

fellow man has inspired many of us, and led some to a deeper relationship with God themselves. I value the time I have had to work with JIM. I will miss his calming presence and insight in the 110th Congress, and I pray that God blesses him and his family in his future endeavors.

REGARDING INTENT TO INTRODUCE THE BROADBAND EXPENSING ACT OF 2007 IN THE 110TH CONGRESS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important piece of legislation I will reintroduce early next year, along with my colleague, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, to encourage the deployment of broadband high-speed Internet service throughout the United States. The Broadband Expensing Act of 2007 will allow immediate depreciation of the costs of new infrastructure investments providing broadband connectivity. In previous Congresses this measure has received extensive bipartisan support with as many as 225 House cosponsors and 65 Senate cosponsors. As the Congress and administration consider various methods of encouraging innovation in America, a broadband incentive of this nature must be of high priority.

This bill was a priority for my late husband, who worked with Mr. ENGLISH, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator BAUCUS, and the late Senator Moynihan to craft it in 2000. They all worked hard on it for several years and built tremendous bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. My husband spent a lot of time discussing this measure with his colleagues in the House, explaining how it would work, seeking cosponsorships. It has been a popular measure. On three separate occasions it has almost passed the Congress, but each time fell short in the House. Three times this bill has passed the Senate, and three times it has been rejected in conference with the House, to the disappointment of my husband, my colleague Mr. ENGLISH, and many other members of this body who supported it and felt it could make a significant contribution to improving America's telecommunications and information technology infrastructure.

Now we are prepared to make another push for this bill in the 110th Congress. The Broadband Expensing Act will provide a temporary two-tiered tax incentive to stimulate new investment in this crucial infrastructure: 50 percent expensing for investment in "current-generation" broadband infrastructure in rural and underserved areas, and full expensing for "next generation" broadband investments in those same areas, as well as residential areas generally. Moreover, it is designed to be technology neutral, making delivery of service, not the delivery medium, the factor for eligibility. Any broadband provider meeting the required speeds, measured in megabits of data delivered to and from the consumer per second, is eligible, whether such service is provided over telephone wire,

cable modem, optical fiber, wireless, satellite, or other forms of technology.

It is important to act quickly. Recent reports by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the International Telecommunications Union find the United States lagging in broadband penetration compared to other nations. We should not sit idly by and allow the United States to fall behind in this crucial area. Just as the federal government stepped in to provide national availability of electrification and transportation in the mid-1900s, we must now ensure a national system of electronic information.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important measure. I look forward to working with my cosponsors and the leadership of both parties to see the Broadband Expensing Act become law in 2007.

TURKEY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I encourage Turkey to honor their commitments and implement important economic, regional, and political advancements in order to gain membership in the European Union (EU).

Today, December 6, 2006, marks an important deadline in the pursuit of international partnership and cooperation. Turkey must begin to demonstrate to the EU and the international community that it is willing to implement changes in its policy prior to the Ascension Summit, where it will be decided whether Turkey may continue toward EU membership. The significance of this deadline is undeniable; Turkey must decide: do they continue to pursue a policy which alienates and impedes other nations? Or, do they adopt policy changes to join an important international cooperative body.

It is a well-known fact the regional policies of Turkey cause strain in the South Caucasus region and unfairly harms the welfare of their neighbor country, Armenia. The European Union has repeatedly called for the cessation of the Turkish Blockade of Armenia as well as normalization of relations between the countries. However, these two pre-conditions to entering the EU have been blatantly ignored by Turkey. The blockade, now in its thirteenth year, is the only blockade of a fellow Council of Europe state. This is simply unacceptable, and I implore the EU to stand firm in their recommendations to Turkey in order to ensure these iniquitous economic practices are eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, Armenia is a friend of the United States; and too many countries throughout the world. Yet, Turkey refuses to see the benefits Armenia brings to the South Caucasus region. This refusal has led to fierce tension within the region, as well as unfair economic outcomes that only harm Armenia. Before Turkey can become a member of the European Union, they must first acknowledge their mistakes, foster cooperation in the South Caucasus region, and respect their neighbor, Armenia.

I encourage the European Parliament to consider the ramifications of Turkey's actions before granting them membership to the EU. The purpose of the EU is to create economic, political and most importantly regional cooperation between nations with similar interests. Turkey, with a history of bullying their neighbor, does not deserve membership until they change their ways.

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER RESTORATION SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation introduced today by Congressman RADANOVICH to implement a practical agreement to revive our State's second-longest river.

This is a remarkable accomplishment, and I congratulate the parties who have worked tirelessly to get to this point.

When we debated and passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act in the early 1990s, we anticipated a program to reestablish the San Joaquin River's salmon run that was eliminated by the construction of Friant Dam.

But bringing about something as momentous as this agreement is easier said than done. This settlement has been literally decades in the making, and I think we should all be very glad we're at this point, rather than watching another several years of litigation and argument.

It took a collaborative effort to bring this settlement about, and I'd like to take a moment to recognize the leaders of this effort.

Congressman RADANOVICH and Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN took the lead in directing the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Friant water users to settle the 18-year legal dispute, and in negotiating the legislation to implement their settlement.

Attorney Hal Candee has shepherded NRDC's effort to reverse 60 years of destruction on the San Joaquin, and Friant's counsel, Dan Dooley, ensured that the river could flow without devastating his farmers.

My hat is off to each of the parties who have made this happen.

There is still a lot of work to be done before the salmon can return to the San Joaquin River again, and I look forward to working in the 110th Congress and beyond to help move the restoration efforts forward.

I will also make sure that this worthy effort does not detract from other ongoing restoration efforts, like the important work taking place on the Trinity River in northern California.

There is still much to be done in order to implement and fund the 2000 Record of Decision for Trinity River restoration, and I intend to work with my colleagues to restore that river and its fishery, including the resources that the United States holds in trust for the Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Again, I want to thank those who have led in this collaborative effort, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to settle a