

provisions. Opponents of H.R. 6049 are concerned that the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to this bill would permanently increase taxes on businesses to pay for a temporary, one-year extension of expiring business tax provisions. I fail to see the merits of the opponent's contention and I believe that the benefits far outweigh any potential costs. Given the circumstances, the American economy is spiraling downward, energy prices are high, and unemployment is high, some kind of relief must be granted. To the extent that this body can grant some kind of relief, it is to be supported. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I am committed to working with industry actors to make sure that some balance is struck in the future.

The following are provisions that are widely supported by various interest groups:

Extension of Expired and Expiring Business Tax Provisions—Legislation is urgently needed to extend critically important provisions. A number of provisions—such as the R&D credit, the election to deduct state and local general sales tax, and the railroad track maintenance credit—already have expired. Others—such as the exception under subpart F for active financing income and the look-through treatment of payments between related controlled foreign corporations (CFCs) under the foreign personal holding company rules—expire at the end of this year.

Clean Energy Tax Incentives—The extension of the clean energy tax incentives. These incentives will go a long way toward the development of the renewable and alternative energy technologies essential to America's energy future. The Chamber believes it is critical to promote the responsible use of all energy sources. To reach this goal, government and business should support investment in new technologies that expand alternative energy and enable traditional sources of energy to be used more cleanly and efficiently.

Some business interests have concerns with revenue offset provisions included in the House Amendment to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6049, including those related to:

Punitive Oil and Gas Taxes—Businesses claim that Congress must be mindful of the crosswinds hitting the American economy from the financial sector to the housing sectors. Many believe tax increases on the oil and gas industries are out of sync with an American economy showing great demand for increased domestic energy production, which could provide the opportunity for the energy industry to add a significant number of high-wage jobs. Many are concerned with provisions that would freeze the section 199 deduction for oil and gas companies. This change would discourage energy investment, resulting in the loss of jobs, a decrease in the supply of oil and gas, and an increase in the costs for businesses that rely on oil and gas.

Many businesses interest groups are also concerned with the proposed modification of the foreign tax credit rules for oil and gas companies, as this change would place domestic firms at a competitive disadvantage to foreign oil and gas manufacturers.

FUTA Surtax—Some businesses are concerned with the proposed extension of the FUTA surtax, which was added to the tax code in 1976 as a temporary measure and

should have been allowed to expire long ago, having outlived the purposes and term that served as the rationale for its enactment.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation—Some acknowledges that tax deferred plans used by offshore partnerships are created as part of complex legal agreements between managers and limited partners who are usually passive foreign investors. Foreign investors utilize these deferral arrangements to better align the interests of the manager with the investors. Altering these economic arrangements could cause these investments to migrate to other countries.

I will end, as I began. I believe that this bill is solid and makes great strides toward providing relief to the American people. I support this bill, and I am committed to working with industry and businesses to make sure that their concerns are heard and addressed.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ARCURI. I yield back the balance of my time and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would announce that the Chair's earlier announcement regarding roll-call number 641 was mistaken.

Thus, the correct number of "aye" votes is 414.

MAKE AMERICA'S R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that France, long regarded as a bastion of protectionism, actually features some of the world's most inviting research and development tax credits. These credits are open to any company, whether they are American or French, and cover half of research costs up to 100 million euros.

It is a sad state of affairs when American companies can't budget for long-term research costs because Congress has failed to make the R&D tax credit permanent, yet France offers impressive tax credits across the Atlantic to do the same work.

Let's act now to make America's R&D tax credit permanent here in the United States so we will not lose our cutting edge to the Old World.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON THE NORTHWEST BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, the country we live in is far too big to see all at once, and many of us have only heard stories of some of its subcultures, hidden treasures, and the uniqueness of thousands of local communities.

One world that some of us never see is the dark world of human trafficking. Because trafficked persons look just like the rest of us, it is a difficult world to perceive. And yet, this underground global economy in persons is thought to involve as much as \$132 billion a year, with profits from its trade reaching over \$200 billion.

This sordid culture, to which most of us are happily blind, crosses all national boundaries, including our own. Perhaps the most widely recognized form is sex trafficking of women into prostitution, but we must also recognize the trafficking of migrant workers, who are often deceived into leaving their homelands into forced, brutal labor without travel documents that give them the identity with which to escape. There is also the forcible use of children to beg for street gangs or work in dangerous conditions, and what I think is the most disgusting, the recent trend of Western tourists engaging in child sex tourism, traveling the world looking for children who are being held in prostitution by their captors.

We like to think that we live in a modern and modernizing world, where barbarism is merely a bad memory. Yet, raw evil persists in our time. Ignoring human trafficking only pulls a shade over an already dark practice. But ignoring it makes it no less real and no less horrifying.

The State Department's 2008 Trafficking in Human Persons Report reveals the truth, but sickens us at the same time. The report quotes one self-justifying American schoolteacher about his child sex tourism, "I'm helping them financially. If they don't have sex with me, they may not have enough food. If someone has a problem with me doing this, let UNICEF feed them."

America is not great because we are perfect or because we refuse to accept injustice when we see it. Child soldiers, 8-year old prostitutes, domestic slavery, this is all real, and you can read about it in the State Department's report. The problem does not go away