

gambling floors. Credit and debit card point-of-sale terminals have been installed directly at gambling tables.

Allowing gamblers to use credit or debit/ATM cards directly for gambling removes one of the last remaining checks on compulsive or problem gambling—the need to walk away to find more cash to gamble. This separation helps break the excitement of the moment and permits many gamblers to walk away. Providing immediate electronic cash transfers not only feeds compulsive behavior, but makes it easier for problem gamblers to bet all their available cash, draw down their bank accounts, and then tap into the available credit lines of their credit cards as well. Financial institutions become unwitting accomplices in encouraging gamblers to bet more money than they intended and more than most can afford.

My legislation addresses this problem in a number of ways. It amends the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) to prohibit gambling establishments from placing credit card terminals, or accepting credit cards for payment or cash advances, in the immediate area where any form of gambling is conducted. It also amends the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA) to impose a similar prohibition on the placing of any automated teller machine, point-of-sale terminal or other electronic cash dispensing device in the immediate area where gambling occurs. Contrary to statements by the gambling industry, this will not deny people use of the credit, debit and ATM cards, only move access terminals for these cards a short distance away from gaming tables or machines.

The bill directs the Federal Reserve Board to publish and enforce rules for assuring that all electronic transfers of cash and credit are physically segregated to the extent possible from all gambling areas. And it provides for comparable civil liability as provided elsewhere in TILA and EFTA to permit individuals to file private actions against gambling establishments that violate these restrictions.

Mr. Speaker, the National Commission study confirmed that legalized gambling has become a national phenomenon. While it is unreasonable to think we can put the gambling genie back in the bottle, we can take reasonable measures to help minimize the potential financial strain and anguish for American families. My legislation does not prohibit casinos, racetracks and other gambling facilities from providing or using credit card, ATM and debit card devices. It merely requires that these devices be used for the purposes they were intended and not to encourage irresponsible or problem gambling.

I believe this is reasonable and worthwhile legislation. I urge its adoption by the Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALLIANCE FOR AMERICA

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, the Alliance for America (AFA) was organized in 1991 as a

national non-profit grassroots coalition. Over the years, AFA has worked diligently to curb excessive government environmental regulations and to ensure the Constitutional rights of compensation for property owners.

AFA networks its mission in fifty states working with hundreds of organizations with a combined membership in the millions. These groups represent a variety of vocational, cultural and political interests including: (1) farming; (2) ranching; (3) grazing; (4) forestry; (5) commercial fisherman; (6) mining; (7) recreation; (8) energy; and (9) animal welfare.

In May 2001, AFA held its 11th Annual Fly-In for Freedom conference in Washington, DC. At the meeting, various measures were addressed and passed by the Alliance, including resolutions dealing with renewable whaling resources and the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I hereby submit to the RECORD RECORD for my colleagues consideration two resolutions unanimously adopted by AFA at its conference—the Resolution on Renewable Whale Resources and the Resolution to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Let me conclude by saying that although there are many different opinions on these issues, I applaud the efforts of AFA and I truly believe they do make a positive difference in our society.

ALLIANCE FOR AMERICA, FLY-IN FOR FREEDOM, WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 19-23, 2001  
RESOLUTION ON RENEWABLE WHALE RESOURCES

Whereas, the United States recognizes the sustainable use of renewable wildlife and marine resources under professional and scientific management; and

Whereas, the Law of the Sea, the United Nation's Earth Summit and the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security recognize that marine resources are to be managed to secure food for human nutritional needs as well as traditional and cultural objectives; and

Whereas, the Charter of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW recognizes that consumptive use of renewable whale resources by "proper conservation of whale stock [to] make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry," and

Whereas, the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the governing body of the ICRW, has stated that limited harvest of certain whale stocks is scientifically justified and would have no adverse impact on those populations, and

Whereas, contrary to the mandate of the ICRW requiring a scientific basis for action, in 1994 the IWC adopted as Resolution to create a Southern Ocean Sanctuary and is currently considering a proposal for the adoption of a Resolution to create a Pacific Ocean Sanctuary, again, without scientific justification; and

Whereas, certain coastal and island nations are currently undertaking legal limited harvests of non-endangered whale stocks under scientific guidelines for valid scientific research and for human food consumption, as these nations have done for thousands of years; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Alliance for America, representing over ten (10) million American

citizens, at its 2001 Fly-In for Freedom Conference request the United States government:

To recognize and support the cultural, economic and dietary traditions of island and coastal nations who seek to undertake limited harvests of non-endangered whale species, and

To be guided by scientific evidence in deliberations at the Annual Meetings of the International Whaling Commission and the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) rather than following any unscientific political policy; and

To permit these sovereign nations to undertake limited harvests of whales without the threat of economic sanction or censure.

ALLIANCE FOR AMERICA 11TH ANNUAL FLY-IN FOR FREEDOM, WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 20, 2001

RESOLUTION

The key observation arising from the Alliance for America 11th Annual Fly In For Freedom is that the promotion of animal-rights beliefs has produced unacceptable consequences that include ongoing violations of fundamental human rights.

The representative of the Inuit people from Arctic Canada has eloquently described how their culture, livelihoods and society are being devastated by the animal rights-inspired Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)—a law which contradicts accepted principles of sustainable use and environmental conservation.

This outdated legislation arbitrarily bans the import of seal products from an abundant species, and violates the American ideal of individual freedom and the rights of the people to self-determination, including the right to use and trade abundant local resources.

We believe that the American people would be shocked and distressed to discover that the MMPA has so severely harmed so many people and cultures. Indigenous people attempt to live in harmony with the environment as active practitioners of sustainable use. The MMPA disrupts this ecological relationship.

Seals are abundant in Arctic Canada and other regions and provide a vital source of food in Arctic communities, but provisions of the MMPA prevent Inuit and other people from fully utilizing animals upon which they depend for their survival, because trade is prohibited.

Therefore this assembly of the Alliance for America:

(I) Calls for the amendment of the MMPA to allow for the import of seal products, to protect US commercial and recreational fisheries, and to bring the MMPA into accord with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) as implemented by the Endangered Species Act and Agreements under the WTO; and:

(II) Resolves to work to inform the American public and legislators about the injustice which has been done by this law; and,

(III) Calls upon all people and organizations that respect human rights to join us in our efforts to right the wrongs that have been done.