

the aisle to do a great service to not only the people of the city of New York, but to this Nation.

Starrett City is the last bastion of federally subsidized housing developments of this nature in this Nation. And as we look at the challenge that it faces today, we are looking at a crisis head-on for affordable housing around this Nation.

Our willingness to come together in the 11th hour to put a remedy in place speaks to our resilience and our ability to address challenges that we face in the 21st century. And as these concerns grow greater and greater and the housing crisis gets more and more in depth, with millions of moderate and low income families in peril's way, today's legislation, H.R. 5937, says that this Congress is willing to stand up and do something, and that we've been sent here to solve the problems that our communities are facing today.

I want to congratulate Congressman CASTLE for standing forward today in a bipartisan way. It may seem to some that this is just a piece of legislation that will impact New York, but when we stand up for New York and Starrett City and Spring Creek, we're standing up for all Americans who are facing such peril.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me just say, in conclusion, Madam Speaker, that what this bill does, and what we're talking about around the Nation, in a time of economic crisis, at a time when people are wondering, many, how they could afford or what kind of apartments or homes they can afford, this bill is trying to assure that all Americans can indeed have a decent roof over their head, that all Americans will understand and have the opportunity to really live the American dream. And that's what makes us such a great country.

And by this Congress stepping up to the plate, as it is, making sure that those who may not have as much money as others, but yet still can live in this great country, and can live in a facility such as Starrett City, which is clean, decent, affordable housing, says that we care about all of our people throughout these United States of America.

And so I think it was ingenious, by the authors of this bill, led by Mr. TOWNS, along with Mr. KING, in a bipartisan manner say that we're going to speak up and we're going to stand up, both Democrats and Republicans, that we're going to stand on the interests of making sure that there's affordable housing for those who need it. And that's what this bill does.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr.

MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5937.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn offered by the gentleman from Texas.

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

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 138, noes 248, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 261]

AYES—138

Aderholt	Forbes	Miller (FL)
Akin	Franks (AZ)	Miller, Gary
Alexander	Frelinghuysen	Musgrave
Bachus	Galleghy	Myrick
Barrett (SC)	Garrett (NJ)	Neugebauer
Bartlett (MD)	Gingrey	Nunes
Barton (TX)	Goode	Paul
Biggert	Goodlatte	Pearce
Bilbray	Gordon	Pence
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Petri
Blackburn	Hastings (WA)	Pickering
Blunt	Hayes	Pitts
Bonner	Heller	Price (GA)
Bono Mack	Hensarling	Putnam
Boozman	Hergert	Radanovich
Boustany	Hobson	Regula
Broun (GA)	Hoekstra	Rehberg
Calvert	Hunter	Reichert
Camp (MI)	Inglis (SC)	Reynolds
Cannon	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Cantor	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Carter	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Castle	Keller	Roskam
Chabot	King (IA)	Royce
Cole (OK)	King (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Crenshaw	Kline (MN)	Schmidt
Cubin	Knollenberg	Scott (GA)
Culberson	LaHood	Sensenbrenner
Davis (KY)	Lamborn	Shadegg
Davis, David	Latham	Shays
Davis, Tom	LaTourrette	Simpson
Deal (GA)	Latta	Smith (NE)
Diaz-Balart, L.	Lewis (CA)	Smith (TX)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lewis (KY)	Smith (TX)
Doggett	Lucas	Souder
Drake	Lungren, Daniel	Stearns
Dreier	E.	Taylor
Duncan	Mack	Thornberry
Emerson	Marchant	Tiberi
English (PA)	McCarthy (CA)	Turner
Everett	McCaul (TX)	Upton
Fallin	McCrery	Walden (OR)
Feeney	McKeon	Walsh (NY)
Ferguson	McMorris	Wamp
Flake	Rodgers	

Weller  
Westmoreland

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Allen  
Altmire  
Arcuri  
Bachmann  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Blumenauer  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd (FL)  
Boyd (KS)  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Buchanan  
Burgess  
Buyer  
Capito  
Capps  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Castor  
Cazayoux  
Chandler  
Clarke  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Cohen  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Dent  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Donnelly  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emanuel  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Fortenberry  
Fossella  
Foster  
Foxy  
Frank (MA)  
Gerlach  
Giffords  
Gilchrest  
Gillibrand  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez  
Graves  
Green, Al

Wilson (NM)  
Wittman (VA)

NOES—248

Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutierrez  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Hare  
Harman  
Hastings (FL)  
Herseth Sandlin  
Higgins  
Hill  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hodes  
Holt  
Honda  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Inslee  
Israel  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jordan  
Kagen  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Klein (FL)  
Kucinich  
Kuhl (NY)  
Lampson  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larsen (CT)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lynch  
Mahoney (FL)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Marshall  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCollum (MN)  
McCotter  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHugh  
McIntyre  
McNerney  
McNulty  
Meek (FL)  
Meeke (NY)  
Melancon  
Mica  
Michaud  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, George  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Murphy (CT)  
Murphy, Patrick

Murphy, Tim  
Murtha  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal (MA)  
Obey  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Peterson (MN)  
Platts  
Poe  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Price (NC)  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Richardson  
Rodriguez  
Rogers (MI)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Ross  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Salazar  
Sanchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Saxton  
Schiff  
Schwartz  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sestak  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shuler  
Levin  
Sires  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Solis  
Space  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Terry  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tierney  
Towns  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Visclosky  
Walberg  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
 Waxman  
Welch (VT)  
Wexler  
Wilson (OH)  
Wilson (SC)  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—46

Andrews  
Baca  
Boehner  
Braley (IA)

Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Burton (IN)  
Butterfield  
Campbell (CA)

Capuano  
Carson  
Conaway  
Conyers  
Cummings

Davis, Lincoln	McHenry	Shuster
Delahunt	Oberstar	Speier
DeLauro	Peterson (PA)	Tiahrt
Doolittle	Pryce (OH)	Udall (CO)
Doyle	Rangel	Udall (NM)
Hinchey	Renzi	Velázquez
Holden	Reyes	Weiner
Hulshof	Rush	Weldon (FL)
Jones (NC)	Sali	Whitfield (KY)
Jones (OH)	Schakowsky	Wynn
Linder	Shimkus	Young (AK)

□ 1823

Messrs. POE, CLEAVER and ACKERMAN changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**COIN MODERNIZATION AND TAXPAYER SAVINGS ACT OF 2008**

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5512) to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe the weights and the compositions of circulating coins, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5512

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Coin Modernization and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2008”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds as follows:

- (1) International demand along with market speculation for commodity metals has, over the past several years, increased the cost of producing circulating coins in the United States.
- (2) In a July 30, 2007, letter to the Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury, with support of the Administration’s Office of Management and Budget, requested that legislation be put forward to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to make changes to the composition of circulating coins.
- (3) The United States Mint has studied alternative metals for use in circulating coins, as noticed in its 2004 annual report.
- (4) In 1943, the United States Mint produced zinc-coated steel pennies in response to war-time demands for copper.
- (5) The United States Mint gained further experience changing the metal content of pennies in 1982, when it began producing copper-coated zinc pennies as a result of rising copper prices.
- (6) The Royal Canadian Mint has produced for several years a copper-coated steel 1-cent coin that is similar to the United States penny at a significantly lower cost than the cost to produce the United States penny.
- (7) Given the current cost to make a penny and volume of pennies minted, by simply reducing penny production costs to face value, the United States will save more than \$500,000,000 in the next 10 years alone.
- (8) Reducing the cost to produce a nickel to face value will save the United States an additional \$60,000,000 per year.
- (9) Commodity metal prices are often cyclical in nature, and can be inflated by speculation, so it is important that a solid trend

in the rising price of a commodity metal be established before any change in the metal content of a coin is made.

**SEC. 3. IMMEDIATE REDUCTION IN THE COST OF PRODUCING 1-CENT COINS THROUGH THE USE OF STEEL PENNIES.**

Subsection (c) of section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) COMPOSITION OF 1-CENT AND 5-CENT COINS.—

“(1) 1-CENT COIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), beginning 270 days after the date of the enactment of the Coin Modernization and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2008, the 1-cent coin shall—

“(i) be produced primarily of steel; and

“(ii) meet such other specifications as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate, including any change in the weight from that specified in subsection (a)(6).

“(B) TREATMENT.—The 1-cent coin shall be treated to impart a copper color to the appearance of the coins so that the appearance is similar to 1-cent coins produced of a copper-zinc alloy.

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL NUMISMATIC PENNIES.—No provision of this paragraph shall apply with respect to 1-cent coins described in section 304 of the Presidential \$1 Coin Act of 2005 that are issued for numismatic purposes.

“(2) ALTERNATIVE 1-CENT COIN COMPOSITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If, before the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Coin Modernization and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2008, the Secretary determines that, with the addition of any other element to any alloy of zinc and copper of which 1-cent coins could have been composed as of the day before such date of enactment, there is a way—

“(i) to produce 1-cent coins of the same diameter, general composition, and general weight as 1-cent coins produced in accordance with this subsection as of the day before such date of enactment; and

“(ii) to achieve the goals of paragraph (1) by reducing the unit cost to produce the 1-cent coin to less than 1 cent while retaining such coin’s ease of use and ensuring ease of co-circulation with 1-cent coins of the diameter and weight already circulating as of such date of enactment for ordinary commerce,

the Secretary may add any such element and continue production of 1-cent coins of the same diameter, general composition, and general weight as 1-cent coins produced in accordance with this subsection as of the day before such date of enactment instead of complying with paragraph (1).

“(B) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—This paragraph shall only apply if the change to the new composition and the subsequent drop in the production cost of the 1-cent coin referred to in subparagraph (A) can be achieved before the end of the 270-day period referred to in paragraph (1).

“(C) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Any determination and action by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall be promptly reported to the Congress.”

**SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO CHANGE METALLIC CONTENT OF 5-CENT COINS TO LESS COSTLY ALTERNATIVE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 5112 of title 31, United States Code, (as amended by section 3) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) 5-CENT COIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Coin Modernization and Taxpayer Savings Act of 2008, the Secretary shall produce no 5-cent coin that is not primarily made of steel with a coating of nickel, that can co-circulate with the existing supply of 5-cent coins and work interchangeably in coin handling machines, except that—

“(i) the Secretary shall make no change to the content of the existing 5-cent coin if at that point the unit cost of production of such coins is lower than the face value of the coin; and

“(ii) if the report issued by the Secretary pursuant to section 6 indicates that a different metallic content of circulating 5-cent coins is both functional and interchangeable, and more economical to produce in both the short and long term, the Secretary shall propose such content to the Congress in the form of a legislative recommendation.

“(B) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In prescribing the weight and the composition of the 5-cent coin, the Secretary shall consider—

“(i) factors relevant to the potential impact of any revisions to the weight and composition of the material on the current coin suppliers;

“(ii) factors relevant to the acceptability of new coinage materials, including the effect on vending machines and commercial coin processing equipment and making certain, to the greatest extent practicable, that any new coins work without interruption in existing coin acceptance equipment without modification; and

“(iii) such other factors that the Secretary, in consultation with merchants who would be affected by any change in the weight and composition of the 5-cent coin, vending machine and other coin acceptor manufacturers, vending machine owners and operators, transit officials, municipal parking officials, depository institutions, coin and currency handlers, armored-car operators, car wash operators, and American-owned manufacturers of commercial coin processing equipment, considers to be appropriate and in the public interest, after notice and opportunity for comment.

“(C) COMMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS.—In making any determination with respect to any change in the weight and composition of the 5-cent coin, the Secretary shall enter into a formal rulemaking process that includes a hearing on a record in addition to the publication of notice and opportunity for comment.”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5112(a)(5) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “and weighs 5 grams”.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON ALL CIRCULATING COINS.**

To accomplish the goals of this Act, the Secretary may conduct any appropriate testing within or without the Department of the Treasury, and may solicit input from or otherwise work in conjunction with entities within or without the Federal government including independent research facilities or current or potential suppliers of the material used in volume production of circulating coins, to complete the report referred to in this Act and to develop, evaluate or begin the use of new metallic material for such production.