R. 2197, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

S. 1641, to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, and for other purposes;

S. 1718, to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes;

S. 1750, authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes;

S. 1785, to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes;

S. 1794, to designate certain Federal land in Chaffee County, Colorado, as a national monument and as wilderness.

S. 1866, a bill to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy;

S. 2031, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, and for other purposes, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, and for other purposes;

S. 2104, to require the Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown;

S. 2111, to reauthorize the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area;

S. 2221, to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan;

S. 2264, A bill to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, and for other purposes;

S. 2293, to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes;

S. 2318, to reauthorize the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Act.

S. 2346, to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes;

S. 2356, to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve;

S. 2392, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

S.2576, to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and for other purposes; and

S. 2602, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to John Assini@ienergy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks (202) 224–9863 or John Assini (202) 224–9313.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The title of this hearing is ''Breaking the Logjam at BLM: Examining Ways to More Efficiently Process Permits for Energy Production on Federal Lands.''

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510–6150, or by e-mail to Kristen__Granier@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Jan Brunner at (202) 224–3907 or Kristen Granier at (202) 224–1219.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 10:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled ''Leveraging America's Resources as a Revenue Generator and Job Creator: A View from State and Local Partners.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''The U.S. Tax Code: Love It, Leave It, or Reform It!''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 22, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Coal Miners' Struggle for Justice: How Unethical Legal and Medical Practices Stack the Deck Against Black Lung Claimants.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 3 p.m. in room SD–G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Abuse of Structured Financial Products: Misusing Barrier Options to Avoid Taxes and Leverage Limits.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Building Economically Resilient Communities: Local and Regional Approaches.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, AND PEACE CORPS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2014, at 3 p.m., to hold an International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, International Environmental Protection, and Peace Corps subcommittee hearing entitled, ''U.S. Security Implications of International Energy and Climate Policies Issues.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Anne Marie Lewis, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Anita Grassl and Angela West, interns with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4719

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand H.R. 4719 has been received from the House, is at the desk, and is due for a first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

Mr. REID. I would ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014

Mr. REID. We have waited here now for hours trying to work out an agreement to move forward on the highway bill, but one of the Senators has not been found. So I am not going to wait any longer. I have waited quite a few hours—and all the staff—and it is not fair to anybody.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 453, S. 2569, until 11 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and, finally, that at 11 a.m. the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2569.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, at 11 a.m. tomorrow there will be a roll call vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Bring Jobs Home Act, followed by three voice votes on confirmation of the Clark, Schapiro, and Creedon nominations.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:15 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

JONODEV OSCEOLA CHAUDHURI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE TRACIE STEVENS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROBERT P. MCCOY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHAEL E. COGHLAN

To be major

AJAY K. OJHA

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

NEALANJON P. DAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS A CHAPLAIN UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

BARRY C. BUSBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

YONG K. CHO
JOSEPH W. GREEN
THOMAS A. STARKOSKI, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ADAM J. RAINS

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 22, 2014:

THE JUDICIARY

ANDRE BIROTTE, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

ROBIN L. ROSENBERG, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

JOHN W. DEGRAVELLES, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HELEN MADDOX ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special woman on a very special day—her 100th birthday. Helen Maddox was born on her family's small family farm in Romulus, Michigan on July 28, 1914.

She was the youngest of three and admits that while she was surrounded by love, life back then wasn't always easy. There was always a long list of chores that included taking care of the animals and helping with the crops.

Helen worked at a roadside stand selling fruits and vegetables and says her curly hair was a great marketing tool. People would stop because of her cute curls, and then buy something.

Her parents were community leaders and that is a trait that rubbed off on Helen.

Like many people who weren't lucky enough to be born in Texas, she moved there as an adult. She immediately became involved in the small, but growing community of Arlington, Texas. Back then it was a town of just 15,000, now it is close to 400,000. Helen Maddox played a role in making it a big city with a small town feel.

She started attending city council meetings so she could keep up with what was going on and support city leaders. Helen founded the Arlington Women's Club in 1957 and it is still going strong. She also worked with longtime Mayor Tom Vandergriff to organize the YMCA.

She and her late husband loved to travel, many times hitting the road in their Winnebago.

Helen slowly got more involved in Republican politics. In 1986 she got an invitation to have tea at the White House with Nancy Reagan.

When Arlington became part of my district 20 years ago, Helen was one of the first people to welcome me. She was 80 at the time, but still full of life and her love of Arlington and America was infectious.

As she hits 100 she is still active in the community. I am proud today to say Happy 100th Birthday to my friend—Helen Maddox!

HONORING THE HON. JAMES B. KANE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable James B. Kane Jr., distinguished veteran and former chief administrative judge for the New York State Supreme Court, Eighth Judicial District of Western New York, on the occasion of his 90th Birthday.

Born July 21, 1924 to Helen and James B. Kane Sr., Judge Kane enlisted in the Army Air Forces at 18 years of age. Quickly, this young man from Navaho Parkway in South Buffalo, New York found himself over Europe as a navigator on a B–17 "Flying Fortress" bomber. Shot down twice over a span of thirty missions, First Lieutenant Kane was one of two survivors of a nine man crew that had just bombed a German rail yard and survived another attack close to Berlin.

His calm, cool courage under fire earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters and other notable recognitions by the time this he was 20 years old and back home in Buffalo. He then enrolled in Canisius College, working as a City of Buffalo firefighter and using the G.I. Bill to pay his tuition. Georgetown Law School was the next stop for this veteran.

Following graduation, the practice of law and the art of politics would set the path for this outstanding jurist as he rose from Buffalo City Court to Erie County Family Court to serving with great distinction on the New York State Supreme Court, during which time his leadership and steady hand as chief administrative judge for the Eighth Judicial District earned praise in all corners of the community. His more than capable stewardship earned him many honors including awards from Canisius College as well as the Erie County Bar Association.

While Judge Kane's outstanding and lifelong commitment to the law and public service is worthy of recognition, it is his devotion to family which earns him our highest praise and greatest appreciation. A devoted husband to Marie for more than 60 years, the Judge and Mrs. Kane are the proud parents of 10 children and 14 grandchildren. His only brother, Donald, passed away earlier this year but their unbreakable bond remains a strong and shining example to their families and all who saw them together of the true meaning of brotherly love.

On July 20, the family and friends of this extraordinary man will gather at the home of his son, Orchard Park Village Judge Daniel Kane and his wife, Dr. Kathleen Kane, to celebrate and congratulate Judge James B. Kane Jr. for 90 years of exemplary leadership and dedication to his country, community, family and faith.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation, I am proud to offer my best wishes for continued health and happiness to Judge Kane, his wife, Marie and his loving, large and very proud family.

IN SUPPORT OF A RESOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in calling for a resolution of what seems to have become the never-ending division of the island of Cyprus. I speak not of a resolution that casts blame for what has gone before, but one that reunites both Cypriot communities and allows the island as a whole to chart a path forward within the international community.

In much of the historical rhetoric surrounding this issue, what sometimes gets lost is that all Cypriots—Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots—have legitimate grievances. Any resolution of the Cyprus question must respect the rights of all Cypriots. All Cypriots must be allowed to participate freely in the island's national life. Finally, the international isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community must come to an end. The overwhelming vote ten years ago by Turkish Cypriots to end the status quo and for the Annan Plan underlines the ridiculousness of Turkish Cypriot isolation.

As we observe this year the 40th anniversary of the island, and the 10th anniversary of the vote on the Annan Plan, the fact remains that two generations of Greek and Turkish Cypriots have known nothing but the status quo. It cannot be maintained for future generations. I call on the Administration and my colleagues to support and encourage the ongoing dialogue between both communities, so that a comprehensive settlement that encourages reunion and reconciliation can be secured.

RECOGNIZING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT CORPORAL DUANE E. DEWEY

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Medal of Honor Recipient, Corporal Duane Edgar Dewey for his commendable service in the Korean War.

Corporal Dewey was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He stayed in Michigan until he signed with the Marine Corps Reserve on March 7, 1951, at the age of 19. Corporal Dewey served in the United States Marine Corps from 1951–1952. During his years of service, Corporal Dewey served in Korea, where he was a part of the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Marines.

On April 16, 1952, Corporal Dewey was serving as leader of a machine gun squad with Company E, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, near Panmunjom, Korea. During a skirmish with enemy troops, Corporal Dewey suffered numerous injuries due to a grenade that

exploded at his feet. While Corporal Dewey was being treated for his wounds, another grenade was thrown that landed at the squad's position. Corporal Dewey grabbed the grenade and covered it with his body in order to protect his fellow soldiers. For his efforts, Corporal Dewey was the first person to receive the Medal of Honor from President Dwight D. Eisenhower on March 12, 1953.

Corporal Dewey stands as a shining example of bravery and determination that all Americans strive toward. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Corporal Duane Edgar Dewey for his service to the United States of America.

STEVE STINSON

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Southwest Washington native, Steve Stinson. After battling an advanced form of Leiomyosarcoma for more than two years, Steve passed away at the age of 52 on July 17, 2014.

As a family man, small forest owner, and friend to countless people across our state, Steve encompassed the very essence of Southwest Washington. Alongside his father, Doug, Steve ran the Cowlitz Ridge Tree Farm in Toledo providing for multiple generations of the Stinson family. As President of the Family Farm Forestry Association, he was a tireless advocate for living off the land and preserving the beauty and history of natural resources. While his tenure was certainly not short of challenges Steve approached each of them with the positive attitude and vibrant personality so many of us admired.

Mr. Speaker, I have been lucky enough to work with Steve throughout my time in Congress, and my deepest sympathies and prayers are with Steve's wife, Lou Jean and all of his loved ones. While hundreds of folks in Southwest Washington are sad to see another angel depart for heaven, we can take some comfort in knowing the lasting effect Steve Stinson had on so many lives.

IN MEMORY OF CHRIS BILLA

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Chris Billa of Park City, KY. Only 26 years old, Chris lost his battle with cancer on July 14, 2014.

Chris was a son, father and brother. But many knew Chris as a local firefighter. Despite having his own personal battle with cancer, Chris continued to battle the fires in our own community.

WBKO, a TV station in Bowling Green, KY, named Chris a "Hometown Hero" in October 2013. In an interview with the station at the time, Larry Poteet, Deputy Chief said, "He's not changed. If anything has changed about him its made him put everybody in front of him more, and I just don't know how he does it." It was Chris's commitment to serve his community and decisions to put others first that rightly caught the attention of so many.

While a community is in mourning, we are all lucky to have shared this earth with Chris. I am grateful for his passion for life and his desire to serve our community. We will miss him and are thankful for his service.

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, water is a human right. I applaud the recent decision to suspend Detroit's water shutoffs for 15 days to enable residents to demonstrate financial hardship. This is a first step in preventing a regional public health crisis and protecting the basic rights of Detroit residents.

I submit the following editorial from the Detroit Free Press, which makes the case that recent water-shutoffs, which have been implemented with little or no warning to households, are wrong-headed and shortsighted.

[From the Detroit Free Press, July 21, 2014]

ENDING DETROIT'S WATER SHUT OFFS A GOOD START

On Monday morning, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department announced that it's calling a 15-day halt to an aggressive shutoff campaign that has left an unknown number of Detroiters without water.

It's a start.

The department has about 137,000 delinquent residential accounts totaling about $75 million, and about 10,000 delinquent commercial accounts worth about $23 million.

Folks who can pay should pay what they owe. But department officials have to accept that some Detroiters just can't pay—and further, that the department itself has created an expectation in customers juggling bills that it's OK to prioritize other debts. If the water department's goal is to get, and keep, delinquent customers current on bills, ramping up shutoffs with no warning to ratepayers was a wrong-headed, shortsighted way to proceed.

After weeks of public protest, harsh words from the United Nations, the federal judge overseeing Detroit's bankruptcy and this newspaper's Editorial Board, the department seems to get it.

Department officials say they plan a citywide advertising blitz, complete with outreach to community groups and churches. That's excellent news, but outreach must be paired with concerted efforts to match impoverished residents with financial assistance to pay up and stay current.

The department should also consider income-based partial amnesty for ratepayers who are truly unable to catch up, or comparing data with social service agencies to identify customers who are in need of assistance.

The department must also identify vacant, abandoned homes and target those first. There's little excuse for cutting off water to families as a cost-saving tactic when empty buildings are flooding.

We've been told, confidently, by the folks in charge that no one who honestly cannot afford to pay is being deprived of service; that's overconfidence at best, and outright dishonesty at worst, as documented in Free Press reporter Patricia Montemurri's story about conditions in the city this weekend.

Some adherents of the department's shutoff campaign have dismissed fears that disconnection from clean water and modern sanitation could lead to a public health crisis, noting that the vast majority of delinquent account holders pay up promptly and have water restored. But let's consider the reality of this situation: If just 10% of the ratepayers currently delinquent are unable to pay to have service restored, we're talking about more than 10,000 residents. It's terrible public policy.

All of this against the backdrop of the city's bankruptcy, and the department's efforts to clean up bad debt in an attempt to make a regional water authority more attractive to suburban county executives. (Though let's also keep in mind that aides to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson wrote in a February report to the Oakland County Commission that "stoppage of water and sewer service for tens of thousands of fiscally distressed members of the system is unacceptable policy and one the Oakland County executive will never support.")

Detroit is a poor city. About 38% of residents live in poverty. Our unemployment rate is twice the national average. It's time to talk about what our goals are, and rethink how we deliver water.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, July 20th marked the 40th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus.

Forty years ago thousands of Turkish troops invaded and occupied the northern part of Cyprus. Thousands of Greek Cypriots were forced to flee their homes and many remain missing to this day.

Those forced to flee live as refugees within their own country as their former homes remain occupied or sold without notification or consent. Turkey also continues to obstruct the process of determining the fate of the persons missing since the invasion. Reports indicate that their remains were dumped in a mass grave, deemed as a classified military area, and are closed off to families of the missing.

Additionally, freedom of worship continues to be severely restricted, access to religious sites blocked, religious sites systematically destroyed and a large number of religious and archaeological objects stolen.

The continued occupation of the northern part of Cyprus undermines the unified democratic aspirations of our important ally.

Mr. Speaker, today I call for an end to the occupation and division of Cyprus and urge geographic, political, and economic unity. A strong and stable democracy in Cyprus is not only beneficial to its people but to its relationships with its allies around the world.

We must work to end the occupation of Cyprus for once and for all. I stand with Cyprus and urge an end to their 40 year occupation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF DENNIS KELLY AND THE DENNIS KELLY DIVISION OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE HIBERNIANS

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dennis Kelly, who died 150 years ago yesterday, and the Dennis Kelly Division of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians.

In 1806 Dennis Kelly arrived from Ireland with his wife, Mary, and their daughter, Margaret, and settled in the Philadelphia area. Mr. Kelly entered the textile business and supplied cloth to the Army and Navy during the War of 1812, providing jobs to people in his local community. When Mr. Kelly died on July 21, 1864, he donated a part of his land for the establishment of St. Denis Church. Waves of immigrants from Ireland joined the parish and worked at Kelly's Cotton Mills.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Dennis Kelly Division is located in Havertown, Pennsylvania. Founded in 2001, this Irish Catholic fraternal organization remains dedicated to promoting and preserving Irish and Irish-American heritage. The Ancient Order of Hibernians promotes values such as friendship, unity and charity. Over the years the group has supported numerous philanthropic causes in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, today's Havertown, locally known as Ireland's 33rd county, and the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania owe a great debt to Mr. Dennis Kelly, one of Havertown's most influential immigrants on this, the 150th anniversary of his death.

THE RETIREMENT OF MASTER SERGEANT RODNEY T. ERICKSON FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I recognize Master Sergeant Rodney T. Erickson for 30 years of exemplary service in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

MSgt. Erickson joined the Air National Guard on July 20, 1984, and for the past 30 years has admirably served his community, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America. Throughout his career, he has received countless medals and awards honoring him such as the Air Force achievement medal, the Meritorious Unit Award, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal. He has also been the recipient of numerous Pennsylvania awards including the Pennsylvania Commendation Medal, the Pennsylvania Governors Unit Citation, the Pennsylvania 20 Year Service Medal, and the Pennsylvania General Thomas J. Stewart Medal.

MSgt. Erickson began his career as a member of the Propulsion Section, during which he was deployed overseas for multiple operations including Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon his promotion to become a Master Sergeant and supervisor of the Propulsion Section, he masterfully guided the group through a transitional phase of changing aircraft while many members of the unit were being deployed. Despite the limited manpower, through his leadership and example, the transition was successful and a highly trained workforce was able to maintain unit efficiency. Joining MSgt. Erickson in celebrating his retirement is his wife Dorothy and his children.

Mr. Speaker, MSgt. Rodney T. Erickson has been described as representing the very best of our citizen soldiers. I congratulate him and his family on his retirement from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and thank him for his service to the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,599,556,606,441.85. We've added $6,972,679,557,528.77 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

NICHOLAS KRISTOF ON ''RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN PERIL''

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit a July 9 column by Nicholas Kristof of The New York Times. I have appreciated Mr. Kristof's advocacy on human rights issues over the years, particularly regarding the genocide in Darfur and ongoing violence in Sudan over the last decade. In this recent column, ''Religious Freedom in Peril,'' he cuts through the empty gestures that often surround discussions of religious freedom abroad, and points out that the Muslim world is tragically disproportionate in apostasy and blasphemy laws, limits on religious activities and other constraints on religious freedom.

Of course, religious freedom is at risk throughout the world, and Muslims themselves face dire religious persecution from Burma to China to India. But recent news, including the advance of Islamic extremists in Iraq and the ongoing case of alleged apostate Meriam Ibrahim in Sudan, reminds us that citizens of many countries with Muslim majorities still deserve far greater justice and equality under the law.

I urge all my colleagues to read Mr. Kristof's column and keep it in mind as they consider ongoing events in the world.

[From The New York Times, July 9, 2014]

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN PERIL

(By Nicholas Kristof)

A Sudanese court in May sentences a Christian woman married to an American to be hanged, after first being lashed 100 times, after she refuses to renounce her Christian faith.

Muslim extremists in Iraq demand that Christians pay a tax or face crucifixion, according to the Iraqi government.

In Malaysia, courts ban some non-Muslims from using the word ''Allah.''

In country after country, Islamic fundamentalists are measuring their own religious devotion by the degree to which they suppress or assault those they see as heretics, creating a human rights catastrophe as people are punished or murdered for their religious beliefs.

This is a sensitive area I'm wading into here, I realize. Islam-haters in America and the West seize upon incidents like these to denounce Islam as a malignant religion of violence, while politically correct liberals are reluctant to say anything for fear of feeding bigotry. Yet there is a real issue here of religious tolerance, affecting millions of people, and we should be able to discuss it.

I've been thinking about this partly because of the recent murder of a friend, Rashid Rehman, a courageous human rights lawyer in Multan, Pakistan. Rashid, a Muslim, had agreed to defend a university lecturer who faced the death penalty after being falsely accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad. This apparently made Rashid a target as well, for two men walked into his office and shot him dead.

No doubt the killers thought themselves pious Muslims. Yet such extremists do far more damage to the global reputation of Islam than all the world's Islamophobes put together.

The paradox is that Islam historically was relatively tolerant. In 628, Muhammad issued a document of protection to the monks of St. Catherine's Monastery.

''No compulsion is to be on them,'' he wrote. ''If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval. She is not to be prevented from visiting her church to pray.''

Anti-Semitism runs deep in some Muslim countries today, but, for most of history, Muslims were more tolerant of Jews than Christians were. As recently as the Dreyfus Affair in France more than a century ago, Muslims defended a Jew from the anti-Semitism of Christians.

Likewise, the most extreme modern case of religious persecution involved Europeans trying to exterminate Jews in the Holocaust. Since then, one of the worst religious massacres was the killing of Muslims by Christians at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It's also true that some of the bravest champions of religious freedom today are Muslim. Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, an Iranian lawyer, represented a Christian pastor pro bono, successfully defending him from charges of apostasy. But Dadkhah was then arrested himself and is now serving a nine-year prison sentence.

Saudi Arabia may feud with Iran about almost everything else, but they are twins in religious repression. Saudis ban churches; it insults Islam to suggest it is so frail it cannot withstand an occasional church.

Particularly insidious in conservative Muslim countries is the idea that anyone born Muslim cannot become a Christian. That's what happened in the case I mentioned in Sudan: The court considered the woman, Meriam Ibrahim, a Muslim even though she had been raised a Christian by her mother. The court sentenced her to die for apostasy; that was overturned, and she is now sheltering with her family in the United States Embassy in Sudan, trying to get permission to leave the country.

A Pew Research Center study found Muslims victims of religious repression in about

as many countries as Christians. But some of the worst abuse actually takes place in Muslim-dominated countries. In Pakistan, for example, a brutal campaign has been underway against the Shiite minority. Likewise, Iran represses the peaceful Bahai, and similarly Pakistan and other countries brutally mistreat the Ahmadis, who see themselves as Muslims but are regarded as apostates. Pakistani Ahmadis can be arrested simply for saying, ''peace be upon you.''

All this is a sad index of rising intolerance, for Pakistan's first foreign minister was an Ahmadi; now that would be impossible.

I hesitated to write this column because religious repression is an awkward topic when it thrives in Muslim countries. Muslims from Gaza to Syria, Western Sahara to Myanmar, are already enduring plenty without also being scolded for intolerance. It's also true that we in the West live in glass houses, and I don't want to empower our own chauvinists or fuel Islamophobia.

Yet religious freedom is one of the most basic of human rights, and one in peril in much of the world. Some heroic Muslims, like my friend Rashid in Pakistan, have sacrificed their lives to protect religious freedom. Let's follow their lead and speak up as well, for silence would be a perversion of politeness.

HONORING THE AROOSTOOK FARM OF PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Aroostook Farm of Presque Isle, Maine as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Since 1914, the Aroostook Farm has served as a center for agricultural research and development, not only for Presque Isle, but for the entire state of Maine. As part of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, the Aroostook Farm works in tandem with the University of Maine as a prominent research and development facility for the Maine potato industry, a staple crop in the state's agriculture. In more recent years, the Aroostook Farm has expanded their existing research to work toward developing sustainable agricultural practices.

On Wednesday, August 13th, the Aroostook Farm will recognize 100 years of research, community involvement, and advancement in agriculture. The Aroostook Farm embodies Maine values by representing the importance of agriculture and educational advancement, practices that have taken place on the farm for the last 100 years.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Aroostook Farm in Congress, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to help celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Aroostook Farm and its involved community, and wishing them well on this joyous occasion.

HONORING CHIEF STEVEN CURRAN

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Steven Curran for his 23 years of service with the United States Navy and congratulate him on his retirement.

Chief Curran currently serves with the Navy Medicine National Capital Area as the Senior Enlisted Leader for both the Navy Medical Support Detachment and the Human Resources Department of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. During his time with the Navy, he received three Navy Commendation Medals, five Navy Achievement Medals, Surface Warfare designation, the Command Career Counselor badge, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and various other unit and campaign medals.

His legacy of service also extends to the community, where, for decades, he has been involved in everything from acting as the President of the NHCQ Chief Petty Officer Association, to being a volunteer mentor in a high school student ministry.

After 20 years, Chief Curran is still happily married to the former Dawn LaPere, and they have two children. Emma, their first child, is eight years old and their son Sam will be two in September. After Chief Curran retires, the family will move to Savannah, GA where Chief Curran will be the Small Groups Pastor at Savannah Christian Church.

In honor of his years of commitment and sacrifice for his country, I am pleased to recognize Chief Steven Curran and offer my best wishes in his retirement from the U.S. Navy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 428–432, I am not recorded because I was absent from the House of Representatives due to a family matter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall No. 428, had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

On rollcall No. 429, had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

On rollcall No. 430, had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

On rollcall No. 431, had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

On rollcall No. 432, had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

CONGRATULATING AND HONORING LIEUTENANT ALICE WARREN OF THE BAKER POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Alice Warren of the City of Baker Police Department, located in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to join Lt. Warren in commemorating and celebrating her sixteen years of dedicated service to the Baker community in the state of Louisiana.

Over the past sixteen years, Lt. Warren has worked in several capacities within the Baker Police Department. Lt. Warren began her career with the Department as a Communications Officer and was later promoted to Police Officer in the Uniform Patrol Division. Lt. Warren continued her ascent when she was promoted to Patrolman First Class and then to Sergeant. In September of 2011, Lt. Warren was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant. In this role, Lt. Warren holds the distinction as being the first and only female to hold this position with the Baker Police Department.

In addition to Lt. Warren's long record of accomplishment and achievement, she should also be commended for her courage, outstanding service and heroic sacrifice in protecting and defending the residents of the City of Baker on a daily basis. On behalf of the residents of Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District, I congratulate Lieutenant Alice Warren on her many outstanding years of service and her invaluable contribution to the Baker Police Department.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

URGING THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an issue that is near and dear to many constituents in my district.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the decades-long struggle to find a common ground between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots. On July 20, 1974, Turkey deployed its military forces to the island of Cyprus, separating thousands of families from their homes and dividing the sovereign nation in half.

Today, there are still many challenges that the Greek and Turkish Cypriots need to resolve before reunification can take place. While the path won't be easy and it will take the political courage of both sides, I am confident that a peaceful resolution can be found.

On February 11, 2014, the two Cypriot leaders, Nicos Anastasiades and Dervish Eroglu, renewed negotiations for a Cyprus settlement. This Joint Statement reflects the spirit of compromise and lays down a solid foundation for result-oriented talks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in urging for the peaceful reunification of the island of Cyprus and I call upon the United States to do everything it can to support both sides in this process.

SUPPORTING UNANIMOUS DECISION OF U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION MAKING RETROACTIVE THE REDUCTION IN SENTENCING GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO MOST FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the unanimous vote of the U.S. Sentencing Commission to apply retroactively the reduction in the sentencing guideline levels applicable to most federal drug trafficking offenders.

This action is welcome news to the families and loved ones of the estimated 46,290 persons eligible to have their cases reviewed by a judge to determine if their sentence should be reduced by on average of 25 months, or as much as 18.8 percent.

The United States incarcerates nearly 25 percent of the world's inmates, even though it only has 5 percent of the world's population. Thirty years ago, there were less than 30,000 inmates in the federal system; today, there are nearly 216,000, an increase of 800 percent.

This over-crowding of our federal prison system—at an annual cost of about $6.5 billion—is the direct and proximate result of the proliferation of offenses carrying mandatory-minimums and the discriminatory 100–1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences in federal law.

African Americans and Hispanics comprise more than 6 in 10 federal inmates incarcerated for drug offenses. And African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

The decision by the U.S. Sentencing Commission is particularly gratifying to those of us who worked tirelessly over the last two decades to restore balance and justice to federal drug sentencing policy.

In 2005, I introduced the "No More Tulias Act of 2005" (H.R. 2620) in response to the infamous drug task force scandal in Tulia, Texas that occurred six years earlier, during which 15 percent of the town's African American population was arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to decades in prison based on the uncorroborated testimony of a federally funded undercover officer with a record of racial impropriety.

Later, in 2007, I introduced the "Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2007" (H.R. 4545), bipartisan legislation eliminating the unjust and discriminatory 100 to 1 disparity between crack and powder cocaine sentences in federal law. Companion legislation in the Senate was introduced by then Senator JOSEPH BIDEN of Delaware (S. 1711).

Three years later, this effort bore fruit when the Congress passed and President Obama signed into law the "Fair Sentencing Act of 2010" (P.L. 111–220), which finally ended the 100:1 ratio that had resulted in unconscionable racial disparities in the average length of sentences for comparable offenses.

But a large gap remained in the justice provided by this landmark legislation: its provisions were not retroactive. That gap has been filled today by the unanimous vote of the Sentencing Commission.

Beginning in November of this year, all federal inmates sentenced under the old regime are to be afforded the opportunity to have their sentences reconsidered under the provisions of current law, and those eligible for release may be reunited with their families and loved ones as early as November 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the vote today by the Sentencing Commission is a giant step in the right direction as it makes federal drug sentencing policy and practice fairer for all, helps save the taxpayers millions of dollars annually, and reaffirms the premise that the men and women who have paid their debt to society are worthy of a second chance to redeem their lives and contribute to their communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 428.

A TRIBUTE TO MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL'S DR. TERENCE N. THOMAS SCHOLARSHIP ANNUAL BRUNCH

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Milwaukee Community Journal's Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Annual Brunch. The Dr. Terence N. Thomas Scholarship Annual Brunch celebrates its 38th anniversary at the Italian Conference Center on Sunday, August 3, 2014. The annual event was established in 1996 to promote academic excellence and to pay tribute to the publisher's deceased and beloved son, Dr. Terence N. Thomas. This fund has granted over a half million dollars to students who retain a 3.0 cumulative grade average or better.

Much of the success of the Milwaukee Community Journal can be attributed to one of its founders and Publisher, Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo. The Milwaukee Community Journal evolved from a publication called the Soul City Shopper, following the 1965 riots in Milwaukee. Insurance companies had refused to pay businesses for damages incurred during the riots. Ms. Pattillo was encouraged by business leaders to assume the role of editor of the publication. She penned a barrage of editorials that eventually pressured the insurance companies to uphold their obligations by paying claims so that repairs could be made and that businesses could reopen. This effort was dubbed The Unity in the Community Campaign; it was very successful and mobilized the entire community.

In addition to the scholarships, the brunch will honor many of those individuals who took part in that Unity in Community mobilization. The brunch's theme, "Inspiration Meets Aspiration": Fabulous, Fit, Fun and Fantastic: Uniting Generations," will focus on the many and varied contributions to our community of those individuals 50 and older. The honorees contributions have been broad and vast and have been the foundation for Milwaukee's central city community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the Milwaukee Community Journal hails from the 4th Congressional District. It has consistently informed and entertained readers for nearly 38 years. I am pleased to give praise to Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo and her staff for providing a voice to the community and offering educational opportunities to students. I wish them many more years of success.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEATLES' HISTORIC VISIT TO OREGON COUNTY, MISSOURI

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of The Beatles's historic weekend visit to Oregon County, Missouri. In 1964 The Beatles visited the Ozarks of Oregon County, Missouri in September for a weekend of rest and relaxation at the Pigman Ranch.

I also would like to recognize the Ozarks of Oregon County, Missouri as the official September 19, 1964 weekend destination of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. The Alton Community Foundation is conducting the Ozarks Beatlemania Festival on the 12th and 13th of September this fall to celebrate this historic event in the Ozarks. The community of Alton looks forward to sharing the history and stories of the Fab Four's visit to nearby Pigman Ranch on September of 1964. Although Pigman Ranch is no longer owned by the Pigman family, the stories, the mystique and the uniqueness of the ranch remain.

With the Ozark Beatlemania Festival approaching, in which I am eager to attend, it is my pleasure to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the visit made by The Beatles to Oregon County, Missouri, before the House of Representatives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 425 on July 16, 2014, I was unavoidably detained on my way to the House floor owing to a constituent meeting and consequently missed the Massie of Kentucky amendment vote to H.R. 5016. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT ORGANIZATION, MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK HIGGINS

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Patrick M. Higgins, Deputy Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, who will retire from the United States Army on September 1, 2014, after 34 years of distinguished service. In his final tour of duty, Major General Higgins led efforts to disrupt threat networks that support, supply and employ IEDs globally. Through his contributions, JIEDDO has made significant strides in reducing the effectiveness of the IEDs and eliminating the enemy networks that seek to use these devices to harm our troops.

Major General Higgins has commanded within the special operations community at the detachment, battalion and group levels, culminating in assignment as the Commander, Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command in Iraq. He has served in numerous special operations staff assignments and director-level positions within the Joint Staff.

Major General Higgins has earned numerous awards and decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with ''V'' device, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, among others.

I am proud to share in the celebration of Major General Higgins' long and distinguished military career. I would also like to congratulate his wife, Susan, and his three daughters, Sarah, Emily and Jessica, whose love and support has aided and strengthened Major General Higgins throughout his career. I wish him all the best in his retirement.

HONORING THE FLORIDA STATE CHAPTER OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florida State Chapter of the U.S. Air Force Association (AFA) in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

On Saturday, July 26, the AFA will hold its annual state conference in West Palm Beach, Florida. It is a privilege to represent constituents who are so deeply committed to the education, advocacy, and support necessary to maintain America's dominance in aerospace that helps keep our Nation secure.

From issuing scholarships and supporting STEM programs in elementary schools, to restoring and preserving Air Force fighter aircrafts, Florida's AFA chapter has been a tremendous advocate in the South Florida community.

I am proud to recognize the Florida Chapter and the entire AFA community for their achievements in promoting aerospace power and enhancing aerospace and science education for South Florida's next generation of leaders.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM D. MAGWOOD IV

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thanks to a dedicated public servant who is moving on to another important assignment. Bill Magwood, currently a Commissioner on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), will depart for Paris in September to serve as the Director General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency. I want to wish Bill and his wife Janet all the best as they embark on this great adventure. I know Bill will do a wonderful job in this new position.

As a Member of Congress representing Idaho's second congressional district, I got to know Bill as the Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy. In that capacity, Bill played an instrumental role in forming the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as the nation's lead lab for nuclear energy and that designation has served the nation, the nuclear energy industry and the State of Idaho very well. Bill Magwood's vision for INL and creative institutions such as the Center for Advanced Energy Studies has exceeded all of our expectations and we owe Bill a debt of gratitude for his foresight and perseverance.

After leaving the Department of Energy and working in the private sector for a few years, Bill was asked by President Obama to return to government service and serve on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Bill accepted this challenge, but I do not believe he or anyone else had any idea of what was in store for him Under Bill's watch at the NRC, the Fukushima disaster hit Japan and the NRC was thrust into the spotlight to explain the situation to the American people. At the same time, the NRC was faced with serious internal challenges, which Bill met with courage and conviction, and for this he deserves our recognition and praise.

Bill Magwood has served his country with honor and distinction and I want to offer my praise as he moves on to his new international leadership role.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th year of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God began in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1914 with 300 people and has called Springfield, Missouri its home since 1918, and we are proud to call them our neighbors in the 7th Congressional District. This broad coalition of ministers decided to work together to fulfill common goals by providing fellowship, establishing schools, and sending missionaries abroad. Since 1914, the Assemblies of God has grown to more than 67 million adherents in over 366,000 churches worldwide.

In these 100 years, Assemblies of God members have preached the gospel, prayed for the sick, witnessed miracles, published profound insights on the spiritual life, and established churches, schools, orphanages, and rescue missions. The Assemblies of God's dedication and loyalty to their members and employees has become a vital part of the Springfield community. Their outreach and sponsorship of higher education is a true testament of their fellowship and values. The General Council has formed close relationships to local businesses and universities, creating a network that values community, education, and friendship. It is an honor to recognize the General Council for their leadership and service.

I am confident the work of the General Council of the Assemblies of God will continue to make a positive impact in the area over the next 100 years.

A TRIBUTE TO RAY ALPERT—ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, our community lost a true friend and major benefactor on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 with the passing of Ray Alpert at the age of 87.

Ray and his wife, Barbara, were known throughout Long Beach for their generosity and passion for organizations that helped support the Jewish community. Over the decades, Ray and his wife Barbara donated millions of dollars to the Jewish Federation of Greater Long Beach and West Orange County and its partner agencies, the Alpert Jewish Community Center, Long Beach Hillel, Jewish Family and Children's Service and the Hebrew Academy of Huntington Beach.

From its inception, the Alpert Foundation has provided the Long Beach and Western Orange County Jewish Federation with its largest annual gift. In 1997, their lead donation to the Federation was instrumental in creating the 85,000 square foot Alpert Jewish Community Center, whose comprehensive programs and facilities now serve almost every segment of our community. ''The Alpert Jewish Community Center is forever indebted to Ray and Barbara for their generosity and caring for the Center,'' said Jeffrey Rips, Executive Director.

Ray's longtime friend, Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation Past President, and community leader in his own right, Eugene Lentzner, spoke lovingly of his 50 year association with Ray. ''Ray achieved great success, yet he was the most unpretentious and unassuming person I ever know. (And you should also know that comment applies to his wife also),'' said Gene. ''He was most comfortable outside the limelight; yet he served on many boards, he had a lot to say

about how the agencies functioned, and he never had to have a title or office to be the most effective person in the room. And that is why everyone who has anything to say about him says that he was our pillar.''

''He was an extremely generous man and very humble, very down-to-earth,'' said Deborah Godlfarb, CEO of the Jewish Federation and Jewish Community Foundation. ''He really believed in community involvement and was active in many non-Jewish causes, as well as Jewish causes. It was part of who he was.''

''The Hebrew Academy community is saddened by the loss of Ray Alpert a giant mentsch in our community,'' said Rabbi Yitzchok Newman. ''Ray paved the path to provide a myriad of opportunities for active participation in our community. He was a man who cared deeply about and invested generously in the future of our community. Ray will be sorely missed—may his memory be a blessing for all.''

Ray was born on April 9, 1927, and grew up in Boyle Heights. He was a co-owner of Alpert & Alpert Iron & Metal Inc., a Los Angeles-based scrap metal business founded by his father and uncle in the 1930s. Eighty years later, the company remains a family-owned business. Ray and Barbara moved to Long Beach in 1963 and soon joined Temple Israel.

''Through the years Barbara and Ray's passion for youth seemed unending,'' continued Lentzner. ''The establishment and endowment of the Alpert New Leaders Forum at the Jewish Federation, his lobbying and support that literally saved Hillel at Cal State, the founder's donation and ongoing funding of CCEJ's Building Bridges camps, which brings young people together to respect each other, were all indications of this commitment to the next generations.''

And the list goes on and on: ADL, National Council of Jewish Women, Hadassah, the rebuilding of Temple Israel, Ronald McDonald House, and the new Fisher House at the Long Beach Veterans Administration hospital, providing a place for the family of veterans who are being treated. ''In all, they were major funders of over 50 organizations every year, lead givers for their campaigns, and have endowed their gifts so that their programs will continue on into the future,'' remarked Lentzner.

''Ray Alpert was a man who was committed to his causes and the community,'' said Kathryn Miles, JFCS Executive Director. ''For Ray, it was not only a matter of a donation. He found long-lasting and far-reaching ways to impact programs and agencies, as both a leader and as a donor. For JFCS, Barbara and Ray's generosity has had a tremendously positive impact on our ability to provide mental health and social services to people who have nowhere else to turn.''

Ray also had a passion for Jewish history and Holocaust education. At Cal State University, Long Beach (CSULB), he and Barbara established the Barbara and Ray Alpert Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies. ''We at CSULB owe them a real debt of gratitude. Ray was not merely an active member of the Jewish Studies advisory board. At a moment of crisis, he and Barbara stepped up, and through their generosity, saved the Jewish Studies Program,'' said Jeffrey Blutinger, Director of the program. ''Their endowment has not only allowed us to continue offering classes, degrees, and our regular lecture series, but also helped us expand our programming by bringing artists, performers, and lead scholars to campus.''

Ray and Barbara have also been strong and consistent supporters of Beach Hillel, which provides services to Jewish students at CSULB and several other universities and community colleges in the Long Beach and Orange County areas. ''Through the help of Ray Alpert, Beach Hillel has been able to provide free and kosher Friday-night dinners to students, opportunities to work for social justice, and various educational and social activities that encourage students' personal growth and exploration,'' said Rachel Kaplan, Hillel Executive Director.

''One issue dear to Ray's heart was building bridges among communities,'' said Blutinger. For the last two years, Ray and Barbara have funded a collaborative project on campus involving Jewish Studies and Chicano and Latino Studies, bringing speakers on campus to highlight the longstanding relationships between the Jews and Latinos(as) in Southern California. Just a few weeks ago, he and Barbara went to CSULB to hear Dr. George Sanchez from USC describe the unique nature of the Boyle Heights community of the 1930s and '40s, a place where immigrant Jews mixed with Mexican and Mexican-Americans, African-Americans, and Japanese-Americans, forming alliances of mutual support.

''Since Ray was born and raised in Boyle Heights, he was delighted to see students from Jewish Studies and Chicano and Latino Studies classes come together to learn about his common past,'' said Blutinger.

Gene Lentzner echoed Ray's interest in connecting diverse communities. ''I have to mention Ray's love for the people with whom he grew consulted and argued until they got it right, and then did it together. And the results were wonderful, often incredible,'' said Lentzner at the funeral which took place on Friday, June 13. Ray is survived by his wife Barbara, his children, Teri, Alan and Nancy; his sister, Janet Farber; and seven grandchildren who will all miss him tremendously.

''I once asked him what gave him the most satisfaction in life. You created a foundation to give away most of your fortune, so it wasn't about just making money, or having the best of everything. And he simply answered: Helping other is the best reason for the gift of life on this earth. That is what my parents taught me. That is what I tried to teach my children,'' remembers Lentzner.

His life was a blessing for all of us. He really knew how to live. It is why he was so universally respected and loved.

Ray's generosity and activism has touched the lives of countless people in the Long Beach area and his passing leaves a gaping hole in our hearts.

NELSON MANDELA DAY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today marks what would have been the 96th birthday of Nelson Mandela, one of the great liberators in human history and an enduring international symbol of peace, integrity, humility, resilience, and courage. While we lost Madiba in December, his ethos of nonviolence and his unyielding quest for justice continue to guide and inspire people throughout the world.

After 27 years imprisoned on Robben Island and decades of devoted campaigning to overturn hateful racist policies, Nelson Mandela succeeded not only in unravelling apartheid but also in shepherding his nation through an extraordinary peaceful democratic transition. The people of South Africa—and people of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities around the world—are forever grateful.

More than two decades ago, just months after his release from prison, I had the honor of first meeting Mandela when he visited Detroit to organize for his ascendant political movement in South Africa and speak with the great American civil rights hero Rosa Parks. I was astounded not only by Mandela's insight but also by his kindness and humility. Just four years later, I was delighted to travel to South Africa to attend his inauguration as President of South Africa.

Today, his birthday, is recognized globally as ''Nelson Mandela Day,'' an occasion established by the Mandela Foundation in 2009 to commemorate his life and to underscore the notion that a single person can—through commitment and character—yield extraordinary positive change. Today, in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan, thanks to the work of the Friends of Detroit City Airport Community Development Corporation and Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, a portion of Atwater Street from Civic Center Drive to Bates Street will be renamed ''Nelson Mandela Drive.'' A commemorative ceremony will highlight the extraordinary achievements of Mandela and ways that community members can continue to fulfill his revolutionary vision of justice and nonviolence.

IN RECOGNITION OF FOLKSVILLE USA

HON. ANN KIRKPATRICK

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Folksville USA, a pioneering organization that began in Arizona and is spreading through communities across our nation. Folksville USA works with Adopt-a-Highway to back BagReadyJobs, an innovative program that pairs local businesses with youth groups to clean up our highways.

Arizona's District One boasts some of the most beautiful landscape in the country, and the BagReadyJobs program is keeping it that way! Under the leadership of Gary Chamberlain, Folksville USA is teaching the kids of Arizona about the effects of littering, the fundamentals of money management and most importantly, introducing them to that positive feeling you get when you are serving your community.

Getting kids excited about cleaning up the environment and raising money for a good cause is no easy feat, but Gary Chamberlain and Folksville USA seem to do it over and over again. This program makes a difference in the lives of Arizona kids and preserves the pristine beauty of our state, and I hope communities all over our country will have the opportunity to achieve these same benefits. Thanks for keeping Arizona beautiful!

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in the District of Columbia. The 40th Anniversary Celebration launched with a tribute concert at the Kennedy Center honoring co-founders Peggy Cooper Carfritz and the late Mike Malone. The Duke Ellington School, named in honor of the late great Duke Ellington, a Washington native, is one of the premier performing arts schools in the nation, and ranked the third Best School in the District of Columbia by U.S. News and World Report.

Established in 1974, the Duke Ellington School of the Arts was designed to reflect the ''creative soul'' of the District as well as the cultural diversity of the United States. Its mission is to both nurture and inspire passion for arts and learning in talented students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to develop their artistic skills. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts is the only high school in the District that combines a full college-preparatory curriculum with professional arts training. Students are provided with training in areas such as dance, theater, literary media, museum studies, and instrumental or vocal music. The Duke Ellington School of the Arts strives to maintain a unique curriculum in which students are well equipped in both the arts and academia.

The Duke Ellington School of the Arts has also produced distinguished alumni, among them mezzo-soprano opera singer Denyce Graves, screenwriter and comedian Dave Chappelle, CNN contributor Michaela Angela Davis, and a host of others who have contributed greatly to the nation's arts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, and in wishing the school success in continuing its proud legacy in the District of Columbia.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY LAND TRANSFER

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to transfer land from the United States to Rockingham County, Virginia. The County has long managed this land and associated buildings and has been responsible for all upkeep.

In 1989, the Department of the Interior deeded this land, which it no longer used, to Rockingham County for public good. The County approached then Rep. Jim Olin in the 101st Congress to allow the buildings on this land to be used for the particular use of a nonprofit day care that serves the County. This resulted in PL 101–479. However, because of the narrow way this law was drafted, Rockingham County does not have true autonomy over the land and must check-in with the Department of the Interior when any repairs or upgrades of the facilities are needed. Given that the building is used for a child care facility, this added bureaucracy delays and impedes the ability of the day care to move efficiently to make any necessary upgrades.

For over 25 years Rockingham County, Virginia has managed this land as if it belonged to the County. Although this land was already transferred to the county, it was not done effectively. This legislation will finalize the efforts of a previous Congress and fully transfer this land to the county. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation.

IN HONOR OF VIOLA DEL GRECO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Viola Del Greco upon her 100th birthday.

Yesterday she joined a growing segment of America: the Centenarians. According to the 2010 Census, over 53,000 Americans are 100 years old or older. Their combined contributions to our nation have coincided with the rise of what has been called ''The American Century.''

Mrs. Del Greco has lived by any measure what can be described as a successful life. Married to her late husband for 72 years, matriarch, business owner and faithful church goer, she has modeled for her family and community how to appropriately balance the demands of life. Faith, family, friends, and neighborhood all require time, energy and attention. Those that give each the proper care can look back and see the handiwork of a lifetime and rejoice in the result. Viola Del Greco must rejoice at what she sees.

As a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she understands the importance of family. The family unit serves as the most fundamental human institution and a basic foundation for our society. The family acts as an incubator in which all the virtues and principles we hold dear are passed on to our children.

Her faithful membership at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church speaks to her core values and strength of character. Her role as business partner with her husband at Del Cleaners bonded them as a team and as part of the community. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have watched her example and honor her life.

Mark Twain was right when he observed, ''Only he who has seen better days and lives to see better days again knows their full value.''

Mrs. Del Greco understands the value of each day.

CORRECTION

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4667–4719

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2634–2643, and S. Res. 510–511. **Page S4705**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 1219, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement. (S. Rept. No. 113–215)

S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. **Page S4704**

Measures Passed:

Newport Jazz Festival 60th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 510, congratulating the Newport Jazz Festival on its 60th anniversary. **Page S4683**

Measures Considered: BRING JOBS HOME ACT—Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2569, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America. **Pages S4667–68, S4677–95**

Schapiro, Clark, and Creedon Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2569, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America, on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, Andrew H. Schapiro, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, and Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees, prior to each vote; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action or debate, on confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; that any roll call votes, following the first in the series, be 10 minutes in length; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; and that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2569, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America, all time consumed while in Executive Session under the terms of this agreement count post-cloture. **Page S4695**

Harris Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit. **Page S4695**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2569, to provide an incentive for businesses to bring jobs back to America. **Page S4695**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 237), Andre Birotte, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Pages S4671–72, S4676–77, S4719**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 234), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4672**

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 238), Robin L. Rosenberg, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. **Pages S4672, S4677, S4719**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 58 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 235), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S4672**

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. EX. 239), John W. deGravelles, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana. **Pages S4672–76, S4677, S4719**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 39 nays (Vote No. 236), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S4672–73**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S4718–19**

Messages from the House: **Page S4701**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S4701, S4718**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4701–03**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S4703–04**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S4704–05**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4705–07**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4707–14**

Additional Statements: **Pages S4699–S4701**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S4714–17**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S4717**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S4717–18**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S4718**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—239) **Pages S4672–73, S4677**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:15 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4718.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., USMC, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commandant of the Marine Corps, Admiral William E. Gortney, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Northern Command/Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, General John F. Campbell, USA, for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, International Security Assistance Force/Commander, United States Forces, Afghanistan, and Lieutenant General Joseph L. Votel, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense, and 492 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

ECONOMICALLY RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine building economically resilient communities, focusing on local and regional approaches, after receiving testimony from Mayor Steven M. Fulop, Jersey City, New Jersey; Claire Collins, Bath County Supervisor, Bath County, Virginia, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; Joseph A. Calabrese, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Westlake, Ohio; and Lee Gibson, Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Reno, Nevada.

NATURAL RESOURCE PRODUCTION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine leveraging America's resources as a revenue generator and job creator, focusing on the state and local government benefits in terms of revenue generated and jobs created from natural resource production, after receiving testimony from Greg Gould, Director, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior; Laura Nelson, Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development Director, Salt Lake City; Charlotte A. Randolph, Lafourche Parish President, Thibodaux, Louisiana; Paul J. Pearce, National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition, Stevenson, Washington; Joel Webster, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Center for Western Lands, Missoula, Montana; Sean Shafer, Quest Offshore Resources, Inc., Sugar Land, Texas; and Duane Taylor, Motorcycle Industry Council, Arlington, Virginia.

U.S. TAX CODE

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the United States Tax Code, after receiving testimony from Robert B. Stack, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Tax Affairs; Pascal Saint-Amans, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, France; Mihir A. Desai, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Peter R. Merrill, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Washington, D.C.; Leslie Robinson, Dartmouth College Tuck School of Business, Hanover, New Hampshire; and Allan Sloan, *Fortune*, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 13, 2006, and signed by the United States of America on June 30, 2009 (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 112–07), with amendments; and

S.J. Res. 36, relating to the approval and implementation of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICIES AND ISSUES

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, International Environmental Protection, and Peace Corps concluded a hearing to examine United States security implications of international energy and climate policies and issues, after receiving testimony from Amos J Hochstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Diplomacy, Bureau of Energy Resources; Eric G. Postel, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment, U.S. Agency for International Development; Daniel Y. Chiu, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development; Rear Admiral David W. Titley, USN (Ret.), CNA Military Advisory Board, Arlington, Virginia; David L. Goldwyn, Brookings Institution, and Michael Breen, Truman National Security Project, both of Washington, DC; and Mary J. Hutzler, Institute for Energy Research, Berlin, Maryland.

ABUSE OF STRUCTURED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine abuse of structured financial products, focusing on misusing basket options to avoid taxes and leverage limits, including a set of transactions that utilize financial engineering and structured financial products, and if a growing population and complexity can hinder effective Internal Revenue Service (IRS) audits, after receiving testimony from James R. White, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Steven M. Rosenthal, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, Washington, DC; Marty Malloy, Barclays, London, United Kingdom; and Mark Silber, Jonathan Mayers, and Peter F. Brown, East Setauket, New York, all of Renaissance Technologies LLC, Satish Ramakrishna, and Barry Bausano, both of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., and Gerard LaRocca, Barclays Bank PLC, all of New York, New York.

COAL MINERS

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety concluded a hearing to examine coal miners, focusing on black lung claimants, after receiving testimony from Christopher P. Lu, Deputy Secretary, and Patricia Smith, Solicitor, both of the Department of Labor; John Howard, Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; John Cline, Federal Black Lung Claimants, Piney View, West Virginia; John E. Parker, West Virginia University Health Sciences Center, Morgantown; Robert Bailey, Jr., United Mine Workers of America, Princeton, West Virginia; and Robert Briscoe, Milliman Inc., New York, New York.

NOMINATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Robert Alan McDonald, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Brown and Portman, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 9 public bills, H.R. 5159–5167; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 676, 678–679 were introduced. **Pages H6654–55**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6656–57**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4450, to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–542, Pt. 1);

H.R. 4411, to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–543, Pt. 1);

H.R. 5036, to amend title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010 (H. Rept. 113–544);

H. Res. 646, directing the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Justice that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011 (H. Rept. 113–545);

H. Res. 677, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3136) to establish a demonstration program for competency-based education, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4984) to amend the loan counseling requirements under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–546);

H. Res. 649, directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of any emails in the possession of the Department of Defense or the National Security Agency that were transmitted to or from the email account(s) of former Internal Revenue Service Exempt Organizations Division Director Lois Lerner between January 2009 and April 2011 (H. Rept. 113–547); and

H. J. Res. 105, conferring honorary citizenship of the United States on Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Viscount of Galveston and Count of Gálvez (H. Rept. 113–548). **Page H6654**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Holding to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6583**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H6586**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 3:04 p.m. **Page H6587**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014: H.R. 4572, amended, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations; **Pages H6588–92**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend the Communications Act of 1934 and title 17, United States Code, to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes.". **Page H6592**

NIST Reauthorization Act of 2014: H.R. 5035, to reauthorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology; **Pages H6597–H6601**

Department of Energy Laboratory Modernization and Technology Transfer Act of 2014: H.R. 5120, amended, to improve management of the National Laboratories, enhance technology commercialization, and facilitate public-private partnerships; **Pages H6601–04**

TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act of 2014: H.R. 4803, amended, to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions; **Pages H6604–06**

Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2014: H.R. 4802, amended, to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports; **Pages H6606–09**

Honor Flight Act: H.R. 4812, amended, to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for veterans traveling to visit war memorials built and dedicated to honor their service; **Pages H6609–12**

Amending the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act: H.R. 4508, to amend the East Bench Irrigation District Water Contract Extension Act to permit the Secretary of the Interior to extend the contract for certain water services; **Page H6612**

Authorizing early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska: H.R. 4562, to authorize early repayment of obligations to

the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska;

Pages H6612–13

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe—Fish Springs Ranch Settlement Act: H.R. 3716, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; **Pages H6613–15**

Hinchliffe Stadium Heritage Act: H.R. 2430, amended, to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium; **Pages H6615–19**

Extending the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy: H.R. 3802, amended, to extend the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy; **Pages H6619–20**

Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act of 2014: H.R. 4411, amended, to prevent Hezbollah and associated entities from gaining access to international financial and other institutions, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 404 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 434; and **Pages H6620–26, H6632–33**

Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014: H.R. 4450, amended, to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 347 yeas to 57 nays, Roll No. 433. **Pages H6626–32**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:19 p.m. and reconvened at 6:31 p.m. **Page H6631**

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Securing Energy Critical Elements and American Jobs Act: H.R. 1022, amended, to develop an energy critical elements program and to amend the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 260 yeas to 143 nays, Roll No. 435.

Pages H6592–96, H6633

Motion to Instruct Conferees: The House rejected the Barber motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3230 by a yea-and-nay vote of 191 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 436. The motion was debated on July 17th. **Pages H6633–34**

Notice of Intent to Offer Motion: Representative Peters (CA) announced his intent to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 3230. **Page H6634**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6631–32, H6632–33, H6633, H6633–34. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Committee Meetings

21ST CENTURY CURES: EXAMINING BARRIERS TO ONGOING EVIDENCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "21st Century Cures: Examining Barriers to Ongoing Evidence Development and Communication". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ADVANCING COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT OF 2013; EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH ENHANCED FINANCIAL COUNSELING ACT

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3136, the "Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act of 2013"; and H.R. 4984, the "Empowering Students Through Enhanced Financial Counseling Act". The committee granted by voice vote a structured rule for H.R. 3136. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–52 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part A of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Additionally, the rule grants a structured rule for H.R. 4984. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The rule

waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113–53 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from the following: Chairman Kline, and Representatives Hinojosa, Bonamici, Waters, Jackson Lee, Pascrell, and Meng.

Joint Meetings

ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN THE OSCE REGION

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine anti-semitism, racism and discrimination in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region, including xenophobia, discrimination against Christians, and members of other religions, and intolerance and discrimination against Muslims, after receiving testimony from Andrew Baker, Washington, DC, Talip Kucukcan, Ankara, Turkey, Alexey Avtonomov, Moscow, Russia, and Azra Junuzovic, Warsaw, Poland, all of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine meeting the challenges of feeding America's school children, 9:30 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine insuring our future, focusing on building a flood insurance program we can live with, grow with, and prosper with, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 1804, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, S. 1893, to require the Transportation Security Administration to implement best practices and improve transparency with regard to technology acquisition programs, S. 2030, to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, S. 2094, to provide for the establishment of nationally uniform and environmentally sound standards governing discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, and S. 2250, to extend the Travel Promotion Act of 2009, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 1340, to improve passenger vessel security and safety, focusing on improving consumer protections for cruise passengers, 2:45 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine H.R. 412, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the mainstem of the Nashua River and its tributaries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1189, to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, S. 1389 and H.R. 1501, bills to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument in Fort Greene Park, in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, as a unit of the National Park System, S. 1520 and H.R. 2197, bills to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 1641, to establish the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area, S. 1718, to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, S. 1750, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with States and political subdivisions of States providing for the continued operation, in whole or in part, of public land, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System in the State during any period in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture is unable to maintain normal level of operations at the units due to a lapse in appropriations, S. 1785, to modify the boundary of the Shiloh National Military Park located in the States of Tennessee and Mississippi, to establish Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System, S. 1794, to designate certain Federal land in Chaffee County, Colorado, as a national monument and as wilderness, S. 1866, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Adams Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of former President John Adams and his legacy, S. 2031, to amend the Act to provide for the establishment of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in the State of Wisconsin, to adjust the boundary of that National Lakeshore to include the lighthouse known as Ashland Harbor Breakwater Light, S. 2104, to require the

Director of the National Park Service to refund to States all State funds that were used to reopen and temporarily operate a unit of the National Park System during the October 2013 shutdown, S. 2111, to reauthorize the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, S. 2221, to extend the authorization for the Automobile National Heritage Area in Michigan, S. 2264, to designate memorials to the service of members of the United States Armed Forces in World War I, S. 2293, to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, S. 2318, to reauthorize the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Act, S. 2346, to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails, and to designate the American Discovery Trail, S. 2356, to adjust the boundary of the Mojave National Preserve, S. 2392, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of East Rosebud Creek in Carbon County, Montana, as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2576, to establish the Maritime Washington National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, and S. 2602, to establish the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area in the State of Washington, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed carbon pollution standards for existing power plants, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, to hold hearings to examine saving for an uncertain future, focusing on how the ''Achieving a Better Life Experience Act'' (ABLE) can help people with disabilities and their families, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 315, to reauthorize and extend the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008, S. 2154, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program, S. 531, to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Human Services of physical activity guidelines for Americans, S. 2405, to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain trauma care programs, S. 2406, to amend title XII of the Public Health Service Act to expand the definition of trauma to include thermal, electrical, chemical, radioactive, and other extrinsic agents, S. 2539, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to traumatic brain injury and to trauma research, S. 2511, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the definition of substantial cessation of operations, and any pending nominations, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, to hold hearings to examine a more efficient and effective government, focusing on the National Technical Information Service, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian gaming, focusing on the next 25 years, 3:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine S. 2516, to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, focusing on the need for expanded public disclosure of funds raised and spent to influence Federal elections, 10 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine empowering women entrepreneurs, focusing on understanding successes, addressing persistent challenges, and identifying new opportunities, 1:45 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of Robert Alan McDonald, of Ohio, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, S–219, Capitol.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled ''Adapting U.S. Missile Defense for Future Threats: Russia, China and Modernizing the National Missile Defense (NMD) Act'', 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Improving the Federal Wage and Hour Regulatory Structure'', 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, hearing entitled ''Modernizing the Business of Environmental Regulation and Protection'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Assessing the Impact of the Dodd-Frank Act Four Years Later'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Terrorist March in Iraq: The U.S. Response'', 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled ''The Troubling Case of Meriam Ibrahim'', 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''U.S.-Dominican Republic Relations: Bolstering Economic Growth and Energy Independence'', 2 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Rising Terrorist Threat and the Unfulfilled 9/11 Recommendation'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining the Voting Process—How States Can Build on Recommendations from the Bauer-Ginsberg Commission'', 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs, hearing on the following legislation: H.R. 3109, to assist Alaskan Native Handicrafts; H.R. 3409, the ''National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Limitation Act''; H.R. 5026, the ''Fish Hatchery Protection Act''; and H.R. 5069, the ''Federal Duck Stamp Act'', 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''American Metals and Mineral Security: An

examination of the domestic critical minerals supply and demand chain'', 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Job Creation and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled ''An Update on the IRS Response to Its Targeting Scandal'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3393, the ''Student and Family Tax Simplification Act''; and H.R. 4935, the ''Child Tax Credit Improvement Act of 2014'', 3 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs—Part II'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled ''Domestic Aviation Manufacturing: Challenges and Opportunities'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Implementing U.S. Policy in the Arctic'', 10:30 a.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on the integrity of the administration of the Affordable Care Act's Premium Tax Credit, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE
9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 23

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2569, Bring Jobs Home Act.

At 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2569, Bring Jobs Home Act, and on confirmation of the nominations of Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, Andrew H. Schapiro, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, and Madelyn R. Creedon, of Indiana, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, July 23

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 3136—Advancing Competency-Based Education Demonstration Project Act (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the Rules: 1) H.R. 4983—Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act, as amended; 2) H.R. 5134—NACIQI and Advisory Committee for Student Financial Assistance; 3) H.R. 5111—To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking; 4) H.R. 5081—Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2014; 5) H.R. 5076—Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act of 2014; 6) H.R. 4980—The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act; 7) H.R. 5135—The Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2014; 8) H.R. 5116—To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security personnel how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking during the course of their primary roles and responsibilities, and for other purposes; 9) H.R. 4449—To amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to expand the training for Federal Government personnel related to trafficking in persons, and for other purposes; and 10) H.R. 2283—Human Trafficking Prioritization Act, as amended.

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