

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. This chart is labeled Tax Freedom Day, 1980 through 1999. Just look at the chart. Look at how we are moving.

In 1994, Tax Freedom Day was May 2. In 1995, it was May 3. In 1996, it was May 5. In 1997, it was May 7. Last year, it was May 10; and this year, today, May 11 is Tax Freedom Day. Finally, Americans get to start working for themselves.

This is not the right road to the 21st century. Ronald Reagan was able to actually push back Tax Freedom Day from May 4 to April 27, but since then we have lost ground.

Many people say we should meet the President halfway, but we should never meet the President halfway on the road going in the wrong direction.

#### THE ADMINISTRATION HAS AUTHORIZED THE KILLING OF GRAY WHALES

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, the day we have all dreaded has arrived. After years of U.S. policy in opposition to commercial whaling, the Clinton-Gore administration is reopening whaling. In northwest Washington State it will begin within a few days. The McCaw tribe has been authorized by this administration to begin killing gray whales.

Whales have been protected in the U.S., and these whales have learned not to fear boats. In fact, a multimillion dollar whale watching industry has developed, but that is all changing. Once the U.S. allows whale killing based on cultural subsistence, what can we say to Japan and Norway and the other nations that want to go commercial whaling?

This is a tragic day, and we will regret that this has happened.

#### TAXPAYERS ARE FINALLY FREE OF THE TAXMAN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, here is a subject we will never hear the other side talk about. That is Tax Freedom Day. Tax Freedom Day is the day where the taxpayer is finally free of the taxman and is finally working for himself or working for herself.

As of yesterday, the average taxpayer was still working to pay his or her taxes, Federal, State and local.

When Bill Clinton took office in 1993, Tax Freedom Day was April 29, according to this chart. The next year, it was April 30; and it was May 2 the year after that. Last year, it was May 10; and this year it is May 11.

As we can see from this chart, we have come a long way from 1981 when it was May 4, before the Reagan tax cuts pushed the day back about a week.

This is not progress, in my book. American taxpayers have less and less freedom, and government has more and more power over our lives. Tax Freedom Day, it is a concept that puts in stark terms just how much of our income we have to send to the government before we are free at last. Let us finally cut taxes in this country.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

#### FASTENER QUALITY ACT AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1183) to amend the Fastener Quality Act to strengthen the protection against the sale of mismarked, misrepresented, and counterfeit fasteners and eliminate unnecessary requirements, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1183

*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 "Fastener Quality Act Amendments Act of 1999".

##### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

Section 2 of the Fastener Quality Act (15 U.S.C. 5401) is amended to read as follows:

##### "SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

"The Congress finds that—

"(1) the United States fastener industry is a significant contributor to the global economy, employing thousands of workers in hundreds of communities;

"(2) the American economy uses billions of fasteners each year;

"(3) state-of-the-art manufacturing and improved quality assurance systems have dramatically improved fastener quality, so virtually all fasteners sold in commerce meet or exceed the consensus standards for the uses to which they are applied;

"(4) a small number of mismarked, misrepresented, and counterfeit fasteners do enter commerce in the United States; and

"(5) multiple criteria for the identification of fasteners exist, including grade identification markings and manufacturer's insignia, to enable purchasers and users of fasteners to accurately evaluate the characteristics of individual fasteners."

##### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Fastener Quality Act (15 U.S.C. 5402) is amended to read as follows:

##### "SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

"As used in this Act, the term—

"(1) 'accredited laboratory' means a fastener testing facility used to perform end-of-line testing required by a consensus standard or standards to verify that a lot of fasteners conforms to the grade identification marking called for in the consensus standard or standards to which the lot of fasteners has been manufactured, and which—

"(A) meets the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 25 (or another document approved by the Director under section 10(c)), including revisions from time to time; and

"(B) has been accredited by a laboratory accreditation body that meets the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 58 (or another document approved by the Director under section 10(d)), including revisions from time to time;

"(2) 'consensus standard' means the provisions of a document that describes fastener characteristics published by a consensus standards organization or a Federal agency, and does not include a proprietary standard;

"(3) 'consensus standards organization' means the American Society for Testing and Materials, the American National Standards Institute, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society of Automotive Engineers, the International Organization for Standardization, any other organization identified as a United States consensus standards organization or a foreign and international consensus standards organization in the Federal Register at 61 Fed. Reg. 50582-83 (September 26, 1996), and any successor organizations thereto;

"(4) 'Director' means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

"(5) 'distributor' means a person who purchases fasteners for the purpose of reselling them at wholesale to unaffiliated persons within the United States (an original equipment manufacturer and its dealers shall be considered affiliated persons for purposes of this Act);

"(6) 'fastener' means a metallic screw, nut, bolt, or stud having internal or external threads, with a nominal diameter of 6 millimeters or greater, in the case of such items described in metric terms, or ¼ inch or greater, in the case of such items described in terms of the English system of measurement, or a load-indicating washer, that is through-hardened or represented as meeting a consensus standard that calls for through-hardening, and that is grade identification marked or represented as meeting a consensus standard that requires grade identification marking, except that such term does not include any screw, nut, bolt, stud, or load-indicating washer that is—

"(A) part of an assembly;

"(B) a part that is ordered for use as a spare, substitute, service, or replacement part, unless that part is in a package containing more than 75 of any such part at the time of sale, or a part that is contained in an assembly kit;

"(C) produced and marked as ASTM A 307 Grade A, or a successor standard thereto;

"(D) produced in accordance with ASTM F 432, or a successor standard thereto;

"(E) specifically manufactured for use on an aircraft if the quality and suitability of those fasteners for that use has been approved—

"(i) by the Federal Aviation Administration; or

"(ii) by a foreign airworthiness authority as described in part 21.29, 21.500, 21.502, or