

BPA's transmission investments will easily pay for themselves in the long run and are essential in order to improve wholesale electricity markets in the Western United States, and to maintain the basic reliability of our region's electrical system. The increase is supported by the Northwest Energy Caucus, consisting of every House Member from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. We will continue to pursue an increase in BPA's borrowing authority through other venues.

I am pleased that the Conference Report continues funding for the Inland Northwest Natural Resources Research Center at Gonzaga University, albeit at a substantially lower level of funding than was provided by the Energy and Water Appropriations Conference for fiscal year 2001. I will work to ensure that funding is provided in future years to allow for the smooth continuation of this project.

\$1 million was provided at my request for the Walla Walla River feasibility study, the same level as was included in the House bill. The Walla Walla basin has established a successful broad-based watershed planning/HCP process. This formal process includes participation by federal, state, and local governments and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). It also includes participation by local and regional environmental groups and stakeholders representing local businesses, agri-business, recreational, and cultural interests. At its core, the watershed planning/HCP effort focuses on restoring adequate flows for listed species.

To insure that the federal funding provided does not create a parallel process to the existing process underway, it is the intent of Congress that the Corps shall integrate its activities into the framework of the existing watershed planning/HCP process already established in the basin. In addition, to maintain the success of the efforts underway, it is the intent of Congress that the Corps shall not develop an instream flow target that is inconsistent with flow targets set through the Watershed Planning/HCP process.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the conference report.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 981

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 981.

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

There was no objection.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the consideration of the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2647) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and that I may include extraneous and tabular material.

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

There was no objection.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2647, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 273, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2647) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 273, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 30, 2001 at page H7512.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to present the Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2002 to the House for consideration. I would like to thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) and all of the members of the subcommittee, for their support in crafting this legislation. I would like to also say thank you to the staff for all of their hard work during these times, especially to Chuck Turner, Manny Crupi, Ed Lombard, Liz Dawson, Mark Murray and Tim Aiken. All Members owe them a special thanks for their work.

I would like to say a special thank you to the Capitol police who are listed under this bill. We have gone through unusual times in the last almost 60 days, and we owe them a special thanks for their undying efforts to maintain protection for the Members of the House, our staff, and our guests who come to the Capitol.

Mr. Speaker, we have a non-controversial, bipartisan bill. With respect to the items that were sent to the Senate in the House passed bill, we have held the increase over the 2001 bill to 4.6 percent. Now, that is an increase

which is well below the President's request for 2002 appropriations.

And the committee bill meets our 302(b) allocations for budget authority and is \$15 million below our outlay target.

Mr. Speaker, the House has approved the rule for this report. The committee has done its job and it has done its job well, I believe, and this bill deserves the overwhelming support of the House. I do not intend to extend the debate, and I will include a summary of comparison of accounts in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does contain the funds and language to implement the tuition loan reimbursement plan for our agencies, for the Congressional Budget Office and the Senate, and the bill contains funds from committee and members' representational allowances accounts to fund the program for House employees. We are awaiting the Committee on House Administration to respond to our call for rules and regulations in this area, and we feel that will be forthcoming.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2002 to the House for consideration.

I'd like to thank the ranking member, Mr. MORAN, and all the members of the subcommittee for their support in crafting this legislation.

I would like also to say a thank you to the staff for all their hard work during these times. Especially to Chuck Turner, Manny Crupi, Ed Lombard, Liz Dawson, Mark Murray, and Tim Siken—all members owe them special thanks.

And, Mr. Speaker a special thanks to the Capitol police who risk their lives daily, and have been doing so diligently, since the September 11 attacks, to protect House members and staff, and our visitors. They are heroes to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, we have a non-controversial, bipartisan bill. With respect to the items that were sent to the Senate in the House passed bill, we have held the increase over FY2001 to 4.6 percent. That's an increase which is well below the President's request for 2002 appropriations.

And the Committee bill meets our 302(b) allocation in budget authority and is \$15 million below our outlay target.

We have had some questions about a student loan repayment program for House staff. The Committee has no objection to including the appropriate legislation in the Legislative bill. But it is a complicated technical matter that involves internal House policy and must be integrated into the legislative authority for allowable uses of members' allowances and committee funding. Under the rules, those matters are within the jurisdiction of the Administration Committee.

We have received no requests from the Administration Committee to include such authority. Therefore, the joint statement of the managers that accompanies this conference report encourages the House Administration Committee to develop and recommend guidelines