Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to make our members aware of the American cruise industry’s importance to the nation and its maritime industry.

Recently, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) completed an economic study that provides considerable detail regarding the enormous positive economic contribution which the cruise industry provides throughout the United States. This study concluded the cruise industry is responsible for creating jobs in every state in the country. It is important to our national economy that billions of dollars in U.S. products are purchased by the cruise industry each year. As this industry continues to grow and prosper, more U.S. companies will benefit from expanded business.

In my district in Alabama, millions of dollars are spent every year on maintenance and repair of cruise ships at Atlantic Marine and Bender shipyards in Mobile. Hundreds of people are employed in this work and it is an important contributor to our local economy.

The PwC study showed that the total economic impact of the cruise industry in 1997 was $11.6 billion. Of this, $6.6 billion was direct spending of the cruise lines and their passengers on U.S. goods and services. An additional $5 billion was expended by cruise industry U.S.-based goods and services providers. Therefore, in 1997 the total impact of the U.S. cruise industry was $17.6 billion, and these purchases occur in every state in the country. This PwC study also revealed that the cruise industry, through its direct employment and the jobs attributable to its U.S. supplier base, totaled 176,433 jobs for Americans in 1997. The cruise industry has been growing by 6-10% every year. For Americans, that can mean thousands of new jobs each year.

The PwC study also revealed that the cruise industry in 1997 paid over $1 billion in various federal taxes and user fees and local state industry in 1997 paid over $1 billion in various federal taxes and user fees and local state taxes.

Many have considered the cruise industry to be a select few in highly localized areas, but this study reveals the industry touches virtually every segment of the American economy. It is an essential component of the American maritime infrastructure. Those industries most heavily impacted are summarized below:

- Transportation—$1.8 billion
- Transportation services—$1.2 billion
- Business services—$1.1 billion
- Food & beverage—$607 million

Mr. Speaker, the cruise industry is a growth industry that is not only purchasing goods and services from around the country but is helping to grow the U.S. national economy and its maritime infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, in essence, this bill will improve customer and administrative services by allowing the Forest Service to consolidate and upgrade facilities and to more convenient locations. This bill will not only enhance services for national forest users in Arizona, but it will also facilitate the disposal of unmanageable, undesirable and/or excess parcels of national forest lands. This bill will also facilitate the construction of a needed wastewater treatment plant for the city of Sedona.

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