

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008, and want to thank the gentleman from Washington for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor.

H.R. 7084 is a simple yet critical legislative solution that allows private sector actors to keep a negotiating process alive. Why? Because Internet radio royalties operate under a government license, and Congressional approval is necessary to allow a private sector agreement to effectuate outside the government process.

This is a good thing. After all, if I have a choice between a government mandated solution and a private sector agreement, I will take the private sector agreement almost every time.

The Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008 guarantees that our nation's performing artists, musicians, record labels and webcasters can continue copyright negotiations that are making slow but steady progress. And a resolution to the issue is critical, so Internet radio listeners can keep on listening and the people performing those songs can be properly compensated.

The Copyright Royalty Board is small government body tasked with determining royalty rates for the use of music over Internet radio. It is obscure to some, but its decisions are critical to my constituents in Tennessee and Internet radio users across the country. Unfortunately, this body was tasked with the authority to adjudicate a rate structure at the direction of Congress back in 2004. This proved to be unwise, since the Board's decision announced in March of 2007 sparked a lengthy lobbying battle and an acrimonious relationship between two important members of the music industry's family; the copyright holder and the copyright deliverer.

We now understand that the parties are gradually coming together, and growing closer to finding common ground. Congress should do everything in its power to ensure the negotiations continue, and H.R. 7084 is the vehicle to guarantee the talks will continue.

I urge my colleagues to support it, and yield the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. I urge the passage of H.R. 7084 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7084, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

□ 2030

HISTORIC MOMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, you know, people often come up and say we are at an historic moment. Every moment is a part of history because at some time what we are doing is going to be recorded but we really are at another defining moment in American history here this week and this weekend.

And the American people need to know that House Republicans are fighting for the right values and for what 99 percent of Americans have been telling us for the past week. I am also happy to report that most House Republicans agreed with their constituents even before they began hearing from their constituents, and that's a good thing for the American people to know because that means our resolve is even stronger than it would have been if some of our Members had been of a different mind but changed their mind once they started hearing from their constituents.

House Republicans are fighting to ensure that the rescue bill, the economic rescue bill doesn't give a blank check to Wall Street at the expense of taxpayers on Main Street. People have been calling me all day today. I had a call just before I came on the floor asking me are we all right. I am here to reassure the American people that from our side of the aisle we are all right. We are doing fine, and we are standing strong. And I think it is very important that we say that.

But I think also we need to say what some of the specific things we are fighting for and we are fighting against. We are fighting to make sure that we don't slide into socialism in this country. And we are fighting against the special interests, the pork barrel and the very groups that helped get us into the situation that we are in now. I want to say that we are working hard to get out of any bill that is presented here that has pork barrel provisions added by the Democrats, that would reward the people who support them and give them all their money.

Let me talk about three of those groups. Number one, the trial lawyers. Believe it or not, the Democrats have figured out a way to put into this economic recovery bill a great gift to the trial lawyers, and that is something that is called around here a cram down provision.

It would allow people who don't think their mortgage rate is fair to go to a bankruptcy judge and ask that bankruptcy judge to change the conditions of their mortgage. That is an abomination. But what it would do is give a lot of work to trial lawyers. We have said there is a marker here, we

will not vote for any economic recovery plan that is going to do that because it would undermine the effectiveness of any economic recovery effort by making it even harder to value these securities.

There is another gift in the draft presented by the Democrats to big labor. This gives Washington's powerful big labor bosses a big handout by having them have "say on pay" or proxy access provisions that the Democrats have added to this.

And then a group that people have asked me about ACORN. There is a big gift in here to that group. It includes a giveaway that would force taxpayers to bankroll a slush fund to a discredited ally of the Democratic Party. ACORN's fraudulent voter registration activities on behalf of Democratic candidates are well known.

This bill that the Democrats have presented would return any profits made in the long term from the economic rescue package partly back to ACORN. In fact, the first part of it would go to ACORN for their often-illegal help in helping Democrats get elected.

I have, Mr. Speaker, a long list of their most recent scandals and unlawful activities. Seven ACORN workers were charged with committing the biggest voter registration fraud in Washington State history. That was from the Seattle Times.

Another article from the Wall Street Journal, "Late last year, a handful of ACORN canvassers in Washington State admitted that they had falsified voter registrations by illegally filling out hundreds of forms with names such as Dennis Hastert, Leon Spinks and Fruit Boy Crispila."

I don't have time in the short time I have available to read all of these excerpts from articles, but I would like to put them all in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I want the American people to know, Republicans are fighting for you.

"ACORN is a long-time advocacy group with whom Obama was once associated. Recently, though, ACORN workers in two states have pleaded guilty to election fraud, an unlikely recipient of federal largess." Fox News Report, 9/26/08.

"Seven ACORN workers were charged with 'committing the biggest voter-registration fraud in [Washington] state history.'" The Seattle Times, 7/26/07.

ACORN workers submitted "just over 1,800 new voter registration forms, but there was a problem. The names were made up—all but six of the 1,800 submissions were fakes... The ACORN workers told state investigators that they went to the Seattle public library, sat at a table and filled out the voter registration forms. They made up names, addresses, and Social Security numbers and in some cases plucked names from the phone book. One worker said it was a lot of hard work making up all those names and another said he would sit at home, smoke marijuana and fill out the forms." Fox News Channel, 5/02/08.

"Late last year, a handful of ACORN canvassers in Washington state admitted that