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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 2011, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As this House comes together at the end of the week, bless the work of its Members. Give them strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their hearts with charity, their minds with understanding, their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

The work that they have is difficult work. May they rise together to accomplish what is best for our great Nation, and, indeed, for all the world, for You have blessed us with many riches and a great history of building a participative government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches.

THANK YOU, NEAL PATEL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Neal Patel, a committed staff member in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. After little more than a year, Neal is departing the office to join Congressman CHARLES BOUSTANY's staff and serve as his communications director to further the Republican plans to create jobs.

A native of Nichols, South Carolina, Neal is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Charleston School of Law. I have worked with his parents, Ashvin and Suwarna Patel in the motel industry for over 30 years, and I know they are proud of their son's achievements.

Neal has been a tremendous asset for the people of the Second Congressional District. From his early days as an intern to now communications director, Neal has represented our office with enthusiasm and professionalism. It is with sincere gratitude that I would like to thank Neal for his dedication.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT

(Mr. BARROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight this week's passage of S. 894, the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2011. During this difficult economic time, it's more important than ever that we keep our promises to our veterans.

This bill provides a cost of living adjustment to the disability pay of our wounded veterans. This well-earned increase will go a long way to help veterans make ends meet. This could not have been done at a more appropriate time as we're one week away from Veterans Day.

I'm happy to see that my colleagues joined together in a bipartisan fashion to pass this legislation. Again, I commend my colleagues for standing together for veterans by passing the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, and I encourage my colleagues to continue to work together in a bipartisan fashion to keep

the promises our country made to veterans when they first signed up.

JOBS FOR OUR VETERANS

(Ms. HOCHUL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the impending Veterans Day next week, I think it's important that we pause for a moment as a country and reflect on the contributions that these veterans have done, veterans who served us since the early part of last century, all the way up to those who are waiting to come home with open arms, just a month away, this Christmas.

But importantly, we have to give them jobs when they come home. And Mr. Speaker that's why I support the sections of the President's jobs bill that will create small business incentives to hire our veterans, and an even greater incentive to hire our wounded veterans. This is so important because the last thing I want to see in this country is to give thanks to these people on one day and then to find them under a bridge because they're homeless and couldn't get a job.

These people deserve better than that, Mr. Speaker, and I call on my Members of Congress, in a bipartisan way, to support incentives to give our veterans what they need when they come home—a warm welcome and the dignity of a job.

VETERANS DAY

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I, too, rise to honor, celebrate, and remember our courageous men and women in uniform who've served in the United States Armed Forces.

Next Friday, our Nation as a whole will observe Veterans Day, a day which should serve as a reminder to every American that our Armed Forces, both past and present, are made up of individuals of great courage, character, and honor.

As a 29-year Air Force veteran and a former prisoner of war for nearly 7 years, I know firsthand that freedom is not free. We owe a debt of gratitude to all who have worn the uniform and their families.

I urge all Americans to use this Veterans Day as an opportunity to personally thank a veteran. It's because of their sacrifices that we remain the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I think an inscription on the wall at the POW camp when we left says it all: Freedom has a taste to those who fight and almost die that the protected will never know.

I salute our veterans. God bless America.

BIPARTISANSHIP IS NOT DEAD

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, bipartisanship is not dead. There are policies grounded in common sense that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can agree upon.

I'm proud to be part of a group of lawmakers, Democrat and Republican, who are fighting to complete the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota. This infrastructure project alone will bring drinking water to an area of the United States the size of Connecticut. It will sustain hundreds of jobs and create an estimated 10,000 jobs in the long run.

The funds for this project were promised during the Clinton Presidency, the Bush Presidency, and the Obama Presidency. Locals not only paid their share, they paid in advance. And yet today, the earth movers, the forklifts, and the dump trucks sit idle, and no water runs to thirsty communities.

A bipartisan coalition in this Congress is ready to act to push this project forward. With only 14 legislative days left in our congressional calendar, the time is now to work together, create jobs in a commonsense approach, bring Lewis and Clark to a reality.

HONORING PAUL EASON

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

Mr. NUNNELEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the members of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Paul Eason. Mr. Paul came home after World War II and became a success in his community by any measure of the word: a manufacturing leader, three terms on our city council, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Citizen of the Year.

But his most significant contribution was giving his time and energy as scoutmaster for three generations of boys in Tupelo, Mississippi. He was the scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 12 for over 59 years.

When he began, his scouts thought it would be interesting to see if they could go for a year without missing a monthly campout. And Troop 12 recently completed its 729th consecutive monthly campout, not missing a month since Harry Truman was president.

They thought they were learning how to tie knots and pitch tents; Mr. Paul was teaching them the meaning of the scout oath: ''On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country.''

America needs more young men that understand the meaning of duty, excellence, and honor.

As a father of two of Troop 12's eagle scouts, Mr. Paul, I want to say thank you for the contribution you've made to your community, your State, and to your Nation. And on this, your 90th birthday, may God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

□ 0910

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday the Earth's 7 billionth person was born. Our population has doubled in the last 50 years, and it could double again by the end of the century if we let it.

This rapid growth is straining water and food supplies, reducing access to health care and education, and even creating instability and violence.

Most importantly, this growth is denying women in nations like Yemen and Afghanistan, who still average more than five children, their basic human right to decide if, when, and how many children to have; 215 million women around the world say they want access to contraception but can't get it. We can fulfill that need and save lives, improve lives, and save tax dollars while we do it.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, meeting this unmet need for family planning could save the lives of 251,000 women and 1.7 million newborns, improve rates of education and health, and save a net total of $1.5 billion.

America can lead the world in family planning as it once did, but we have to increase our investment in international family planning.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my strong support and gratitude to America's heroes, our veterans. While our servicemembers and veterans deserve our gratitude and thanks every day, Veterans Day, which we will celebrate next Friday, serves as an important reminder of the sacrifices that our brave men in uniform make every day to defend our freedoms.

As a veteran myself, I am also aware of the extraordinary sacrifices that families at home endure while their loved ones are deployed. I would like to extend my thanks to those families for their patience and support which play an integral role in the success of our troops serving abroad.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am committed to ensuring that our Nation's veterans, their families, and survivors receive the care, benefits, and services they've earned.

Once again, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to our Nation's veterans and their families.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to address the persuasive and life-threatening challenges posed by domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as many as one in four women over the course of her lifetime will experience domestic violence. This is a crime that knows no geographical boundaries, a crime which knows no class boundaries, and a crime which does not come to the family from without but comes from within and transcends generations as children are scared and then replicate the behavior that unfortunately they saw in their families.

Mr. Speaker, around the United States and certainly in Connecticut. We've got wonderful organizations like the YWCA of Greenwich, the Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, and the Domestic Violence Crisis Centers in Stamford and Norwalk doing wonderful work providing safety and comfort to victims of these crimes.

We should support those organizations, Mr. Speaker. But each and every one of us as fathers, as brothers, as community leaders, as Members of Congress should stand up and say we will put an end to this terribly destructive force.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2838, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 455 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 455

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this resolution and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule.

SEC. 2. (a) In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print dated October 28, 2011. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived.

(b) No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution.

(c) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(d) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the Congressional Record immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

SEC. 4. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 5. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of November 4, 2011, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to a measure addressing the applicability of the coastwise trade laws.

□ 0920

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WEBSTER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague, the gentlelady from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this rule and the underlying bill.

House Resolution 455 provides for a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011. The rule makes 18 amendments submitted to the Rules Committee in order for robust debate here in the House of Representatives: 10 of those 18 amendments made in order are Democrat-sponsored amendments; 7 are Republican amendments; and one is a bipartisan amendment.

Five information-gathering subcommittee hearings were held prior to this bill being reported out of committee. Further, this legislation passed out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with bipartisan support by a voice vote.

The Coast Guard is comprised of nearly 100,000 military personnel, reservists, civilian employees, and auxiliary volunteers. It is one of the five branches of the armed services that constitutes our Armed Forces. The Coast Guard or its predecessors has defended this Nation in every war since 1790. Charged primarily with enforcing the laws of the United States in, under, and over the high seas and waters under American jurisdiction, the Coast Guard is asked to serve many functions simultaneously. This is important in my own State of Florida, which has the largest coastline of any of the 48 contiguous States. From drug interdiction to port security to border enforcement, the Coast Guard's reach is wide and its mission critical.

This bipartisan legislation authorizes appropriations through fiscal year 2015 for the Coast Guard to carry out all of its many responsibilities. It also authorizes appropriations for the Federal Maritime Commission, including grants for certain short-distance shipping activities. Finally, the bill makes some changes to current law, affecting maritime safety, transportation and the authorities of the Coast Guard.

The rule also allows for the consideration of H.R. 2840, the Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act. Ballast water and the subsequent discharge of ballast water are essential to the safe operation and stability of our seafaring vessels. This bill will simply set a single uniform, nationwide standard for ballast water discharge from commercial vessels.

Currently, the Coast Guard and the EPA have developed separate regulations under two different laws to govern ballast water discharge. The EPA's

regulations are particularly burdensome as they allow each State to impose different requirements on top of the Federal regulations. The result: 29 differing and often contradicting standards. A uniform national standard, as set by this legislation, will assure the free flow of ships in and out of United States ports while protecting both the jobs, dependent on their efficient operation, and U.S. waters.

It should be stressed that the standard is meant to protect commerce and the environment. It conforms with the standards set by the International Maritime Organization and the EPA's Science Advisory Board. They have found that the standard set in the bill is the best currently achievable standard. Should a higher standard become achievable due to technological improvements, this legislation allows States to petition for an improved nationwide standard. Further, the bill allows for a review of the performance standard no later than January 1, 2016, and a new review can be ordered upon petition from the States after that.

So, once again, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and the underlying legislation. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has worked to provide us with a very good bipartisan bill, which provides for the ongoing needs of the Coast Guard and the important missions that they carry out on a daily basis.

I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the rule and ''yes'' on the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

The Republican majority has placed the House in a terrible bind this morning. They've taken a worthy bill to authorize the Coast Guard, which enjoys broad bipartisan support, and has tied it together with an unwise, unrelated, misguided bill that will severely limit the ability of States to fight the harmful invasive species that are destroying local ecosystems and disrupting local economies.

In the majority's Pledge to America, leaders of the House promised ''we will advance major legislation one issue at a time.'' This pledge is broken yet again today by this bill we are debating.

Ship-borne ballast discharge has introduced approximately 180 nonindigenous invasive species to the Great Lakes, lakes which comprise 20 percent of the freshwater on this planet. As long as I have been privileged to serve in Congress, Members on both sides of the aisle have vigorously protected these waters. In fact, during the debate on NAFTA, we discovered, along with our Canadian friends, that the Great Lakes water was to be sold in other trade agreements to other parts of the country that had shortages of water. We all banded together and had that part removed. We do have an obligation to save 20 percent of the planet's freshwater, which is becoming more and more scarce every day.

Nationally, more than 4,500 invasive species have been introduced to the Nation's waters. In total, they cost us billions of dollars on an annual basis. $5 billion alone has been spent to try to deal with the European zebra mussel, which we've barely made any inroads against. It has been introduced into the Great Lakes and can be found by the thousands throughout the lakes. They attach to the hard surfaces so thickly that they clog municipal water systems and electric generation plants, costing over $1 billion a year to control.

States know all too well of the dangerous threat of invasive species and are taking commonsense action; but today's bill destroys the effective work by taking away the right of the States to have control. We must allow States to have an equal voice in protecting their ecosystems and economies if we are truly to solve the threat of invasive species in our waters.

Despite the unique challenges facing each State, the majority is demanding that all States follow one set of Federal requirements. This approach is completely different from the one taken by the congressional Republicans when debating regulations that would affect mountaintop mining corporations, which is taking off the top of a mountain and throwing it down into a valley, oftentimes clogging up the water supply.

Earlier this year, the Republican majority passed H.R. 2018, which gave power to the States to decide whether or not they should follow the guidelines set forth by the EPA to regulate pollution from mountaintop mining; but when it comes to ballast water, suddenly we think that the Federal Government and not the States must have the final say.

This inconsistency and, obviously, this war against the EPA is causing great consternation in the country. The only consistent logic in their approach is that, in both instances, they are advocating the interests of the respective industries, not the interests of the American people.

I urge my colleagues to oppose today's rule and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, pardon my immodesty, but as the only Member of the United States Congress who is also a Coast Guardsman, I can speak with some credibility regarding the Coast Guard. It is my belief that the American taxpayer has more bang for his buck from the United States Coast Guard than from, probably, any other Federal agency.

It continues to do more with less: be it the search and rescue program, which is endless; be it the drug interdiction that appears to be endless as well; be it the Aids to Navigation program with which the Coast Guard continues to stay on top of the play; be it the ice patrols in the Arctic, the Antarctic, the Great Lakes, and others. The Coast Guard stands always ready.

I am thankful of the comments surrounding this dialogue, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the rule and in favor of the bill authorizing the Coast Guard during this time.

□ 0930

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO).

Mr. LOBIONDO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of the rule which provides for consideration of H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011. The bill will reauthorize the activities of the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2014. It includes critical provisions that will give the Coast Guard, its servicemembers, and dependents greater parity—something that is extremely important—with their counterparts in the Department of Defense.

It includes language which will reform and improve Coast Guard administration and, very importantly, will save taxpayer dollars without impacting the service's critical missions. The bill also amends shipping laws to improve safety and foster job growth throughout the maritime sector.

The bill also establishes a uniform national standard for the discharge of ballast water that is based on the most recent effective technology that is currently available. The standard also must be updated on a regular basis as technology improves. Under current law, the Coast Guard and EPA regulate ballast water, while every State and tribe is allowed to add their own requirements to these regulations. As a result, ships engaged in interstate and international commerce must comply with two Federal standards and 29 different State and tribal standards for water ballast release, many of which are contradictory and technologically unachievable. It's an impossible regulatory nightmare that threatens jobs and the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a letter of support signed by 28 organizations representing the U.S. flag industry, our ports, farmers, steel manufacturers, the largest maritime unions in the country, and others.

I urge all Members to support the rule and the underlying bill.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. FRANK LOBIONDO,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. BOB GIBBS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. NICK RAHALL,
Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Hon. TIM BISHOP,
Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MESSRS. CHAIRMEN AND RANKING MEMBERS: The undersigned organizations represent U.S. and international vessel owners and operators, industries that rely on marine vessels to transport essential cargoes in domestic and international commerce, and labor unions representing the men and women whose work keeps this vital segment of our economy moving. We write to express our strong support for H.R. 2840, the Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act of 2011, which will provide a uniform federal framework for the regulation of ballast water and other vessel discharges.

Legislation to establish a consistent, practical, and science-based national program for the management of vessel discharges is urgently needed. The current statutory system is a confusing, duplicative, and inconsistent patchwork in which two federal agencies (the Coast Guard and EPA) and more than two dozen states regulate the same vessel discharges in overlapping and sometimes contradictory ways. The absence of a clear and effective federal framework for regulating vessel discharges constrains the movement of essential maritime commerce, jeopardizes American jobs, multiplies regulatory burdens on businesses and workers, puts the environment at risk and forces American taxpayers to foot the bill for duplicative and contradictory government programs.

H.R. 2840 will fix this untenable situation and establish a clear and consistent framework for the regulation of vessel discharges that protects the economy and the environment. We respectfully urge its prompt passage. Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Allegretti, President & CEO, The American Waterways Operators; Captain Lee A. Kincaid, President, American Maritime Congress; Brenda Otterson, Legislative Consultant, American Maritime Officers Service; Joseph J. Cox, President & CEO, Chamber of Shipping of America; Barry Holliday, Executive Director, Dredging Contractors of America; Harold Daggett, President, International Longshoremen's Association; R. Andrew Riester, Executive Vice President, International Propeller Club of the United States.

Kurt Nagle, President & CEO, American Association of Port Authorities; Thomas Bethel, National President, American Maritime Officers; Robin Rorick, Director of Marine and Security Operations, American Petroleum Institute; Christine Duffy, President & CEO, Cruise Lines International Association; Brian T. Petty, Executive Vice President-Government Affairs, International Association of Drilling Contractors; Captain Timothy A. Brown, President, International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots; Joseph J. Angelo, Managing Director, INTERTANKO.

James H.I. Weakley, President, Lake Carriers' Association; C. James Patti, President, Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development (MIRAID); Joseph C. Curto, President, New York Shipping Association; John R. Groundwater, Executive Director, Passenger Vessel Association; Thomas Danjczek, President, Steel Manufacturers Association; Richard H. Hobbie III, President & CEO, Water Quality Insurance Syndicate.

Christopher L. Koch, President & CEO, World Shipping Council; Mike Jewell, President, Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association; Kendell W. Keith, President, National Grain and Feed Association; Jim Adams, President/CEO, Offshore Marine Services Association; Mike Sacco, President, Seafarers International Union; James L. Henry, Chairman and President, Transportation Institute; and Catherine Reheis-Boyd, President, Western States Petroleum Association.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I advise the gentlelady from New York that I am prepared to close.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. As am I; so I will close.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to make in order an amendment by Mr. KISSELL of North Carolina which would prohibit the Coast Guard from procuring items classified as textiles and apparel that are not grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States. Republicans blocked this germane amendment last night in the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' and defeat the previous question so we can help the American workers, and I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for ample and open debate, allowing our colleagues from across the aisle the opportunity to offer their legislative proposals to this bill.

This bill provides a single uniform, nationwide standard for how commercial vessels discharge ballast water, a standard that protects American jobs by encouraging the efficient flow of goods in and out of our ports while also protecting our unique water bodies. More importantly, the bill provides the service men and women of the United States Coast Guard the funding they need to fulfill their critical missions: keeping our borders secure, preventing drugs from infiltrating our communities, and safeguarding our men and women.

Service men and women in the Coast Guard deserve our gratitude and support. This includes Coast Guard veterans, such as Garrett Bess, a member of my own staff here in Washington, D.C. Partisanship has no place in providing the resources necessary for those brave men and women in uniform to do what they do best, keep us safe. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of the rule and passage of the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 455 OFFERED BY MS. SLAUGHTER OF NEW YORK

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 6. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this resolution, the amendment printed in section 7 shall be in order as though printed after the amendment numbered 18 in the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Representative Kissell of North Carolina or his designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 7. The amendment referred to in section 6 is as follows:

Page 56, after line 3, insert the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 612. BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 569c. Buy American requirement

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), (e), and (i), the Secretary may not procure for the Coast Guard an item described in subsection (b) if the item is not grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States.

''(b) COVERED ITEMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An item referred to in subsection (a) is any item described in paragraph (2), if the item is directly related to the national security interests of the United States.

''(2) ITEMS DESCRIBED.—An item described in this paragraph is any article or item of—

''(A) clothing and the materials and components thereof, other than sensors, electronics, or other items added to, and not normally associated with, clothing (and the materials and components thereof);

''(B) tents, tarpaulins, or covers;

''(C) cotton and other natural fiber products, woven silk or woven silk blends, spun silk yarn for cartridge cloth, synthetic fabric or coated synthetic fabric (including all textile fibers and yarns that are for use in such fabrics), canvas products, or wool (whether in the form of fiber or yarn or contained in fabrics, materials, or manufactured articles); or

''(D) any item of individual equipment manufactured from or containing such fibers, yarns, fabrics, or materials.

''(c) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the Secretary determines that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of any such article or item described in subsection (b) grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States cannot be procured as and when needed.

''(d) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

''(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

''(2) Emergency procurements.

''(e) EXCEPTION FOR SMALL PURCHASES.—Subsection (a) does not apply to purchases for amounts not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (as defined in section 2302 of title 10, United States Code).

''(f) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—In this section, the term 'United States' includes each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory or possession of the United States.

''(g) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED WITHIN 7 DAYS AFTER CONTRACT AWARD IF CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS APPLIED.—In the case of any contract for the procurement of an item described in subsection (b), if the Secretary applies an exception set forth in subsection (c) with respect to that contract, the Secretary shall, not later than 7 days after the award of the contract, post a notification that the exception has been applied.

''(h) TRAINING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that each member of the acquisition workforce of the Coast Guard who participates personally and substantially in the acquisition of textiles on a regular basis receives training on the requirements of this section and the regulations implementing this section.

''(2) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION IN NEW TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any training program for the acquisition workforce of the Coast Guard developed or implemented after the date of enactment of this section includes comprehensive information on the requirements described in paragraph (1).

''(i) CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following:

''569c. Buy American requirement.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 569c of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to contracts entered into on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(The information contained herein was provided by the Republican Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 110th and 111th Congresses.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Republican majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, 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 ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1015

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 10 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2838, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 455) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 234, nays 177, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 829]

YEAS—234

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg

Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—177

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Austria
Bachmann
Benishek
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Davis (IL)
Filner
Giffords
Heinrich
Higgins
Issa
Lewis (CA)
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1048

Messrs. DEFAZIO, SHULER, and AL GREEN of Texas changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. MULVANEY changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 829, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 166, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 830]

YEAS—245

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Holden
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—166

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Austria
Bachmann
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Davis (IL)
Filner
Giffords
Harris
Heinrich
Higgins
Issa
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (WA)

□ 1057

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 830, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1380

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1380.

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

There was no objection.

AMERICA'S CUP ACT OF 2011

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3321) to facilitate the hosting in the United States of the 34th America's Cup by authorizing certain eligible vessels to participate in activities related to the competition, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3321

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 ''America's Cup Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) 34TH AMERICA'S CUP.—The term ''34th America's Cup''—

(A) means the sailing competitions, commencing in 2011, to be held in the United States in response to the challenge to the defending team from the United States, in accordance with the terms of the America's Cup governing Deed of Gift, dated October 24, 1887; and

(B) if a United States yacht club successfully defends the America's Cup, includes additional sailing competitions conducted by America's Cup Race Management during the 1-year period beginning on the last date of such defense.

(2) AMERICA'S CUP RACE MANAGEMENT.—The term ''America's Cup Race Management'' means the entity established to provide for independent, professional, and neutral race management of the America's Cup sailing competitions.

(3) ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION.—The term ''Eligibility Certification'' means a certification issued under section 4.

(4) ELIGIBLE VESSEL.—The term ''eligible vessel'' means a competing vessel or supporting vessel of any registry that—

(A) is recognized by America's Cup Race Management as an official competing vessel, or supporting vessel of, the 34th America's Cup, as evidenced in writing to the Administrator of the Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation;

(B) transports not more than 25 individuals, in addition to the crew;

(C) is not a ferry (as defined under section 2101(10b) of title 46, United States Code);

(D) does not transport individuals in point-to-point service for hire; and

(E) does not transport merchandise between ports in the United States.

(5) SUPPORTING VESSEL.—The term ''supporting vessel'' means a vessel that is operating in support of the 34th America's Cup by—

(A) positioning a competing vessel on the race course;

(B) transporting equipment and supplies utilized for the staging, operations, or broadcast of the competition; or

(C) transporting individuals who—

(i) have not purchased tickets or directly paid for their passage; and

(ii) who are engaged in the staging, operations, or broadcast of the competition, race team personnel, members of the media, or event sponsors.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF ELIGIBLE VESSELS.

Notwithstanding sections 55102, 55103, and 55111 of title 46, United States Code, an eligible vessel, operating only in preparation for, or in connection with, the 34th America's Cup competition, may position competing vessels and may transport individuals and equipment and supplies utilized for the staging, operations, or broadcast of the competition from and around the ports in the United States.

SEC. 4. CERTIFICATION.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—A vessel may not operate under section 3 unless the vessel has received an Eligibility Certification.

(b) ISSUANCE.—The Administrator of the Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation is authorized to issue an Eligibility Certification with respect to any vessel that the Administrator determines, in his or her sole discretion, meets the requirements set forth in section 2(4).

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.

Notwithstanding sections 55102, 55103, and 55111 of title 46, United States Code, an Eligibility Certification shall be conclusive evidence to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security of the qualification of the vessel for which it has been issued to participate in the 34th America's Cup as a competing vessel or a supporting vessel.

SEC. 6. PENALTY.

Any vessel participating in the 34th America's Cup as a competing vessel or supporting vessel that has not received an Eligibility Certification or is not in compliance with section 12112 of title 46, United States Code, shall be subject to the applicable penalties provided in chapters 121 and 551 of title 46, United States Code.

SEC. 7. WAIVERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for each of the following vessels:

(1) M/V GEYSIR (United States official number 622178).

(2) MACY–RENEE (United States official number 1107319).

(3) OCEAN VERITAS (IMO number 7366805).

(4) LUNA (United States official number 280133).

(5) IL MORO DI VENEZIA IV (United States official number 1028654).

(b) DOCUMENTATION OF LNG TANKERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for each of the following vessels:

(A) LNG GEMINI (United States official number 595752).

(B) LNG LEO (United States official number 595753).

(C) LNG VIRGO (United States official number 595755).

(2) LIMITATION ON OPERATION.—Coastwise trade authorized under paragraph (1) shall be limited to carriage of natural gas, as that term is defined in section 3(13) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1502(13)).

(3) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ENDORSEMENTS.—The coastwise endorsement issued under paragraph (1) for a vessel shall expire on the date of the sale of the vessel by the owner of the vessel on the date of enactment of this Act to a person who is not related by ownership or control to such owner.

(c) OPERATION OF A DRY DOCK.—A vessel transported in Dry Dock #2 (State of Alaska registration AIDEA FDD–2) is not merchandise for purposes of section 55102 of title 46, United States Code, if, during such transportation, Dry Dock #2 remains connected by a utility or other connecting line to pierside moorage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LoBIONDO) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3321.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3321 provides a limited waiver of domestic cabotage laws for vessels participating in America's Cup and related races. It also provides waivers of cabotage laws for several other vessels and clarifies that vessels carried on a movable dry dock in Alaska are not considered merchandise under chapter 551 of title 46.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I too rise in support of this legislation, which would provide a narrow waiver from the coastwise laws for the vessels competing or supporting the upcoming America's Cup finals to be held in 2013.

The America's Cup, the world's premier international sailing competition, will be held in San Francisco Bay by virtue of the United States' successful challenge to reclaim the cup last year. This legislation is necessary to ensure that the competition can go forward in an expeditious manner for all competitors.

The legislation also includes several other vessel waivers that are included in H.R. 2828, which were cleared by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in September.

I appreciate as well that my request to waive the coastwise laws for the maritime education vessel, LUNA, has been included in this bill, as well as in the Coast Guard bill, and support passage of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1100

Mr. LoBIONDO. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3321.

While it may be identified as the America's Cup Act, and the reasons behind it having been clearly articulated by our good friends across the aisle, I want to drive home, as well, the fact that there are some additional issues that will be served by the passage of this bill. And what it relates to is a genuine opportunity today for people from both sides of the aisle to support the creation of genuine, blue-collar jobs immediately.

Mr. Speaker, what this bill will do is allow for a simple process to take place. In my own district of southeastern Pennsylvania, which is adjacent to the Delaware River, we have the opportunity to re-flag three vessels. What that means is three vessels that were built here in the United States, and that because of their service went outside the continent of the United States for a period of time, must now come back into the United States. In order to do that, they have to be able to comply with the Jones Act. With a simple vote today, we will be able to put these three vessels back into service here in the continental United States.

But the significance of this, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, in my backyard is the fact that what they will do is create the opportunity for the creation of new jobs that will relate to the utilization and transportation of the gas that is being developed in this country, 25 good, blue-collar jobs in my district which will sustain themselves, and close to 300 to 400 construction jobs in which people will be put to work as soon as possible building the extension of a pipeline that will go out into western Pennsylvania.

This is an opportunity for people from both sides of the aisle to put hardworking blue-collar workers back to work almost immediately by helping us cure what is a simple, technical issue. I strongly support the passage of this important bill because it will help put people back to work.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and am prepared to yield back if the gentleman from Washington is.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

In conclusion, let me just say that the America's Cup is the oldest competitive sailing competition. The U.S. held the Cup for over 134 years before losing to Australia off of Newport, Rhode Island. We are very proud to have reclaimed the Cup and look forward to defending it in 2013.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of the America's Cup Act of 2011, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LoBIONDO. On to victory for America.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of H.R. 3321, the America's Cup Act of 2011. This legislation will allow officially competing and support vessels of the America's Cup to have a waiver from the Merchant Marine Act of 1920.

Since 1851 the America's Cup has been one of the sporting world's premier events. Taking place this year in my home state of California, the America's Cup will generate an estimated $1.2 billion in economic activity and create 8,000 jobs, activity and employment that California sorely needs.

Unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained during the floor vote on this bill and was unable to cast my official vote in support of the measure. If I were present at the time of the vote, I would have proudly cast an "aye" vote to provide race participants the waiver they need to further the excitement, pageantry and traditions of the America's Cup.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LoBIONDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3321.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 387, nays 2, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 831]

YEAS—387

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peters
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—2

Braley (IA)
Richmond

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—43

Austria
Bachmann
Bishop (GA)
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Carney
Carter
Clyburn
Davis (IL)
Denham
Dicks
Dingell
Engel
Filner
Giffords
Granger
Grijalva
Harris
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Issa
Kinzinger (IL)
LaTourette
Lofgren, Zoe
McKinley
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul

Payne	Richardson	Sanchez, Loretta
Perlmutter	Roskam	Smith (WA)
Peterson	Ross (FL)	Stark
Platts	Ruppersberger	
Reed	Rush	

□ 1128

Messrs. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, TIERNEY, and GEORGE MILLER of California changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

Mr. AMASH changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''present.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 831, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 4, 2011, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 831 on H.R. 3321. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KINGSTON). Pursuant to House Resolution 455 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2838.

□ 1129

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOMACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

□ 1130

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2838 will reauthorize the activities of the Coast Guard through 2014 at levels which are consistent with the House-passed budget resolution.

This bill includes critical provisions that will give the Coast Guard, its servicemembers and dependents greater parity with their counterparts in the Department of Defense, something that is critical and important for these patriotic Americans. Ensuring parity among the armed services has been a top priority for the committee for some time, and I am proud to say this bill makes significant steps and progress towards aligning the Coast Guard's authorities with those granted by DOD.

In addition to the parity issue, the bill contains a title intended to reform and improve Coast Guard administration. The Coast Guard does an outstanding job for our Nation. However, in the current budget environment, it is important for the Coast Guard to review the services authorities and to find ways to improve operations while reducing costs. I believe this bill will do just that.

The bill also amends shipping laws to improve safety and foster job growth throughout the maritime sector and reauthorizes the activities of the Federal Maritime Commission through 2015.

Included in the bill is the text of H.R. 2840, the Commercial Vessel Discharge Reform Act, which will improve current regulation of ballast water and other discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

Mr. Chairman, this provision is pretty simple. Currently, the Coast Guard and the EPA are making rules and have authority to enforce ballast water. There are currently 29 States and tribes that have their own rules, and it is a regulatory nightmare to be able to do business in. We need one standard operation that reaches the highest level of technology that is available to us. This also allows for us to improve technology, and this is. If we're talking about jobs, and we certainly are hearing an awful lot about that these days, this is an opportunity for us to be able to ensure that maritime jobs will be able to continue to grow.

The current system is simply impossible, and it threatens our international maritime trade.

This legislation eliminates this ridiculous regulatory nightmare and establishes a single uniform national standard.

The EPA, the Coast Guard, the National Academy of Sciences, the EPA Science Advisory Board, the U.S. Flag Industry, every national maritime labor union, manufacturers, farmers, energy producers, and our largest and most strategic international trading partners all endorse our approach to this legislation. It's a commonsense way to be able to move forward, and it helps us be able to accomplish our goals in the long run.

I would urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission agency responsible for a broad range of activities including mariner licensing, emergency oil spill response, vessel inspections, and search and rescue operations. These and many other activities of the Coast Guard are indispensable and ensure that our coasts and ocean resources are protected; that our oceans, the Great Lakes, and inland waterways remain safe and efficient; and that our maritime industries continue to be vibrant sources of jobs and economic opportunity for the American people.

I want to thank Chairman LOBIONDO for his leadership in developing this legislation, H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011, to reauthorize the activities of the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2014.

Although I have reservations that the authorized funding levels in this bill are not sufficient to meet the many well-documented needs of the Coast Guard, at least this bill provides for roughly level funding for the next 3 years. We have had this discussion in committee for the last several months about the Coast Guard, Mr. Chairman, people wanting the Coast Guard to do more with less. The greatest concern that we have is that as we look at funding for the Coast Guard, we're beginning to ask them to do less with less. And that is going to cause future problems for our Coast Guard.

In general, Mr. Chairman, the legislation includes several noncontroversial provisions, especially title II, which addresses issues of disparity in policy and authority between the Coast Guard and other armed services. I want to commend the chairman for his commitment to address this issue.

There are some provisions in this bill, however, which remain problematic, none more so than the provision that would sequentially decommission the Coast Guard's two heavy icebreakers. The administration has expressed its strong opposition to this provision in its statement of administration policy.

At some point, we need to constructively engage the Coast Guard in developing a sound, balanced path forward that realigns our expectations with a level of performance that we can reasonably expect the Coast Guard to deliver, especially for its icebreakers and its polar operations.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, November 3, 2011.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2838—COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2011

(Rep. LoBiondo, R–New Jersey, and Rep. Mica, R–Florida)

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 2838 because it includes a provision that would require the Coast Guard to decommission the icebreaker USCGC POLAR STAR. The administration has requeted, and Congress has appropriated, funds to reactivate the USCGC POLAR STAR by December 2012 and extend that vessel's service life for seven to 10 years. This effort will stabilize the United States' existing polar fleet until long-term icebreaking capability requirements are finalized. By directing the Commandant to decommission the USCGC POLAR STAR within three years, the bill would effectively reduce the

vessel's service life to two years and create a significant gap in the Nation's icebreaking capacity. The Administration supports Title II (Coast Guard and Servicemember Parity), which would promote parity between the Coast Guard and the other branches of the armed forces. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to improve H.R. 2838 as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. I rise in strong support of H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011 and, in particular, title VII of the bill, the Commercial Vessels Discharge Reform Act of 2011.

Ballast water, while a necessity to maintain the stability of large vessels during water-borne navigation, has always been recognized as one of the ways invasive aquatic nuisance species are transported globally and introduced into coastal waters where they did not live before. Numerous invasive species have been introduced in U.S. waters through ballast water discharges. One of the most well-known is the zebra mussel in the Great Lakes, which has caused millions of dollars in damage in infrastructure.

Current efforts to reduce the risk of invasive species being introduced through ballast water discharges are haphazard, contradictory, and ineffective. The management of ballast water currently is governed differently by the Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as an assortment of international, State, and territorial regulations.

As a result, vessels engaged in interstate and international commerce are required to meet several different standards for the management of ballast water, some of which are not technologically achievable or verifiable. Complying with this patchwork of regulations is burdensome and unacceptable. Commercial shippers are at the heart of our Nation's interstate and foreign commerce.

As we all know, interstate and foreign commerce involving navigation is the heart of the Federal jurisdiction under the commerce clause of the Constitution. If we subject vessels visiting ports in more than one State to different permit requirements in each State that they visit, they will be forced to either violate State laws or cease making port calls in those States with requirements that are inconsistent with the technology that the vessel has installed in response to an earlier enacted regulation from another State.

Vessels involved in interstate and foreign commerce are mobile and cannot be expected to comply with potentially scores of inconsistent State requirements as they navigate from one jurisdiction to the next. These inconsistent State requirements will impose serious economic burdens on interstate and foreign commerce. There simply is no reason to interfere with interstate and foreign commerce in such ways, particularly in more sensible, uniform, and environmentally protective approaches available under this bill.

Title VII of H.R. 2838 aims to address both the needs for standards to reduce the risk of introducing invasive species in our Nation's waters through discharges of ballast water, and the need for vessels that navigate from one jurisdiction to another to have a uniform set of requirements to comply with.

The bill establishes a commonsense approach for regulating ballast water, which will protect the environment, grow maritime jobs, and promote the flow of maritime commerce.

I urge passage of H.R. 2838.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the subcommittee ranking member, the gentleman from Washington, for yielding me the time.

In recognition of the tradition of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to annually move bills to reauthorize the Coast Guard and the indispensable services it provides to the Nation, I am inclined to support this effort if it will improve the condition and readiness of the Coast Guard.

My home State of West Virginia may not be a coastal State; but our many stakeholders who use our inland waterways, such as shippers, tug and barge operators, and recreational boaters, appreciate the services provided by the Coast Guard, our guardians of the sea.

For example, the Coast Guard's National Maritime Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, handles the processing and approval of all mariner credentials for roughly a quarter million mariners. Additionally, the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Unit Huntington, located in Barboursville, West Virginia, inspects vessels, conducts casualty investigations, and ensures port security along the Ohio River and other navigable waterways.

These and other vital services provided by the Coast Guard directly support our maritime commerce, which is critical to the future economic health of our country. Yet despite widespread acknowledgment of its importance, the Coast Guard has rarely received sufficient resources to accomplish its many complex missions.

I am disappointed that the authorized funding levels in this legislation again fall short of the services' needs.

Just this week, we learned during the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee's hearing concerning the Deepwater Horizon disaster that the Coast Guard's marine environmental response capabilities have dwindled due to a lack of funding.

□ 1140

We cannot expect the men and women of the Coast Guard to put their lives at risk to save the lives of others if they are forced to operate from inadequate facilities and to utilize equipment that has long since passed its expected lifetime. If we expect our ports and waterways to remain safe and secure and if we want our maritime economy to be vibrant and growing, adequate investment in the Coast Guard is not an option but a requirement.

I also wish to express my concern about the ballast water provisions, a separate title—in fact, a wholly separate bill—stitched into this legislation, but not seamlessly and not without consequence.

Numerous State and local economies have had to deal with the immense costs associated with the invasion of plants and animals that hitch a ride into our country through dumped ballast water. Coastal States are spending millions each year to control invading species, and each year, more and more invaders threaten to become established in our waters.

For these reasons, I support the provisions that call for the adoption of stringent national standards for ballast water treatment technologies. These advances would help to prevent the introduction and spread of these invaders and ensure the efficient flow of critical commodities through waterborne transportation. But, unfortunately, tucked within the appealing treatment technology provisions of this added title lies a poison pill that this House would be foolish to swallow.

All this year, this Congress has been advocating an enhanced role for the States in protecting their economies and environment. The mantra has been: Back off the States. Remove the heavy hand of the Federal Government and allow the States the space to oversee their own programs. But now, tucked into the folds of this bill is a complete about-face. Rather than respecting State powers and allowing them the freedom to, in limited circumstances, set higher standards to protect their own waters and their own residents, this bill imposes a down-from-on-high, one-size-fits-all approach.

I find it ironic that, on an issue on which the States have taken a leading role in the absence of Federal action, this legislation would prohibit States from having any role in protecting their local resources. So I say to my colleagues that we have a choice to support the benefits provided by this bill without also swallowing the bitter anti-States' rights pill.

An amendment offered by my colleague from New York (Mr. BISHOP) would protect the States. The Bishop amendment represents a surgical fix that enables the States to nominate ''no discharge zones'' to protect important State waters.

Contrary to some claims, the amendment would not allow a State to shut down vital shipping zones or exempt all its waters from ballast discharges. The amendment specifically addresses these concerns, preventing a State

from taking such action. It provides for limited exemptions just like those available to the States in section 312 of the Clean Water Act for sanitary discharges—an exemption, I would point out, that has been used only 26 times. The Bishop amendment would restore the historic balance between the States and the Federal Government intended by the Clean Water Act.

If the Members of this body believe that States' rights must be protected from Federal overreach, this bill begs the question: Are you with the States or against the States?

I support the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), and I urge its adoption as a critical fix to an otherwise worthy bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to make that critical fix and to pass this legislation.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just like to take a moment and reiterate our thanks to the men and women of the Coast Guard—unsung heroes who are underrecognized and underappreciated, who put their lives on the line every day. They're a critical component of our armed services. They conduct critical missions to interdict illegal drugs. They provide fishery law enforcement as well as the Homeland Security component. We want to make sure that we recognize and appreciate their efforts on an everyday basis.

I would also like to, once again, thank Mr. LARSEN for his cooperation overall on the committee and especially with this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I thank the ranking member for yielding. I also thank both the ranking member and the chairman for their work on this important bill.

I have some concerns about the bill, but I'm going to focus my remarks on title VII, which deals with commercial vessel discharge reform and deals, more specifically, with ballast water discharge and the concern about nonindigenous invasive species. These nonindigenous species cost taxpayers and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

In the Great Lakes alone, approximately $500 million is spent every year in dealing with invasive species that clog municipal water systems and that damage infrastructure, such as electric power plants, levees, and aqueducts. In California, over $7 million was spent to eradicate the Mediterranean green seaweed from two small embayments in southern California, and $12 million had to be spent in San Francisco Bay to control the Atlantic cordgrass. Most of these invasive species arrive in our waters via the ballast water of commercial vehicles.

Unfortunately, in my view—and, I believe, in the view of a great many of my colleagues—the bill before us does not do enough to protect our communities and businesses from the avoidable costs of dealing with invasive species.

This week the State of California sent Members of Congress a letter saying that title VII of the underlying bill ''will set a Federal ballast water discharge standard that does not provide a significant improvement over existing management strategies and would eliminate the ability of States to regulate vessel discharges in their own waters.'' I would like to enter into the RECORD the letter from the California State Lands Commission to which I am referring.

In my home State of New York we've been working with Michigan and other States to develop standards that are achievable with the technology that is available today but that would still protect sensitive State waters more than would today's underlying bill. Unfortunately, this bill does not incorporate these science-based suggestions nor the jurisdictional concerns of the States.

I also want to enter into the RECORD, Mr. Chairman, a letter from the Environmental Council of the States which urges that the States be able to maintain a role in making determinations with respect to their water quality.

While I think that most parties—and I'm one of them—agree that a uniform national standard is necessary to protect our water resources, one of my largest concerns is that this bill completely erases any role for States to protect waters within their jurisdictions. So, as the gentleman from West Virginia said, I will be offering an amendment later today that will allow States to petition the Federal Government under a set of criteria that protects international and domestic commerce to identify and protect highly sensitive water resources within a State's existing jurisdiction.

My amendment does not add or change any technological requirements in the bill. This is an issue of extreme importance for the industry, understandably so, and for that reason my amendment simply does not affect in any way the technological requirements. It also does not give States carte blanche to prevent ships from releasing ballast water, which is another important issue for the industry. There is ample precedent for the amendment that I am offering and for the policy that my amendment would embody.

In 1996 the then-Republican-controlled Congress amended the Clean Water Act, requiring the Department of Defense to work with the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate ballast water from military vessels through the Uniform National Discharge Standards program. Through this program, the Republican Congress acknowledged a deep respect for the rights of States, including a residual authority for States to establish ''no discharge zones,'' which is similar to what my amendment would establish.

Another precedent is that section 312 of the Clean Water Act, which is the closest analogy to ballast water discharges from commercial vessels, establishes uniform standards for discharges of marine sanitation devices. Section 312 specifically reserves a role for States to create ''no discharge zones'' for important State waters, provided that these zones will not adversely impact vessels from operating within the States. In the past, ballast water legislation has included a role for the States, and industry was on board with those provisions.

□ 1150

There's an irony to what we're doing here today, and that is, during this Congress, much of the debate has centered on how States should be allowed to take the lead on managing different programs within their jurisdiction, be they educational programs or environmental protection programs or eliminating regulations and so on; and yet, in this instance, we are saying the exact opposite. We are saying that the Federal Government knows best how to protect local waters, and States are not given any say in protecting their waters.

Just a few months ago, this Congress passed H.R. 2018, the Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011, which eliminates any Federal role in setting baseline water quality standards, giving full discretion for the setting of those standards to the States. Title VII of today's bill says that States should have no say in what happens in their waters whatsoever, the exact opposite of what this Congress passed with pretty broad support several months ago.

We also have heard a great deal from our friends in the Tea Party about the 10th Amendment and how rights need to be reserved to the States under that amendment. Well, I would contend that the ability to protect waters of the State and to set standards for waters of the State would fall within at least the spirit of the 10th Amendment, and I would hope that my colleagues would agree with that.

So I just want to say that I believe my amendment, as the gentleman from West Virginia referred to it, is a surgical attempt to fix what I believe is a significant problem for States.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and I worked very hard to try to come up with a sweet spot where we could agree. We were unable to get there. It was not for a lack of trying. I am very grateful to the gentleman from New Jersey for his willingness to work with me on this; but later we will be offering this amendment, and I hope my colleagues will support it.

CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION,
Sacramento, CA, November 2, 2011.

Rep. JOHN MICA,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washingtion, DC.
Rep. NICK RAHALL,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.
Rep. DAVID DREIER,
Chairman, House Committee on Rules, Washington, DC.
Rep. LOUISE SLAUGHTER,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: The staff of the California State Lands Commission (Commission) is writing to express our concern with bill H.R. 2840, the Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act of 2011. We have recently learned that this bill may be considered as an amendment to the U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization bill. Staff has strong concerns that provisions of the H.R. 2840 would cripple California's ongoing efforts to prevent the release of nonindigenous species to state waters, and urge that members consider these concerns before addressing this bill.

In addition to the ecological and human health impacts that nonindigenous species have had, they can also represent a significant and ongoing economic burden once established in a new region. For example, the European zebra mussel attaches to hard surfaces so thickly in the Great Lakes and Lake Mead (AZ), that they clog municipal water systems and electric generating plants, costing over a billion dollars a year to control. In 2008, the mussel arrived in California. Should it spread to areas such as Lake Tahoe or the California Aqueduct, the resultant economic impact could be significant. Between 2000 and 2006, over $7 million was spent to eradicate the Mediterranean green seaweed from two small embayments in southern California. At the end of 2010, over $12 million had been spent in San Francisco Bay to control the Atlantic cordgrass. If left uncontrolled, the buildup of cordgrass can have a substantial impact on shoreline land values.

Since 1999, when California passed the Ballast Water for Control of Nonindigenous Species Act (Chapter 849, Statutes of 1999; Public Resources Code §§71200, et seq.), it has been and remains a national and world leader in the development of effective science-based management strategies for preventing species introductions through vessel vectors. The Commission's Marine Invasive Species Program (MISP) pursues aggressive strategies to limit the introduction and spread of nonindigenous species (NIS) via vessels, including establishing strict performance standards for the discharge of ballast water in 2007.

The Commission's staff works cooperatively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and other states in order to advance a strong, enforceable, funded, national effort that pushes technology development and the science of invasive species management forward, while ensuring that the state's existing, world-leading program be allowed to continue. Additionally, Commission staff has long worked closely with scientific, government, nonprofit and shipping industry representatives through technical advisory groups during the development of its requirements. This is to ensure a well-rounded, diverse array of perspectives are taken into account during the evolution of initiatives to prevent species introductions to the state.

We appreciate the House's attention to the challenge of NIS introductions in U.S. waters as a result of vessel discharges, but as drafted, H.R. 2840 will set a federal ballast water discharge standard that does not provide a significant improvement over existing management strategies and would eliminate the ability of states to regulate vessel discharges in their own waters.

Staff specifically object to the provisions in the bill that:

Would set the International Maritime Organization (IMO) ballast discharge standard as the U.S. federal standard.

There is clear scientific evidence that the IMO ballast water discharge standard is not a significant improvement over ballast water exchange (the current management practice). Studies have shown that some vessels could meet the IMO standards by simply conducting ballast water exchange, and some could meet it without conducting exchange at all. Therefore, adoption of the IMO standard does little to advance the protection of U.S. waters from NIS introductions.

Preempts states from adopting ballast water discharge standards, including standards that are more stringent than those established in H.R. 2840.

A central tenant of the Clean Water Act is that States have the ability to set water quality standards above and beyond those set by the Federal government in order to ensure proper environmental protection of state waters. H.R. 2840, as currently drafted, removes ballast water discharges from Clean Water Act jurisdiction and will cripple state efforts to prevent species introductions from vessel discharges. San Francisco Bay is the most highly invaded estuary in North America, and perhaps the world, and invasive species cost the state millions of dollars each year to control. In addition, recent research shows that California serves as a first entry point ''hotspot'' of invasion on the west coast, and NIS subsequently spread north to Oregon up to Alaska. Thus, California must retain the ability to implement stringent, protective ballast water discharge standards in order to protect its own waters as well as the waters of the rest of the western North America.

Preempts states from adopting any standards or management practices related to any discharge incidental to the normal operation of commercial vessels.

H.R. 2840 not only preempts states from developing ballast water discharge standards, but also preempts states' ability to address any of the 26 discharges included in the Vessel General Permit. The California State Lands Commission is a world leader in the development of strategies to combat species introductions due to vessel biofouling (i.e. the attachment or association of organisms to the underwater surfaces of vessels). There are currently no federal programs in place to manage this important vector of species introductions. Should H.R. 2840 pass as currently drafted, California would be hobbled in its efforts to prevent biofouling introductions within its waters.

Due to the aforementioned Commission staff concerns, please oppose the legislation in its present form. Thank you for consideration of these comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 574–1800.

Sincerely,

CURTIS L. FOSSUM,
Executive Officer.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
OF THE STATES,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2011.

Hon. FRANK LOBIONDO,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Washington, DC.
Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Washington, DC.
Hon. BOB GIBBS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Washington, DC.
Hon. TIM BISHOP,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMEN: I am writing on behalf of the members of the Environmental Council of the States, the state and territorial environmental agencies, about H.R. 2840, and an amendment to it offered by Congressman Bishop.

Our understanding is that the bill seeks to address the regulation of ship ballast waters in order to suppress the spread of exotic species, and that it pre-empts any state regulatory approaches.

With respect to the direction of the bill, ECOS could agree that:

(1) national standards can help to achieve a level playing field for compliance;

(2) the states have a diversity of experience and varying desire for federal regulation in this area;

(3) the states have a role in developing additional requirements based on state-specific conditions, and as a backstop to federal standards that are not yet proven.

ECOS has long held that ''expansion of environmental authority to the states is to be supported, while preemption of state authority is to be opposed.'' The bill as drafted preempts state authority not only for ballast discharges, but also for many other types of vessel discharges. ECOS also ''affirms its support for the concept of flexibility, i.e., that the function of the federal environmental agency is, working with states, to set goals for environmental accomplishment and that, to the maximum extent possible, the means of achieving those goals should be left to the states; this is particularly important in the development of new programs which will impact both states and U.S. EPA.'' [See our resolution entitled Environmental Federalism at www.ecos.org.]

We also encourage Congress to ensure that the United States Coast Guard and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have the resources they need to enforce the act, should it become law.

It seems to us that the amendment offered by Congressman Bishop addresses some of our concerns, and that the bill would be improved by its inclusion, although several of our other concerns would remain.

Regards,

R. STEVEN BROWN.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York for dialoguing and for articulating his point. We have tried very hard to reach an accommodation. We are going to continue to try to reach an accommodation, and I guess this is what this process is all about. We have a difference of opinion about the impact of the gentleman from New York's amendment and a couple of these other amendments. We are looking to try to find a way to make sure we have uniform standards, and I pledge we will continue to work to try to do that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I first would like to inquire how much time is remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington has 14½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO).

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. I too am very concerned about the serious threat that the invasive species pose to nonnative waters.

As the ranking member of the Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee, we have held various hearings on the effects of the invasive quagga mussel, the zebra and quagga mussel in western waterways. I have even traveled to Colorado in order to understand how they are looking at the R&D to be able to see how we can eradicate this invasive species.

It was introduced into the West from the ballast water of vessels coming in from the Great Lakes. This mussel is a dime-sized mussel that clogs water infrastructure. The glue is so potent that nothing can take it off. It's in the pumps. It's in the intake valves and the pipelines, costing water agencies hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of dollars to clean out to allow for the water flow.

The Metropolitan Water District of southern California spent $25 million on fighting quagga mussels since 2007. The Bureau of Reclamation is having a major problem with the mussels, as they are causing funds to be spent to scrape them off those major pipelines instead of on projects needing those funds.

I have seen firsthand the damage the quagga has done to the dams and the water supply plants in southern California. This invasive species will continue to have a devastating impact on the water supply of the West, and we must address the fact that discharges of ballast water carrying invasive species can cause irreversible harm to our Nation's waters, as is already the case in some areas.

We must allow our State regulatory agencies the ability to protect against invasive species, and I will continue to oppose the bill if it includes provisions that hinder the States from protecting their water quality. I hope the chairman and the ranking member can come to some agreement that will help our States.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN).

Mr. CARNAHAN. I am honored to represent a district in the St. Louis, Missouri, region near the confluence of the mighty Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers, an area where inland waterway commerce is vital to our economic well-being as well as to recreation, security, and safety.

In a normal year on the inland waterway system, between 500 and 700 million tons of bulk commodities with a current approximate value of nearly $125 billion are moved an average of roughly 500 miles to produce in excess of 300 billion ton-miles of freight transportation. When given a choice, heavy bulk shippers often choose barge transportation on our waterways. It is estimated that barge shippers and their customers save more than $7 billion annually by utilizing inland waterways.

As lawmakers, especially during these difficult economic times, we must do everything in our power to facilitate trade and economic activity. That's why this Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Reauthorization Act is so critical to get it right. But we also see in this bill, as prior speakers have mentioned, the patchwork of ballast water regulations that have hampered our inland waterways trade and imposed unnecessary cost on business.

I applaud the effort to create a national minimum standard to protect our environment while creating certainty and stability for the industry. But I do support Representative BISHOP's amendment that strikes the right balance. It allows States' rights and unique interests to be protected within no-discharge zones.

I hope that eventually we can work out a compromise. I applaud the efforts of both sides in trying to reach that, and I hope that effort will continue. I hope this bill can find broad support that addresses the needs of the goods movement industry while still protecting our environment. I think we can and need to do both.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this important work and again urge my colleagues to hit the right balance to be sure we are taking care of the men and women that serve us in the Coast Guard, to be sure they can continue to serve us and the entire country.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

Mr. MCINTYRE. I rise today in support of my amendment to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011 on which we are working together to consider as part of the en bloc amendments. This important and timely amendment calls on the Committee on the Marine Transportation System to coordinate with local businesses to promote an efficient marine transportation system.

As many of us know, the marine transportation system is essential to the American economy. It supports millions of American jobs, facilitates trade, moves people and goods, and provides a safe, secure, cost-effective, and energy-efficient transportation system. It's a win-win-win.

Yet, if there are not adequate maintenance resources in place, our MTS will continue to age, and the result will be a worn and decrepit waterfront, badly neglected locks and dams, and harbors with inadequate drafts to accept foreign, deep-draft tonnage.

Our local businesses are on the front lines of commerce every day, and they know where the savings and efficiencies are that could be improved. We must work with our local businesses who know business best. If government is going to be involved in improving the business environment, it only makes sense that government talks to the businesses that we're trying to help.

In my coastal district of North Carolina, marine transportation and commerce is the lifeblood of the Cape Fear region. In understanding the importance of marine transportation and waterway infrastructure, I sought the input of local business leaders to develop the Seventh Congressional District Coastal Compact to outline key priorities for our area's coastal infrastructure, maritime commerce, and a way in which we can get the public and private sector and government agencies to work together.

So this amendment that I have put forth builds on a proven model used to develop our Coastal Compact and one in which we believe that business leaders across this country would like to have a say and involvement and firsthand knowledge to be involved with our marine transportation system.

□ 1200

This is an example for us in Congress, an example that we must follow to improve not only our marine transportation system, but also to create jobs and to sustain an environment in which American business can flourish. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment so we can bridge a better partnership with our local businesses to improve the maritime transportation system and put our Nation back on a path of economic vitality.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), whom we affectionately refer to as Dr. Illie.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank my good friend from New Jersey for the time.

I rise in strong support of this Coast Guard reauthorization bill that is being considered on the floor today. I have the unique pleasure of representing over 265 miles of pristine coastline, ranging from Miami Beach all of the way down to Key West. In fact, two of the largest Coast Guard sectors in the United States, Sector Miami, commanded by Captain Christopher Scraba, and Sector Key West commanded by Captain Pat DeQuattro, are located in my congressional district. As such, ensuring that the brave men and women of the Coast Guard have the tools they need to effectively patrol our coast is of utmost concern

to me and to all of the residents in my congressional district.

This legislation before us is a fiscally responsible reauthorization of the U.S. Coast Guard and will include practical reforms which will ensure greater efficiency in the replacing of aging assets and improved utilization of all of its resources.

This is particularly important in my district as our two sectors have been working day and night to stop drugs from being smuggled into our country. These drug smugglers are becoming more sophisticated and more brazen in their efforts to bring illicit drugs to our shores. Just last month alone, the U.S. Coast Guard seized and then unloaded over 2,300 pounds of marijuana and nearly 900 pounds of cocaine in Sector Key West. Without providing upgrades to our aging assets, it will become more and more difficult to keep pace with these drug smugglers as their technology attempts to surpass ours.

That is why I rise in strong support of this Coast Guard reauthorization bill, and I thank Dr. FRANK for giving me the time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank the chairman and our ranking member for the great work that they have done not only this time but over the years.

As a member of the subcommittee, I have had an opportunity to—and earlier in previous sessions as chairman of the subcommittee—I've had an opportunity to visit many Coast Guard facilities. I am so amazed by what I see when I see so many young people who give their lives, their blood, sweat and tears to save other people and to make sure that our waterways are kept safe, and to make sure that our coasts are guarded. I call them the thin blue line at sea.

I do support this legislation because I think it is very important. There are some concerns I have, but I do want to commend the chairman. I understand that we have a manager's amendment that adds a modified version of H.R. 2839, the Piracy Suppression Act, as a title to this bill, and I think that is very, very important. The piracy provisions include those that require the Department of Transportation to establish a training program for U.S. mariners on the use of force against pirates and require a report from DOD within 180 days on actions taken to protect foreign-flag vessels from acts of piracy on the high seas. I will definitely support that because I think it is very, very important.

We've seen, and I know the chairman has spent a lot of time on this, what has happened with regard to these pirates. They feel they can just board our ships and hold our folks hostage, and we cannot allow that to happen. I want to applaud the chairman and the ranking member for bringing that about.

I'm going to have an amendment a little bit later on which addresses an issue which is important to me, and that is the ombudsman. I've said many times that we put this in the last authorization because a lot of the folks at the ports and a lot of our mariners were complaining. They were saying that the Coast Guard would come and want to make changes and say their way or the highway. One of the things that we wanted to do so commerce could freely flow, we wanted to have somebody come along and actually sit down and reason so that things could be worked out in a way that would be less onerous to the mariner community.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I'm hoping that amendment does pass because our Republican friends have constantly said that they want to do away with regulations that might impede the flow of commerce, and I think that my amendment is a step in that direction. I know that the Coast Guard may not like it, but I think an ombudsman would bring about a fair balance so that we can achieve the things that we need to achieve.

With that, again I applaud the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this bill forward.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have no more speakers on the general debate, so I will take a few minutes here to conclude on our side for general debate, and I appreciate the opportunity to close on general debate.

The points that were made earlier, I do want to reemphasize a few points. One is a concern we have about the decommissioning process and the decommissioning of the two icebreakers that are in the U.S. Coast Guard fleet. The administration has a statement of administration policy, which you've allowed to be entered into the RECORD. I think a follow-up to that point would be that we certainly would want to hear from the administration sooner rather than later about a plan for what some would call an organic capability of our icebreaker fleet. That is a U.S. Coast Guard-owned and -operated icebreaker fleet, rather than being left with the potential and real possibility of having to lease icebreakers from other countries to do the work that otherwise we would be doing. That continues to be a major concern.

We have heard, as well, concerns about the ballast water title and are expecting amendments and further debate on that as the afternoon progresses.

Certainly we are going to have an en bloc amendment, and we will have time to discuss those. I just want to underscore one of those from Mr. MCINTYRE and the role that the marine transportation system plays, or the MTS as we call it, which consists of waterways and ports and intermodal land-side connections that allow our various modes of transportation to move people and goods to and from and on the water.

The MTS is vitally important to our economy. It's vitally important to waterborne cargo and the associated activities which contribute more than $649 billion annually to the U.S. gross domestic product, sustaining more than 13 million jobs. Section 401 of this underlying bill would codify the committee on the marine transportation system, a Federal interdepartmental committee chaired by the Secretary of Transportation.

And I think it is just important to underscore further about this MTS, the marine transportation system, and the role that the Coast Guard plays in maintaining that. It can be somewhat invisible to folks if they're not on the water a lot, but the role that the U.S. Coast Guard plays in maintaining that marine transportation system that therefore underlies the economic growth potential that we have from a well-balanced and well-developed marine transportation system is important and is one of the underlying reasons why we even have a Coast Guard authorization bill each year to support the great work of the U.S. Coast Guard.

□ 1210

I would encourage Members to take a hard look at this bill. We've got some amendments coming up that Members will bring up, and we'll have good debate on those. But certainly as far as general debate goes, I'd like to take this time now to yield back the balance of my time and urge people to support the underlying bill.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I would, again, like to thank the gentleman from Washington for his cooperation and remind the Members I think this is, on balance, an excellent bipartisan effort that moves the Coast Guard forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2838, the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act.

However, while I support the underlying legislation, I have serious concerns that this bipartisan-supported bill is combined with the Commercial Vessel Discharges Act.

The Commercial Vessel Discharges Act sets a single nationwide standard for the treatment of ballast water by commercial vessels. This would prevent states, such as California from enacting more stringent ballast water standards.

California has stronger ballast water standards than what is found in the Commercial Vessel Discharges Act. This legislation will cause more invasive species to infiltrate the waters in California and the Great Lakes. This will also increase costs associated with combating invasive species.

Mr. Chair, the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act would have been further improved had the Rules Committee made my three amendments in order. Let me briefly explain what my amendments would have done.

My first amendment would have simply allowed grants provided under the Port Security Grant Program to be used to pay a portion of personnel costs.

The Maritime Transportation Security Act and the SAFE Port Act authorize funds to identify vulnerabilities in port security and in order to ensure compliance with mandated port security plans.

The grant funding is provided to port authorities, facility operators, and state and local government agencies so they can provide security services to our ports.

However, currently Port Security Grant Program funds cannot be used to fund statutorily-mandated security personnel costs.

My amendment simply would have corrected this inconsistency between the Port Security Grant Program and other grant funding programs.

Our American ports should not have to bear the burden of protecting our most vital stream of commerce and source of American jobs on their own.

Instead, ports should be allowed to utilize Port Security Grant Program funds to hire and pay security personnel who are used to staff fusion center, emergency operations, and counterterrorism posts.

Also, in order to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, my amendment would have placed a cap on the amount of Port Security Grant Program funding that can be used to pay security personnel costs.

Payments would have been limited to 50% of the total amount awarded to grant recipients in any fiscal year.

This is consistent with other grant programs, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative.

Last month, I had a similar amendment adopted by unanimous consent by the Homeland Security Committee during the markup of the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

My amendment would have allowed grant recipients the flexibility to use a portion of their funds to pay for security personnel expenses.

In short, my amendment would have provided a simple, common-sense change to what has become a complex funding issue for our American ports.

My second amendment would simply have allowed grant funds under the Port Security Grant Program to be used to replace defective security equipment.

Currently, the Port Security Grant Program allows grant funds to be used for maintenance of security equipment, but not the replacement of security equipment.

My amendment would have given grant recipients the flexibility in determining whether it is more cost-effective to replace or repair security equipment.

It doesn't make any sense to require grant recipients to fix security equipment when it may be cheaper to replace it with newer, improved technology.

My amendment didn't increase spending, but would have given Port Security Grant Program recipients the flexibility in determining the best use of their funds.

My third amendment would have ensured that when the Marine Transportation System Assessment and Strategy was drafted it included a plan to identify maritime projects of national significance; the steps taken to implement 100 percent container screening at ports, which was recommended by the 9/11 Commission; and develop a plan for fully utilizing the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

The Committee on the Marine Transportation System is tasked with assessing the adequacy of the marine transportation system including ports, waterways, channels, and their intermodal connections.

Part of this Committee's job is to draft the Marine Transportation System Assessment and Strategy one year after this bill's enactment. This assessment will evaluate the condition of the marine transportation system and the challenges the system faces.

My amendment would have asked the committee to take into consideration three things when drafting its assessment.

First, to identify maritime projects of national significance. I believe identifying these corridors are essential to the goods movement process in this country. Too often we fund projects because of political reasons and not because it is right for the country. Under the advisement of the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council, interested parties, the public, and the Committee should put forth a list of maritime projects of national significance so that the country can make smart investments that increase the flow of goods, the flow of trade, and create jobs.

Second, to report what steps are being taken to keep our nation safe by ensuring that our ports are secure and not a weak point for terrorists to exploit. Millions of containers are shipped into our country every year and the smallest percentage are thoroughly checked for potential threats against the United States. My amendment would have simply asked the committee to report what is being done to secure our ports as recommended by the 9/11 commission.

Finally my amendment asked the committee to make recommendations that would make the delivery of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund more efficient to the users who pay into it. Recently in a T&I subcommittee, members of the port committee expressed their displeasure with the lack of return on the Harbor Maintenance Tax. There are too many projects essential to our nation's goods movement infrastructure going under or unfunded by the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. I along with the entire witness panel agreed it is time for reform.

Rest assured, I will continue to be an advocate for our ports, including the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Los Angeles. As a Member of both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Homeland Security Committee, ensuring the safety of our nation's ports is one of my top priorities.

Again, Mr. Chair while I support the Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act, I do not support prohibiting states, like California from enacting more stringent ballast water protections. I also feel that had my amendments been made in order, the safety of our ports would have been improved.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bill and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

The 29th District of Texas that I represent encompasses the Port of Houston—the largest foreign tonnage port in the country. It drives economic activity in region, and is home to one of the largest petro-chemical complexes in the world. Because of this, security on the waterway is critical, and the Coast Guard has been exceptional in providing that security.

The Coast Guard enforces the nation's laws in U.S. waters and on the high seas, and protects the lives and property of those at sea. The Coast Guard's missions include maritime search and rescue, illegal drug and migrant interdiction, oil spill prevention and response in the marine environment, marine safety, maintenance of aids to navigation, enforcement of U.S. fisheries, and other marine environmental laws, and maritime defense readiness.

I know this bill is not perfect, but I support it because it provides the Coast Guard with the resources they need to meet the security and environmental demands they are tasked with. The measure authorizes programs of the Coast Guard in FY 2012.

Passage of the bill will continue today's high levels of offshore safety, ensure important projects are not delayed, and will protect the lives and livelihood of those who live and work around American waterways, such as the Houston Ship Channel.

Mr. Chair, I again thank the Committee for their work on this bill and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support H.R. 2838, ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011.'' This legislation authorizes funding for the Coast Guard through fiscal year 2014, and authorizes service strength of 47,000 active duty personnel.

In 1787, Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist Paper Number 12 laid the foundation for the modern Coast Guard when he noted that ''[a] few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense, be made useful sentinels of our laws.''

As a senior Member on the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I understand the importance of protecting our maritime borders. In our post-9/11 climate, homeland security continues to be a top priority for our nation.

I believe protecting our country by air, land, and sea to be critical to our national security interests. The security mission of the Coast Guard is beneficial to our maritime interests, and consequently, our national security.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the role of many agencies, including the Coast Guard, began to focus on Homeland Security. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 allocated a number of security missions to the Coast Guard, the first being the protection of ports, waterways and coastal security. There are more than 350 major ports in the United States, including 23 in Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District. The Port of Houston is one of the busiest in the nation. More than 220 million tons of cargo moved through the Port of Houston in 2010, and the port ranked first in foreign waterborne tonnage for the 15th consecutive year. The port links Houston with over 1,000 ports in 203 countries, and provides 785,000 jobs throughout the state of Texas. Maritime ports are centers of trade, commerce, and travel along our nation's coastline, protected by the Coast Guard.

As a Representative from Texas, a border state, I am extremely concerned with curtailing

the flow of illegal drugs into the United States. The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for maritime drug interdiction. Houston is classified by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, and in a 2009 report, the ONDCP expressed concern that ''the sheer volume of maritime traffic and foreign cargo that passes through the port offers another avenue for drug smuggling.'' The Coast Guard coordinates closely with other federal, state, and local agencies and countries within the region to disrupt and deter the flow of illegal drugs into Houston and other ports, decreasing the supply of illicit substances being transported all over the country.

The Coast Guard protects the interests of American citizens and American commerce abroad. Last year, 73.2 million tons of exports left the Port of Houston to be sold to countries around the world. These exports represented $70.8 billion dollars, and countless American jobs. The international counter-piracy efforts of the Coast Guard focus on preventing attacks of piracy that threaten American commercial vessels and cargo. The Coast Guard also performs vital counter-terrorism measures in ports abroad to ensure the safety of Americans across the globe.

In Houston, the Coast Guard routinely conducts integrated operations with the city, county, state and Federal Law Enforcement partners. The joint agency Houston Area Maritime Operations Center is a prime example of the type of coordination directed in the Maritime Operations Coordination Plan recently signed by the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The Port of Houston is one of the world's busiest ports and the Coast Guard bears the ultimate responsibility for its smooth operation. In terms of maritime traffic and cargo, the Port of Houston ranks first in the United States for number of ship arrivals and second in total cargo tonnage. Houston handles over 50 percent of all containerized cargo arriving at Gulf of Mexico ports.

Additionally, more than 50 percent of the gasoline used in the United States is refined in this area. With more than 100 petrochemical waterfront facilities, Houston is the second largest such complex in the world. Major corporations such as ExxonMobil, Shell, Saudi ARAMCO, Stolt Nielson, Odfjell USA Inc., Sea River and Kirby Marine have national or international headquarters in Houston.

These operations typically involve the Harris County Sheriffs Office and local city Police Department marine divisions as well as CBP, ICE, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and other Federal partners. Efforts are underway with The Coast Guards processes with neighboring sectors to align and streamline their operations across all jurisdictional boundaries. They need funding to continue to serve our country.

The Coast Guard relies on their port partners to act as both their eyes and ears on the water. With an average of 350 daily tow movements in the Houston Ship Channel and more than 100 waterfront facilities with a vigilant security presence, marine industry stakeholders are well positioned to recognize when things are out of the ordinary and serve as a valuable resource by diligently reporting breaches of security and suspicious activity. We also receive reports on fraudulent use of the Transportation Worker Identification Card, and work closely with our local enforcement and legal agencies such as the Harris County District Attorney to ensure these cases are prosecuted.

In recognition of the significance of Houston's shipping activity, the State of Texas formally established the Houston Ship Channel Security District (HSCSD) in 2010. The HSCSD represents a unique public-private partnership formed to improve security and safety for facilities, employees and communities surrounding the Houston Ship Channel. The Coast Guard played an instrumental role in the formation of the HSCSD, and continues to work closely with the HSCSD to ensure alignment of priorities and unity of effort. As Sector Commander, I am a member of the HSCSD Advisory Council and Sector Port Security specialists attend HSCSD board meetings. The district provides oversight of comprehensive and cost-effective security solutions, leveraging more than $30 million in Federal Port Security grants along with $4 million in annual member assessments to install technology and security infrastructure and provide funds for specific security projects, maintenance and operational services.

The Port of Houston accommodates a large number of tankers carrying crude oil, refined products and chemical cargoes. With approximately 9,600 deep draft ship arrivals each year, the Coast Guard maintains a very extensive Port State Control program in the Houston-Galveston area. The Port State Control program ensures the safe carriage of hazardous materials in bulk. Because over 90 percent of cargo bound for the United States is carried by foreign-flagged ships, this national program prevents operation of substandard foreign ships in U.S. waters.

The Sector also makes excellent use of its robust Vessel Traffic Service (VTS). The VTS's primary role is facilitating safe vessel transits in the waterways and ports along the Houston Ship Channel. The VTS cameras, Automatic Identification System (AIS) feeds, remote radar observation capability, and radio communications also provide an additional layer of security. In addition to the VTS resources in the Houston Ship Channel, Sector Houston-Galveston has access to feeds from three AIS receivers mounted on offshore oil platforms, which provide heightened awareness of activities in the maritime domain.

With a homeland security mission of this magnitude, it is essential that the Coast Guard be fully funded. This bill will authorize $8.49 billion in 2012, $8.6 billion in 2013, and $8.7 billion in 2014. It is certainly the duty of this Congress and the Administration to ensure the brave men and women who serve in the Coast Guard have the resources necessary to perform the wide range of duties assigned to them.

This measure contains a private-sector mandate as defined in Unfunded Mandate Reform Act (UMRA). The bill would require operators to locate a standby vessel within 3 nautical miles of offshore oil and gas facilities when certain activities are being performed and within 12 nautical miles of facilities at all other times. The cost of that mandate would depend on several factors. The bill would allow operators to share one standby vessel among multiple facilities and to use standby vessels for other purposes. For operators that can use those measures, the cost of the mandate would tend to be lower. At the same time, the bill would authorize the Coast Guard to require standby vessels to be located closer than 3 or 12 nautical miles to offshore facilities if necessary to address delays caused by weather or other conditions. Reducing the minimum distance from facilities would increase the number of vessels necessary for compliance and increase the cost of the mandate for some operators. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the aggregate cost of the mandate would probably exceed the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates ($142 million in 2011, adjusted annually for inflation).

However, I do have some reservations about some of the provisions in this legislation. At the request of President Obama's Administration, Congress has appropriated funding to reactivate the USGC *Polar Star*, a heavy icebreaking vessel. The ship is to be reactivated by December 2012 for 7 to 10 years of service. The *Polar Star* is deployed to assist researchers throughout the Polar Regions, and is essential to United States icebreaking capabilities. Ice breaking vessels create pathways through which supply ships can travel, facilitating important research. In its current form, the bill decommissions the *Polar Star* within 3 years, creating a gap in the nation's icebreaking abilities.

As a senior Member on the Homeland Security Committee, I have a deep commitment to creating a stronger and more secure America. I have worked with my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, to pass legislation that ensures that our nation is receiving the security that our citizens deserve. As the potential threats and vulnerabilities along our coast line may always exist, we rely upon Coast Guard and their active involvement with hundreds of partners who are directly involved with or impacted by the maritime industry in the Houston-Galveston area of responsibility. This sector is committed to deterring incidents before they happen and is well-prepared to respond to them should they occur. The Coast Guard is vital to the protection of our national security.

Both sides of the aisle have a strong respect for the Coast Guard as well as for the men and women who work on manned stations off of our shores. I understand that Representative MICA has agreed to honor the purpose of an amendment offered by Representative OLSON that would have required the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with appropriate representatives of industry, to conduct a feasibility study to determine the capability, cost, and benefits of requiring the owner or operator of a manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel to locate a standby vessel nearby. I would have supported this amendment because although a properly designed and equipped standby vessel in the immediate vicinity of manned outer continental shelf facilities may, in some cases, improve safety on the outer continental shelf.

In the event of a major casualty to an offshore installation, the immediate presence of a properly designed and equipped standby vessel, manned by a specially trained crew, might in some cases increase the chances of survival of the installation's crew members. We must not, however, forget the fact that historically the main cause of rig and platform abandonment has been due to severe weather. Unless these standby vessels are designed to

withstand those severe conditions, requiring them to remain on scene could place the vessels and their crews in jeopardy. In addition, it is severely risky to board a standby vessel in severe weather conditions. For these reasons I would support a feasibility study to determine the effectiveness of using standby vessels for manned stations.

In addition, I support the amendment offered by Representative THOMPSON that would add a new section to the end of Title II in the bill to open admissions to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to eligible candidates nominated by Congress.

Specifically, the amendment would require the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure that, beginning in academic year 2014, half of the incoming class is composed of eligible candidates nominated by the Vice President or, if there is no Vice President, by the President pro tempore of the Senate; Senators; Representatives; and Delegates to the House of Representatives. This will help to ensure that the Coast Guard has an even more diverse pool of candidate from across the United States.

The Coast Guard has a proud legacy and their role in our national strategy is vital to keep our homeland secure. The safety and security of our nations and its citizens must be our highest priority, despite difficult economic circumstances. We need to make sure the Coast Guard is fully funded, and have the resources they need.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print dated October 28, 2011. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2838

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are authorized to be appropriated for each of the fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard as follows:

(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard—

(A) $6,819,505,000 for fiscal year 2012;
(B) $6,922,645,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
(C) $7,018,499,000 for fiscal year 2014;

of which $24,500,000 is authorized for each of the fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 to be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712(a)(5)).

(2) For the acquisition, construction, rebuilding, and improvement of aids to navigation, shore and offshore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including related equipment thereto—

(A) $1,503,980,000 for fiscal year 2012;
(B) $1,505,312,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
(C) $1,506,549,000 for fiscal year 2014;

to remain available until expended, of which $20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including personnel and training costs, equipment, and services—

(A) $136,778,000 for fiscal year 2012;
(B) $138,111,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
(C) $139,311,000 for fiscal year 2014.

(4) For environmental compliance and restoration of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft, and facilities (other than parts and equipment associated with operation and maintenance)—

(A) $16,699,000 for fiscal year 2012;
(B) $16,699,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
(C) $16,700,000 for fiscal year 2014;

to remain available until expended.

(5) To the Commandant of the Coast Guard for research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard's mission in search and rescue, aids to navigation, marine safety, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, oceanographic research, and defense readiness—

(A) $19,779,000 for fiscal year 2012;
(B) $19,848,000 for fiscal year 2013; and
(C) $19,913,000 for fiscal year 2014;

of which $650,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZED LEVELS OF MILITARY STRENGTH AND TRAINING.

(a) ACTIVE DUTY STRENGTH.—The Coast Guard is authorized an end-of-year strength for active duty personnel of 47,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012 through fiscal year 2014.

(b) MILITARY TRAINING STUDENT LOADS.—The Coast Guard is authorized average military training student loads for the each of the fiscal years 2012 through fiscal year 2014 as follows:

(1) For recruit and special training, 2,500 student years.

(2) For flight training, 165 student years.

(3) For professional training in military and civilian institutions, 350 student years.

(4) For officer acquisition, 1,200 student years.

TITLE II—COAST GUARD AND SERVICEMEMBER PARITY

SEC. 201. ACADEMY EMOLUMENTS.

Section 195 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking ''person'' and inserting ''foreign national''; and

(ii) by striking ''pay and allowances,'' and inserting ''pay, allowances, and emoluments,''; and

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by striking ''A person'' and inserting ''A foreign national''; and

(ii) by striking ''pay and allowances,'' and inserting ''pay, allowances, and emoluments,''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''A person'' and inserting ''A foreign national''.

SEC. 202. POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

(a) POLICY REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 9 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§200. Policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence

''(a) REQUIRED POLICY.—The Commandant shall direct the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy to prescribe a policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence applicable to the cadets and other personnel of the Coast Guard Academy.

''(b) MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN POLICY.—The policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence prescribed under this section shall include specification of the following:

''(1) Programs to promote awareness of the incidence of rape, acquaintance rape, and other sexual offenses of a criminal nature that involve cadets or other Academy personnel.

''(2) Procedures that a cadet should follow in the case of an occurrence of sexual harassment or sexual violence, including—

''(A) if the cadet chooses to report an occurrence of sexual harassment or sexual violence, a specification of the person or persons to whom the alleged offense should be reported and the options for confidential reporting;

''(B) a specification of any other person whom the victim should contact; and

''(C) procedures on the preservation of evidence potentially necessary for proof of criminal sexual assault.

''(3) Procedures for disciplinary action in cases of alleged criminal sexual assault involving a cadet or other Academy personnel.

''(4) Any other sanction authorized to be imposed in a substantiated case of sexual harassment or sexual violence involving a cadet or other Academy personnel in rape, acquaintance rape, or any other criminal sexual offense, whether forcible or nonforcible.

''(5) Required training on the policy for all cadets and other Academy personnel, including the specific training required for personnel who process allegations of sexual harassment or sexual violence involving Academy personnel.

''(c) ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) The Commandant shall direct the Superintendent of the Academy to conduct at the Academy during each Academy program year an assessment to determine the effectiveness of the policies, training, and procedures of the Academy with respect to sexual harassment and sexual violence involving Academy personnel.

''(2) For the assessment at the Academy under paragraph (1) with respect to an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year, the Superintendent shall conduct a survey of Academy personnel—

''(A) to measure—

''(i) the incidence, during that program year, of sexual harassment and sexual violence events, on or off the Academy reservation, that have been reported to officials of the Academy; and

''(ii) the incidence, during that program year, of sexual harassment and sexual violence events, on or off the Academy reservation, that have not been reported to officials of the Academy; and

''(B) to assess the perceptions of Academy personnel of—

''(i) the policies, training, and procedures on sexual harassment and sexual violence involving Academy personnel;

''(ii) the enforcement of such policies;

''(iii) the incidence of sexual harassment and sexual violence involving Academy personnel; and

''(iv) any other issues relating to sexual harassment and sexual violence involving Academy personnel.

''(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

''(1) The Commandant shall direct the Superintendent of the Academy to submit to the Commandant a report on sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or other personnel at the Academy for each Academy program year.

''(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, for the Academy program year covered by the report, the following:

''(A) The number of sexual assaults, rapes, and other sexual offenses involving cadets or other Academy personnel that have been reported to Academy officials during the program year and, of those reported cases, the number that have been substantiated.

''(B) The policies, procedures, and processes implemented by the Commandant and the leadership of the Academy in response to sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or other Academy personnel during the program year.

''(C) A plan for the actions that are to be taken in the following Academy program year regarding prevention of and response to sexual harassment and sexual violence involving cadets or other Academy personnel.

''(3) Each report under paragraph (1) for an Academy program year that begins in an odd-numbered calendar year shall include the results of the survey conducted in that program year under subsection (c)(2).

''(4)(A) The Commandant shall transmit to the Board of Visitors of the Academy each report received by the Commandant under this subsection, together with the Commandant's comments on the report.

''(B) The Commandant shall transmit each such report, together with the Commandant's comments on the report, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.''.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 217 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (14 U.S.C. 93 note), and the item relating to such section in the table of contents in section 1(b) of such Act, are repealed.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''200. Policy on sexual harassment and sexual violence.''.

SEC. 203. APPOINTMENTS OF PERMANENT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Section 211 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) For the purposes of this section, the term 'original', with respect to the appointment of a member of the Coast Guard refers to that member's most recent appointment in the Coast Guard that is neither a promotion nor a demotion.''.

SEC. 204. MINOR CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 656 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) MINOR CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT.—

''(1) Subject to the reporting requirements set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary may expend not more than $1,500,000 from amounts available for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard for minor construction and improvement projects at any location.

''(2) No later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, a report on each project undertaken during the course of the preceding fiscal year, for which the amount expended under paragraph (1) exceeded $500,000.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—

(1) Section 656 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended in the heading by adding at the end the following: ''**; use of moneys appropriated for operating expenses for minor construction and improvement**''.

(2) The analysis at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended in the item relating to section 656 by striking ''waters.'' and inserting ''waters; use of moneys appropriated for operating expenses for minor construction and improvement.''.

SEC. 205. TREATMENT OF REPORTS OF AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 678. Treatment of reports of aircraft accident investigations

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Commandant conducts an accident investigation of an accident involving an aircraft under the jurisdiction of the Commandant, the records and report of the investigation shall be treated in accordance with this section.

''(b) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION INFORMATION.—

''(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Commandant, upon request, shall publicly disclose unclassified tapes, scientific reports, and other factual information pertinent to an aircraft accident investigation.

''(2) The Commandant shall not disclose the information requested in paragraph (1) unless the Commandant determines—

''(A) that such tapes, reports, or other information would be included within and releasable with the final accident investigation report; and

''(B) that release of such tapes, reports, or other information—

''(i) would not undermine the ability of accident or safety investigators to continue to conduct the investigation; and

''(ii) would not compromise national security.

''(3) A disclosure under paragraph (1) may not be made by or through officials with responsibility for, or who are conducting, a safety investigation with respect to the accident.

''(c) OPINIONS REGARDING CAUSATION OF ACCIDENT.—Following an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a)—

''(1) if the evidence surrounding the accident is sufficient for the investigators who conduct the accident investigation to come to an opinion as to the cause or causes of the accident, the final report of the accident investigation shall set forth the opinion of the investigators as to the cause or causes of the accident; and

''(2) if the evidence surrounding the accident is not sufficient for the investigators to come to an opinion as to the cause or causes of the accident, the final report of the accident investigation shall include a description of those factors, if any, that, in the opinion of the investigators, substantially contributed to or caused the accident.

''(d) USE OF INFORMATION IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS.—For purposes of any civil or criminal proceeding arising from an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), any opinion of the accident investigators as to the cause of, or the factors contributing to, the accident set forth in the accident investigation report may not be considered as evidence in such proceeding, nor may such report be considered an admission of liability by the United States or by any person referred to in such report.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Commandant shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) the term 'accident investigation' means any form of investigation by Coast Guard personnel of an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), other than a safety investigation; and

''(2) the term 'safety investigation' means an investigation by Coast Guard personnel of an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), that is conducted solely to determine the cause of the accident and to obtain information that may prevent the occurrence of similar accidents.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''678. Treatment of reports of aircraft accident investigations.''.

SEC. 206. ACQUISITION WORKFORCE EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY.

Section 404 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2950) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''as shortage category positions;'' and inserting ''as positions for which there exists a shortage of candidates or there is a critical hiring need;''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''paragraph'' and inserting ''section''; and

(B) by striking ''2012.'' and inserting ''2015.''.

SEC. 207. COAST GUARD HOUSING REPORT.

In conjunction with the transmittal by the President of the budget of the United States for fiscal year 2013, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of Coast Guard servicemember housing, including—

(1) a statement of the Coast Guard's housing needs requirements;

(2) an assessment of the condition of the Coast Guard's current housing inventory, including both leased and owned property;

(3) an assessment of housing available for Coast Guard use from surrounding communities and other government agencies for all duty stations;

(4) a list of housing capacity shortfalls and excess; and

(5) a revised prioritized list of housing maintenance and recapitalization projects.

SEC. 208. ADVANCE PROCUREMENT FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 577. Advance procurement funding

''With respect to any Coast Guard vessel for which amounts are appropriated or otherwise made available for vessels for the Coast Guard in any fiscal year, the Commandant, subject to section 569a, may enter into a contract or place an order, in advance of a contract or order for construction of a vessel, for—

''(1) materials, parts, components, and labor for the vessel;

''(2) the advance construction of parts or components for the vessel;

''(3) protection and storage of materials, parts, or components for the vessel; and

''(4) production planning, design, and other related support services that reduce the overall procurement lead time of the vessel.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following:

''577. Advance procurement funding.''.

TITLE III—COAST GUARD REFORM

SEC. 301. REPEALS.

(a) DISTRICT OMBUDSMAN.—Section 55 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 3 of such title, are repealed.

(b) FAA AIR AIDS TO NAVIGATION.—Section 82 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 5 of such title, are repealed.

(c) OCEAN STATIONS.—Section 90 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 5 of such title, are repealed.

(d) DETAIL OF MEMBERS TO ASSIST FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—Section 149(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the second and third sentences.

(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 193 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 9 of such title, are repealed.

(f) HISTORY FELLOWSHIPS.—Section 198 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 9 of such title, are repealed.

(g) ACQUISITION AWARDS.—Section 563 of title 14, United States Code, and the item relating to such section in the analysis for chapter 15 of such title, are repealed.

SEC. 302. INTERFERENCE WITH COAST GUARD TRANSMISSIONS.

Section 88 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding the following:

''(e) An individual who knowingly and willfully operates a device that interferes with the broadcast or reception of a radio, microwave, or other signal (including a signal from a global positioning system) transmitted, retransmitted, or augmented by the Coast Guard for the purpose of maritime safety is—

''(1) guilty of a class E felony; and

''(2) subject to civil penalty of not more than $1,000 per day for each violation.''.

SEC. 303. NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 569a. National security cutters

''(a) SIXTH NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTER.—The Commandant may not begin production of a sixth national security cutter on any date before which the Commandant—

''(1) has acquired a sufficient number of Long Range Interceptor II and Cutter Boat Over the Horizon IV small boats for each of the first three national security cutters and has submitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a plan to provide such boats upon the date of delivery of each subsequent national security cutter;

''(2) has achieved the goal of 225 days away from homeport for each of the first two national security cutters; and

''(3) has submitted to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a program execution plan detailing increased aerial coverage to support national security cutter operations.

''(b) SEVENTH NATIONAL SECURITY CUTTER.—The Commandant may not begin production of a seventh national security cutter on any date before which the Commandant has selected an offshore patrol cutter that meets at least the minimum operational requirements set out in the Operational Requirements Document approved by the department in which the Coast Guard is operating on October 20, 2010.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following:

''569a. National security cutters.''.

SEC. 304. MAJOR ACQUISITIONS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 569b. Major acquisitions report

''(a) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—In conjunction with the transmittal by the President of the budget of the United States for fiscal year 2013 and every two fiscal years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of all major acquisition programs.

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED.—The report shall include for each major acquisition program—

''(1) a statement of Coast Guard's mission needs and performance goals for such program, including a justification for any change to those needs and goals from any report previously submitted under this subsection;

''(2) a justification for how the projected number and capabilities of each planned acquisition program asset meets those mission needs and performance goals;

''(3) an identification of any and all mission hour gaps, accompanied by an explanation on how and when the Coast Guard will close those gaps;

''(4) an identification of any changes to such program, including—

''(A) any changes to the timeline for the acquisition of each new asset and the phase out of legacy assets; and

''(B) any changes to the costs of new assets and legacy assets for that fiscal year, future fiscal years, or the total acquisition cost;

''(5) a justification for how any change to such program fulfills the mission needs and performance goals of the Coast Guard;

''(6) a description of how the Coast Guard is planning for the integration of each new asset acquired under such program into the Coast Guard, including needs related to shore-based infrastructure and human resources;

''(7) an identification of how funds in that fiscal year's budget request will be allocated, including information on the purchase of specific assets;

''(8) a projection of the remaining operational lifespan and lifecycle cost of each legacy asset that also identifies any anticipated resource gaps;

''(9) a detailed explanation of how the costs of the legacy assets are being accounted for within such program;

''(10) an annual performance comparison of new assets to legacy assets; and

''(11) an identification of the scope of the anticipated acquisitions workload for the next fiscal year; the number of officers, members, and employees of the Coast Guard currently assigned to positions in the acquisition workforce; and a determination on the adequacy of the current acquisition workforce to meet that anticipated workload, including the specific positions that are or will be understaffed, and actions that will be taken to correct such understaffing.

''(c) CUTTERS NOT MAINTAINED IN CLASS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall identify which, if any, Coast Guard cutters that have been issued a certificate of classification by the American Bureau of Shipping have not been maintained in class with an explanation detailing the reasons why they have not been maintained in class.

''(d) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'major acquisition program' means an ongoing acquisition undertaken by the Coast Guard with a life-cycle cost estimate greater than or equal to $300,000,000.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following:

''569b. Major acquisitions report.''.

(c) REPEAL.—

(1) Section 408 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (120 Stat. 537) is amended by striking subsection (a).

(2) Title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 562, by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(B) in section 573(c)(3), by striking subparagraph (B).

SEC. 305. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION BACKLOG.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 693 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 693. Annual report to Congress

''The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate the prioritized list of projects eligible for environmental compliance and restoration funding for each fiscal year concurrent with the President's budget submission for that fiscal year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 19 of such title is amended by striking the item for such section and inserting the following:

''693. Annual report to Congress.''.

SEC. 306. COAST GUARD AUXILIARIST ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY.

Section 823 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking ''citizens of the United

States and its territories and possessions,'' and inserting ''nationals of the United States (as such term is defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)) and aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as such term is defined in section 101(a)(20) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(20))),''.

SEC. 307. DECOMMISSIONINGS.

(a) POLAR SEA.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall decommission the USCGC POLAR SEA (WAGB 11).

(b) POLAR STAR.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall decommission the USCGC POLAR STAR (WAGB 10).

SEC. 308. ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS FOR ADDITIONAL COAST GUARD PRESENCE IN HIGH LATITUDE REGIONS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives assessing the need for additional Coast Guard prevention and response capability in the high latitude regions. The assessment shall address needs for all Coast Guard mission areas, including search and rescue, marine pollution response and prevention, fisheries enforcement, and maritime commerce. The Secretary shall include in the report—

(1) an assessment of the high latitude operating capabilities of all current Coast Guard assets other than icebreakers, including assets acquired under the Deepwater program;

(2) an assessment of projected needs for Coast Guard operations in the high latitude regions; and

(3) an assessment of shore infrastructure, personnel, logistics, communications, and resources requirements to support Coast Guard operations in the high latitude regions, including forward operating bases and existing infrastructure in the furthest north locations that are ice free, or nearly ice free, year round.

SEC. 309. LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.

Section 149(d) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The amount of funds used under this subsection may not exceed $100,000 in any fiscal year.''.

SEC. 310. RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF AIRCRAFT.

(a) RESTRICTION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating and the Commandant of the Coast Guard may not travel aboard any Coast Guard owned or operated fixed-wing aircraft if the Secretary has not provided the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate all of the following:

(1) A cost-constrained Fleet Mix Analysis.

(2) The study of Coast Guard current and planned cutters conducted by the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation of the Department of Homeland Security at the request of the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary and the Commandant may travel aboard a Coast Guard owned and operated fixed-wing aircraft—

(1) to respond to a major disaster or emergency declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170);

(2) to respond to a discharge classified as a spill of national significance under part 300.323 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(3) for evacuation purposes including for a medical emergency.

TITLE IV—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION

SEC. 401. COMMITTEE ON THE MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 555 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 55502. Committee on the Marine Transportation System

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Committee on the Marine Transportation System (in this section referred to as the 'Committee').

''(b) PURPOSE.—The Committee shall—

''(1) assess the adequacy of the marine transportation system (including ports, waterways, channels, and their intermodal connections);

''(2) develop and implement policies to promote an efficient marine transportation system; and

''(3) coordinate policies among Federal agencies to promote an efficient marine transportation system.

''(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall consist of the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Energy, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, and the head of any other Federal agency that the Committee Chair, with the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Committee, determines can further the purpose and activities of the Committee.

''(2) EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Committee may also consist of so many nonvoting members as the Committee Chair, with the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Committee, determines is appropriate to further the purpose and activities of the Committee.

''(3) CHAIRMAN.—The Chair of the Committee shall rotate each year among the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Commerce. The order of rotation shall be determined with the approval of a majority of the voting members of the Committee.

''(d) SUPPORT.—

''(1) COORDINATING BOARD.—Each member of the Committee may select a senior level representative to serve on a coordinating board which shall assist the Committee in carrying out its purpose and activities.

''(2) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall select an executive director to assist the Committee in carrying out its purpose and activities.

''(e) MARINE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Committee shall provide a report to Congress which includes—

''(1) steps taken to implement actions recommended in the July 2008 'National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System: A Framework for Action';

''(2) an assessment of the condition of the marine transportation system;

''(3) a discussion of the challenges the system faces in meeting user demand;

''(4) a plan with recommended actions for improving the marine transportation system to meet current and future challenges; and

''(5) steps taken to implement actions recommended in previous reports required under this subsection.

''(f) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out its purpose and activities, the Committee may consult with the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council, interested parties, and the public.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 55501 the following:

''55502. Committee on the Marine Transportation System.''.

SEC. 402. REPORT ON DETERMINATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on—

(1) the loss of United States shipyard jobs and industrial base expertise as a result of rebuild, conversion, and double-hull work on United States-flag vessels eligible to engage in the coastwise trade being performed in foreign shipyards;

(2) enforcement of the Coast Guard's foreign rebuild determination regulations; and

(3) recommendations for improving the transparency in the Coast Guard's foreign rebuild determination process.

SEC. 403. DOCKSIDE EXAMINATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4502(f) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) by striking ''at least once every 2 years'' and inserting ''at least once every 5 years'';

(2) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) shall complete the first examination of a dockside vessel under this section no later than October 15, 2015.''.

(b) DATABASE.—Section 4502(g)(4) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''a publicly accessible'' and inserting ''an''.

SEC. 404. RECOURSE FOR NONCITIZENS.

Section 30104 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before the first sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) RESTRICTION ON RECOVERY FOR NONRESIDENT ALIENS EMPLOYED ON FOREIGN PASSENGER VESSELS.—A claim for damages or expenses relating to personal injury, illness, or death of a seaman who is a citizen of a foreign nation, arising during or from the engagement of the seaman by or for a passenger vessel duly registered under the laws of a foreign nation, may not be brought under the laws of the United States if—

''(1) such seaman was not a permanent resident alien of the United States at the time the claim arose;

''(2) the injury, illness, or death arose outside the territorial waters of the United States; and

''(3) the seaman or the seaman's personal representative has or had a right to seek compensation for the injury, illness, or death in, or under the laws of—

''(A) the nation in which the vessel was registered at the time the claim arose; or

''(B) the nation in which the seaman maintained citizenship or residency at the time the claim arose.''.

SEC. 405. MARITIME LIENS ON FISHING PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 313 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 31310. Limitation on maritime liens on fishing permit and permit description

''(a) IN GENERAL.—This chapter—

''(1) does not establish a maritime lien on a permit that—

''(A) authorizes a person or use of a vessel to engage in fishing; and

''(B) is issued under State or Federal law; and

''(2) does not authorize any civil action to enforce a maritime lien on such a permit.

''(b) FISHING PERMIT DESCRIBED.—A fishing permit—

''(1) is governed solely by the State or Federal law under which it was issued; and

''(2) is not included in the whole of a vessel or as an appurtenance or intangible of a vessel for any purpose.

''(c) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsections (a) and (b) shall be construed as imposing any limitation upon the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to modify, suspend, revoke, or sanction any Federal fishery permit issued by the Secretary of Commerce or to bring a civil action to enforce such modification, suspension, revocation, or sanction.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 31309 the following:

''31310. Limitation on maritime liens on fishing permit and permit description.''.

SEC. 406. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION.

(a) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM AND PROJECTS; REAUTHORIZATION; TERMINATION.—Section 55601 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''landside congestion.'' and inserting ''landside congestion and to promote increased use of the navigable waters of the United States for transportation of passengers or freight (or both).'';

(2) in subsection (c), by inserting ''and to promote waterborne transportation between ports within the United States'' after ''coastal corridors'';

(3) in subsection (d), by striking ''that the project may—'' and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting ''that the project uses documented vessels and—

''(1) mitigates landside congestion; or

''(2) promotes waterborne transportation between ports of the United States.'';

(4) by striking subsection (f) and redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f);

(5) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by adding at the end the following—

''(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated not more than $5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2012 through fiscal year 2017 for grants under this subsection.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Authority granted to the Secretary under this section shall terminate September 30, 2017.''.

(b) SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION DEFINITION.—Section 55605 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking ''means the carriage by vessel of cargo—'' and inserting ''means the carriage of passengers or freight (or both) by a vessel documented under the laws of the United States—''.

SEC. 407. MISSION OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.

Section 109(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking ''ORGANIZATION'' and inserting ''ORGANIZATION AND MISSION''; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following: ''The mission of the Maritime Administration is to foster, promote, and develop the domestic merchant maritime industry of the United States.''.

SEC. 408. LIMITATION ON LIABILITY FOR NON-FEDERAL VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE OPERATORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) COAST GUARD VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE PILOTS'' before ''Any pilot''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) NON-FEDERAL VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE OPERATORS.—An entity operating a non-Federal vessel traffic information service or advisory service pursuant to a duly executed written agreement with the Coast Guard, and any person acting in accordance with operational procedures approved by the Coast Guard at such a non-Federal service, shall not be liable for damages caused by or related to information, advice, or communication assistance provided by such entity or person while so operating or acting unless the acts or omissions of such entity or person constitute gross negligence or willful misconduct.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of chapter 23 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 2307 and inserting the following:

''2307. Limitation on liability for Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service pilots and non-Federal vessel traffic service operators.''.

TITLE V—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 501. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 501 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–293; 118 Stat. 1049) is amended by striking ''Commission—'' and all that follows through the period at the end of the section and inserting ''Commission for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2015, $24,000,000.''.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 601. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 14.—Title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 564, by striking subsection (d); and

(2) in section 569(a), by striking ''and annually thereafter,''.

(b) STUDY OF BRIDGES.—Section 905 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 3012) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 905. STUDY OF BRIDGES OVER NAVIGABLE WATERS.

''The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a comprehensive study on the construction or alteration of any bridge, drawbridge, or causeway over the navigable waters of the United States with a channel depth of 25 feet or greater that may impede or obstruct future navigation to or from port facilities, for which a permit under the Act of March 23, 1906 (chapter 1130; 33 U.S.C. 491 et seq.), popularly known as the Bridge Act of 1906, was requested on or after January 1, 2006 and on or before August 3, 2011.''.

SEC. 602. REPORT ON COAST GUARD MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL EVALUATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the Coast Guard National Maritime Center's merchant mariner medical evaluation program and alternatives to the program.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An overview of the adequacy of the program for making medical certification determinations for issuance of merchant mariners' documents.

(2) An analysis of how a system similar to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners program, and the Federal Aviation Administration's Designated Aviation Medical Examiners program, could be applied by the Coast Guard to make medical fitness determinations for issuance of merchant mariners' documents.

(3) An explanation of how the amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, 1978, that enter into force on January 1, 2012, will require changes to the Coast Guard's merchant mariner medical evaluation program.

SEC. 603. NOTICE OF ARRIVAL.

The regulations required under section 109(a) of Public Law 109–347 (33 U.S.C. 1223 note) on notice of arrival for foreign vessels on the Outer Continental Shelf shall not apply to a vessel documented under section 12105 of title 46, United States Code, unless such vessel arrives from a foreign port or place.

SEC. 604. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO TITLE 14.

Chapter 1 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 1—ESTABLISHMENT AND DUTIES

''§ 1. Establishment of Coast Guard

''The Coast Guard shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times.

''§ 2. Primary duties

''The Coast Guard shall—

''(1) enforce or assist in the enforcement of all applicable Federal laws on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

''(2) engage in maritime air surveillance or interdiction to enforce or assist in the enforcement of the laws of the United States;

''(3) administer laws and promulgate and enforce regulations for the promotion of safety of life and property on and under the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States covering all matters not specifically delegated by law to some other executive department;

''(4) develop, establish, maintain, and operate, with due regard to the requirements of national defense, aids to maritime navigation, ice-breaking facilities, and rescue facilities for the promotion of safety on, under, and over the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

''(5) pursuant to international agreements, develop, establish, maintain, and operate icebreaking facilities on, under, and over waters other than the high seas and waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;

''(6) engage in oceanographic research of the high seas and in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; and

''(7) maintain a state of readiness to function as a specialized service in the Navy in time of war, including the fulfillment of Maritime Defense Zone command responsibilities.

''§ 3. Department in which the Coast Guard operates

''(a) The Coast Guard shall be a service in the Department of Homeland Security, except when operating as a service in the Navy.

''(b) Upon the declaration of war if Congress so directs in the declaration or when the President directs, the Coast Guard shall operate as a service in the Navy, and shall so continue until the President, by Executive order, transfers the Coast Guard back to the Department of Homeland Security. While operating as a service in the Navy, the Coast Guard shall be subject to the orders of the Secretary of the Navy, who may order changes in Coast Guard operations to render them uniform, to the extent such Secretary deems advisable, with Navy operations.

''(c) Whenever the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Navy:

''(1) applicable appropriations of the Navy Department shall be available for the expense of the Coast Guard;

''(2) applicable appropriations of the Coast Guard shall be available for transfer to the Navy Department;

''(3) precedence between commissioned officers of corresponding grades in the Coast Guard and the Navy shall be determined by the date of rank stated by their commissions in those grades;

''(4) personnel of the Coast Guard shall be eligible to receive gratuities, medals, and other insignia of honor on the same basis as personnel in the naval service or serving in any capacity with the Navy; and

''(5) the Secretary may place on furlough any officer of the Coast Guard and officers on furlough shall receive one half of the pay to which they would be entitled if on leave of absence, but officers of the Coast Guard Reserve shall not be so placed on furlough.

''§ 4. Secretary defined

''In this title, the term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the respective department in which the Coast Guard is operating.''.

SEC. 605. DISTANT WATER TUNA FLEET.

Section 421 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–241; 120 Stat. 548) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) LICENSING RESTRICTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(1) only applies to a foreign citizen that holds a credential that is equivalent to the credential issued by the Coast Guard to a United States citizen for the position, with respect to requirements for experience, training, and other qualifications.

''(2) TREATMENT OF LICENSE.—An equivalent credential under paragraph (1) shall be considered as meeting the requirements of section 8304 of title 46, United States Code, but only while a person holding the credential is in the service of the vessel to which this section applies.''; and

(2) in subsection (d) by striking ''on December 31, 2012'' and inserting ''on the date the Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America ceases to have effect for any party under Article 12.6 or 12.7 of such treaty, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011''.

SEC. 606. WAIVERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for each of the following vessels:

(1) M/V GEYSIR (United States official number 622178).

(2) MACY-RENEE (United States official number 1107319)

(3) OCEAN VERITAS (IMO number 7366805).

(4) LUNA (United States official number 280133).

(5) IL MORO DI VENEZIA IV (United States official number 1028654)

(b) DOCUMENTATION OF LNG TANKERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for each of the following vessels:

(A) LNG GEMINI (United States official number 595752).

(B) LNG LEO (United States official number 595753).

(C) LNG VIRGO (United States official number 595755).

(2) LIMITATION ON OPERATION.—Coastwise trade authorized under paragraph (1) shall be limited to carriage of natural gas, as that term is defined in section 3(13) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1502(13)).

(3) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ENDORSEMENTS.—The coastwise endorsement issued under paragraph (1) for a vessel shall expire on the date of the sale of the vessel by the owner of the vessel on the date of enactment of this Act to a person who is not related by ownership or control to such owner.

(c) OPERATION OF A DRY DOCK.—A vessel transported in Dry Dock #2 (State of Alaska registration AIDEA FDD–2) is not merchandise for purposes of section 55102 of title 46, United States Code, if, during such transportation, Dry Dock #2 remains connected by a utility or other connecting line to pierside moorage.

SEC. 607. REPORT ON OPTIONS TO IMPROVE INTEGRATION OF U.S. COAST GUARD AND CANADIAN COAST GUARD GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKING OPERATIONAL INFORMATION.

Within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on options to improve the integration of the Great Lakes icebreaking operational information of the United States Coast Guard and Canadian Coast Guard to improve the safety, economic security, and efficiency of Great Lakes icebreaking activities of both services.

SEC. 608. STANDBY VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle VIII of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new chapter:

''CHAPTER 807—STANDBY VESSELS

''Sec.

''80701. Standby vessels.

''§ 80701. Standby vessels

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The owner or operator of a manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel shall locate a standby vessel—

''(1) not more than 3 nautical miles from such manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel while it is performing drilling, plugging, abandoning, or workover operations; and

''(2) not more than 12 nautical miles from such manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel while it is performing operations other than drilling, plugging, abandoning, or workover operations.

''(b) IMPROVED STANDBY VESSEL RESPONSE TIME.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Coast Guard District Commander may reduce the distances prescribed in subsection (a) for the area of command of the District Commander if the District Commander determines the reduction is necessary to address delays in standby vessel response times caused by inclement weather, high seas, or other conditions that prolong standby vessel response time or lessen the time survivors of an accident can remain in the water.

''(2) APPROXIMATION OF NORMAL RESPONSE TIME.—Any reduction under paragraph (1) shall be made to a distance that, in weather conditions necessitating the reduction, ensures that a standby vessel's response time approximates that of a standby vessel covering the distance prescribed in subsection (a) during normal weather conditions.

''(3) PREVENTION OF HYPOTHERMIA.—Any reduction under paragraph (1) made due to water temperature or other factors that reduce the time survivors of an accident can remain in the water shall be made to a distance at which a standby vessel can be assumed to reach the survivor before the onset of hypothermia.

''(4) NOTICE TO OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—Before exercising the authority in paragraph (1), a District Commander shall provide 72 hours notice to the owners and operators of standby vessels and owners and operators of manned facilities, installations, units, and vessels operating in the District Commander's area of command.

''(c) MULTIPLE PLATFORMS AND USES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit—

''(1) use of one standby vessel for more than one manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel; or

''(2) use of a standby vessel for other purposes.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of such subtitle is amended by adding at the end the following:

''807. Standby vessels ..... 80701''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may promulgate regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

(2) EXISTING REGULATIONS.—Until such time as the Secretary promulgates regulations to implement the amendments made by this section, the requirements of subpart E of part 143 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, including the requirements that must be met by a standby vessel, shall apply to standby vessels required under the amendments.

SEC. 609. CAP ON PENALTY WAGES.

(a) FOREIGN AND INTERCOASTAL VOYAGES.—Section 10313(g) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''all claims in a class action suit by seamen'' and inserting ''each claim by a seaman''; and

(B) by striking ''the seamen'' and inserting ''the seaman''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''class action''.

(b) COASTWISE VOYAGES.—Section 10504(c) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''all claims in a class action suit by seamen'' and inserting ''each claim by a seaman''; and

(B) by striking ''the seamen'' and inserting ''the seaman''; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''class action''.

SEC. 610. REPORT ON IMPEDIMENTS TO THE U.S.-FLAG REGISTRY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on factors under the authority of the Coast Guard that impact the ability of vessels documented in the United States to effectively compete in international transportation markets.

(b) CONTENT.—The report shall include—

(1) a review of differences in Coast Guard policies and regulations governing the inspection of vessels documented in the United States and the policies and regulations of the International Maritime Organization governing the inspection of vessels not documented in the United States;

(2) a statement on the impact such differences have on operating costs for vessels documented in the United States; and

(3) recommendations on whether to harmonize any differences in the policies and regulations governing inspection of vessels by the Coast Guard and the International Maritime Organization.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report, the Commandant may consider the views of representatives of the owners or operators of vessels documented in the United States and the organizations representing the employees employed on such vessels.

SEC. 611. REPORT ON DRUG INTERDICTION IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee

on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on drug interdiction in the Caribbean basin.

(b) CONTENT.—The report shall include—

(1) a statement of the Coast Guard mission requirements for drug interdiction in the Caribbean basin;

(2) the number of maritime surveillance hours and Coast Guard assets used in each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011 to counter the illicit trafficking of drugs and other related threats throughout the Caribbean basin; and

(3) a determination of whether such hours and assets satisfied the Coast Guard mission requirements for drug interdiction in the Caribbean basin.

TITLE VII—COMMERCIAL VESSEL DISCHARGES REFORM

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Commercial Vessel Discharges Reform Act of 2011''.

SEC. 702. DISCHARGES FROM COMMERCIAL VESSELS.

Title III of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 321. DISCHARGES FROM COMMERCIAL VESSELS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

''(1) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES.—The term 'aquatic nuisance species' means a nonindigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

''(2) BALLAST WATER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'ballast water' means any water (including any sediment suspended in such water) taken aboard a commercial vessel—

''(i) to control trim, list, draught, stability, or stresses of the vessel; or

''(ii) during the cleaning, maintenance, or other operation of a ballast water treatment system of the vessel.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'ballast water' does not include any pollutant that is added to water described in subparagraph (A) that is not directly related to the operation of a properly functioning ballast water treatment technology certified under subsection (e).

''(3) BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—The term 'ballast water performance standard' or 'performance standard' means a numerical ballast water performance standard specified under subsection (c) or established under subsection (d).

''(4) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM.—The term 'ballast water treatment system' means any equipment on board a commercial vessel (including all compartments, piping, spaces, tanks, and multi-use compartments, piping, spaces, and tanks) that is—

''(A) designed for loading, carrying, treating, or discharging ballast water; and

''(B) installed and operated to meet a ballast water performance standard.

''(5) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'ballast water treatment technology' or 'treatment technology' means any mechanical, physical, chemical, or biological process used, either singularly or in combination, to remove, render harmless, or avoid the uptake or discharge of aquatic nuisance species within ballast water.

''(6) BIOCIDE.—The term 'biocide' means a substance or organism, including a virus or fungus, that is introduced into, or produced by, a ballast water treatment technology as part of the process used to comply with a ballast water performance standard under this section.

''(7) COMMERCIAL VESSEL.—The term 'commercial vessel' means every description of watercraft, or other artificial contrivance used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, that is engaged in commercial service (as defined under section 2101 of title 46, United States Code).

''(8) CONSTRUCTED.—The term 'constructed' means a state of construction of a commercial vessel at which—

''(A) the keel is laid;

''(B) construction identifiable with the specific vessel begins;

''(C) assembly of the vessel has begun comprising at least 50 tons or 1 percent of the estimated mass of all structural material of the vessel, whichever is less; or

''(D) the vessel commences a major conversion.

''(9) DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A COMMERCIAL VESSEL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel' means—

''(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a commercial vessel of—

''(I)(aa) graywater (except graywater referred to in section 312(a)(6)), bilge water, cooling water, oil water separator effluent, anti-fouling hull coating leachate, boiler or economizer blowdown, byproducts from cathodic protection, controllable pitch propeller and thruster hydraulic fluid, distillation and reverse osmosis brine, elevator pit effluent, firemain system effluent, freshwater layup effluent, gas turbine wash water, motor gasoline and compensating effluent, refrigeration and air condensate effluent, seawater pumping biofouling prevention substances, boat engine wet exhaust, sonar dome effluent, exhaust gas scrubber washwater, or stern tube packing gland effluent; or

''(bb) any other pollutant associated with the operation of a marine propulsion system, shipboard maneuvering system, habitability system, or installed major equipment, or from a protective, preservative, or absorptive application to the hull of a commercial vessel;

''(II) weather deck runoff, deck wash, aqueous film forming foam effluent, chain locker effluent, non-oily machinery wastewater, underwater ship husbandry effluent, welldeck effluent, or fish hold and fish hold cleaning effluent; or

''(III) any effluent from a properly functioning marine engine; or

''(ii) a discharge of a pollutant into navigable waters in connection with the testing, maintenance, and repair of a system, equipment, or engine described in subclause (I)(bb) or (III) of clause (i) whenever the commercial vessel is waterborne.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel' does not include—

''(i) a discharge into navigable waters from a commercial vessel of—

''(I) ballast water;

''(II) rubbish, trash, garbage, incinerator ash, or other such material discharged overboard;

''(III) oil or a hazardous substance within the meaning of section 311; or

''(IV) sewage within the meaning of section 312; or

''(ii) an emission of an air pollutant resulting from the operation onboard a commercial vessel of a vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator.

''(10) EXISTING COMMERCIAL VESSEL.—The term 'existing commercial vessel' means a commercial vessel constructed prior to January 1, 2012.

''(11) GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREA.—The term 'geographically limited area' means an area—

''(A) with a physical limitation that prevents a commercial vessel from operating outside the area, as determined by the Secretary; or

''(B) that is ecologically homogeneous, as determined by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary.

''(12) MAJOR CONVERSION.—The term 'major conversion' means a conversion of a commercial vessel that—

''(A) changes its ballast water capacity by 15 percent or more; or

''(B) prolongs the life of the commercial vessel by 10 years or more, as determined by the Secretary.

''(13) MANUFACTURER.—The term 'manufacturer' means a person engaged in the manufacturing, assembling, or importation of a ballast water treatment technology.

''(14) NAVIGABLE WATERS.—The term 'navigable waters' includes the exclusive economic zone, as defined in section 107 of title 46, United States Code.

''(15) NONINDIGENOUS SPECIES.—The term 'nonindigenous species' means a species or other viable biological material that enters an ecosystem beyond its historic range.

''(16) OWNER OR OPERATOR.—The term 'owner or operator' means a person owning, operating, or chartering by demise a commercial vessel.

''(17) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

''(18) VESSEL GENERAL PERMIT.—The term 'Vessel General Permit' means the Vessel General Permit for Discharges Incidental to the Normal Operation of Vessels issued by the Administrator under section 402 for ballast water and other discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels, as in effect on December 19, 2008, for all jurisdictions except Alaska and Hawaii, and February 6, 2009, for Alaska and Hawaii.

''(b) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

''(1) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS.—An owner or operator may discharge ballast water from a commercial vessel into navigable waters only if—

''(A) the discharge—

''(i) meets the ballast water performance standard;

''(ii) is made pursuant to the safety exemption established by subsection (c)(2);

''(iii) meets the requirements of an alternative method of compliance established for the commercial vessel under subsection (f); or

''(iv) is made pursuant to a determination that the commercial vessel meets the requirements relating to geographically limited areas under subsection (g); and

''(B) the owner or operator discharges the ballast water in accordance with a ballast water management plan approved under subsection (i).

''(2) APPLICABILITY.—

''(A) COVERED VESSELS.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to the owner or operator of a commercial vessel that is designed, constructed, or adapted to carry ballast water if the commercial vessel is—

''(i) documented under the laws of the United States; or

''(ii) operating in navigable waters on a voyage to or from a point in the United States.

''(B) EXEMPTED VESSELS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the owner or operator of—

''(i) a commercial vessel that carries all of its ballast water in sealed tanks that are not subject to discharge;

''(ii) a commercial vessel that continuously takes on and discharges ballast water in a flow-through system;

''(iii) any vessel in the National Defense Reserve Fleet that is scheduled to be disposed of through scrapping or sinking;

''(iv) a commercial vessel that discharges ballast water consisting solely of water—

''(I) taken aboard from a municipal or commercial source; and

''(II) that, at the time the water is taken aboard, meets the applicable regulations or permit requirements for such source under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and section 402 of this Act; or

''(v) a commercial vessel that is 3 years or fewer from the end of its useful life, as determined by the Secretary, on the date on which

the regulations issued under paragraph (3) become effective for the vessel pursuant to the implementation schedule issued under paragraph (3)(B).

''(C) LIMITATION.—An exemption under subparagraph (B)(v) shall cease to be effective on the date that is 3 years after the date on which the regulations under paragraph (3) become effective for the commercial vessel pursuant to the implementation schedule issued under paragraph (3)(B).

''(3) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue final regulations to implement the requirements of this section.

''(B) PROPOSED RULE.—For the purposes of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, the proposed rulemaking published by the Coast Guard on August 28, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 44632; relating to standards for living organisms in ships' ballast water discharged in U.S. waters), shall serve as a proposed rule for the purposes of issuing regulations under this section.

''(4) COMPLIANCE SCHEDULES.—

''(A) INITIAL PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator shall comply with the performance standard established under subsection (c) on or before the deadline that applies to the commercial vessel of the owner or operator, as specified in clause (ii).

''(ii) DEADLINES.—The deadlines for compliance with the performance standard established under subsection (c) are as follows:

''(I) For a commercial vessel constructed on or after January 1, 2012, the date of delivery of the vessel.

''(II) For an existing commercial vessel with a ballast water capacity of less than 1,500 cubic meters, the date of the first drydocking of the vessel after January 1, 2016.

''(III) For an existing commercial vessel with a ballast water capacity of at least 1,500 cubic meters but not more than 5,000 cubic meters, the date of the first drydocking of the vessel after January 1, 2014.

''(IV) For an existing commercial vessel with a ballast water capacity of greater than 5,000 cubic meters, the date of the first drydocking of the vessel after January 1, 2016.

''(iii) REGULATIONS.—In issuing regulations under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall include a compliance schedule that sets forth the deadlines specified in clause (ii).

''(B) REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARD COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon revision of a performance standard under subsection (d), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a compliance schedule that establishes deadlines for an owner or operator to comply with the revised performance standard.

''(ii) FACTORS.—In issuing a compliance schedule under this subparagraph, the Secretary—

''(I) shall consider the factors identified in subparagraph (C)(iv); and

''(II) may establish different compliance deadlines based on vessel class, type, or size.

''(iii) VESSELS CONSTRUCTED AFTER ISSUANCE OF REVISED PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—A compliance schedule issued under this subparagraph with respect to a revised performance standard shall require, at a minimum, the owner or operator of a commercial vessel that commences a major conversion or is constructed on or after the date of issuance of the revised performance standard to comply with the revised performance standard.

''(C) EXTENSION OF COMPLIANCE DEADLINES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may extend a compliance deadline established under subparagraph (A) or (B) on the Secretary's own initiative or in response to a petition submitted by an owner or operator.

''(ii) PROCESSES FOR GRANTING EXTENSIONS.—In issuing regulations under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall establish—

''(I) a process for the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, to issue an extension of a compliance deadline established under subparagraph (A) or (B) for a commercial vessel (or class, type, or size of vessel); and

''(II) a process for an owner or operator to submit a petition to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline established under subparagraph (A) or (B) with respect to the commercial vessel of the owner or operator.

''(iii) PERIOD OF EXTENSIONS.—An extension issued under this subparagraph shall—

''(I) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months; and

''(II) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

''(iv) FACTORS.—In issuing an extension or reviewing a petition under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

''(I) Whether the treatment technology to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline.

''(II) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity.

''(III) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering and design resources.

''(IV) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping.

''(V) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

''(VI) Safety of the vessel and crew.

''(v) CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS.—

''(I) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this subparagraph.

''(II) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in subclause (I) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

''(c) BALLAST WATER PERFORMANCE STANDARD FOR COMMERCIAL VESSELS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To meet the ballast water performance standard, an owner or operator shall—

''(A) conduct ballast water treatment before discharging ballast water from a commercial vessel into navigable waters using a ballast water treatment technology certified for the vessel (or class, type, or size of vessel) under subsection (e); and

''(B) ensure that any ballast water so discharged meets, at a minimum, the numerical ballast water performance standard set forth in the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, as adopted on February 13, 2004, or a revised numerical ballast water performance standard established under subsection (d).

''(2) SAFETY EXEMPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an owner or operator may discharge ballast water without regard to a ballast water performance standard if—

''(A) the discharge is done solely to ensure the safety of life at sea;

''(B) the discharge is accidental and the result of damage to the commercial vessel or its equipment and—

''(i) all reasonable precautions to prevent or minimize the discharge have been taken; and

''(ii) the owner or operator did not willfully or recklessly cause such damage; or

''(C) the discharge is solely for the purpose of avoiding or minimizing discharge from the vessel of pollution that would otherwise violate an applicable Federal or State law.

''(d) REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2016, and every 10 years thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall complete a review to determine whether revising the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the review, the Administrator shall consider—

''(A) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species;

''(B) improvements in ballast water treatment technology, including—

''(i) the capability of such technology to achieve a revised ballast water performance standard;

''(ii) the effectiveness and reliability of such technology in the shipboard environment;

''(iii) the compatibility of such technology with the design and operation of commercial vessels by class, type, and size;

''(iv) the commercial availability of such technology; and

''(v) the safety of such technology;

''(C) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of aquatic nuisance species at the concentrations under consideration;

''(D) the impact of ballast water treatment technology on water quality; and

''(E) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

''(i) a revised ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment; and

''(ii) maintaining the existing ballast water performance standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, the propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

''(3) REVISION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARD.—

''(A) RULEMAKING.—If, pursuant to a review conducted under paragraph (1), the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, determines that revising the ballast water performance standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, the Administrator shall undertake a rulemaking to revise the performance standard.

''(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The Administrator may not issue a revised performance standard pursuant to this paragraph that applies to a commercial vessel constructed prior to the date on which the revised performance standard is issued unless the revised performance standard is at least 2 orders of magnitude more stringent than the performance standard in effect on the date that the review is completed.

''(4) STATE PETITION FOR REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of a State may submit a petition requesting that the Administrator review a ballast water performance standard if there is significant new information that could reasonably indicate the performance standard could be revised to result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

''(B) TIMING.—A Governor may not submit a petition under subparagraph (A) during the 1-year period following the date of completion of a review under paragraph (1).

''(C) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—A petition submitted to the Administrator under subparagraph (A) shall include the scientific and technical information on which the petition is based.

''(D) REVIEW AND REPORTING.—Upon receipt of a petition from a Governor under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall make publicly available a copy of the petition, including the scientific and technical information provided by the Governor under subparagraph (C).

''(E) REVIEW AND REVISION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If, after receiving a petition submitted by a Governor under subparagraph (A) for review of a performance standard, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, determines that the petition warrants additional action, the Administrator may—

''(I) in consultation with the Secretary, initiate a review of the performance standard under paragraph (1); and

''(II) in consultation with the Secretary, revise the performance standard through a rulemaking under paragraph (3)(A), subject to the limitation in paragraph (3)(B).

''(ii) TREATMENT OF MORE THAN ONE PETITION AS A SINGLE PETITION.—The Administrator may treat more than one petition as a single petition for review.

''(e) TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

''(i) EVALUATION.—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water treatment technology with respect to—

''(I) whether the treatment technology meets the ballast water performance standard when installed on a commercial vessel (or a class, type, or size of commercial vessel);

''(II) the effect of the treatment technology on commercial vessel safety; and

''(III) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(ii) CERTIFICATION.—If, after conducting the evaluation required by clause (i), the Secretary determines the treatment technology meets the criteria established under such clause, the Secretary may certify the treatment technology for use on a commercial vessel (or a class, type, or size of commercial vessel).

''(iii) SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall, by regulation, establish a process to suspend or revoke a certification issued under this subparagraph.

''(B) CERTIFICATES OF TYPE APPROVAL.—

''(i) ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES TO MANUFACTURER.—If the Secretary certifies a ballast water treatment technology under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall issue to the manufacturer of the treatment technology, in such form and manner as the Secretary determines appropriate, a certificate of type approval for the treatment technology.

''(ii) CONDITIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN CERTIFICATES.—A certificate of type approval issued under clause (i) shall include any conditions that are imposed by the Secretary under paragraph (2).

''(iii) ISSUANCE OF COPIES OF CERTIFICATES TO OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—A manufacturer that receives a certificate of type approval under clause (i) for a ballast water treatment technology shall furnish a copy of the certificate to any owner or operator of a commercial vessel on which the treatment technology is installed.

''(iv) INSPECTIONS.—An owner or operator who receives a copy of a certificate under clause (iii) for a ballast water treatment technology installed on a commercial vessel shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the commercial vessel and make the copy of the certificate available for inspection at all times that such owner or operator is utilizing the treatment technology.

''(C) TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES THAT USE OR GENERATE BIOCIDES.—The Secretary may not certify a ballast water treatment technology that—

''(i) uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is a 'pesticide', as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136), unless the biocide is registered under such Act or the Administrator has approved the use of such biocide in such treatment technology; or

''(ii) uses or generates a biocide the discharge of which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard under section 303 of this Act.

''(D) PROHIBITION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by clause (ii), an owner or operator may not use a ballast water treatment technology to comply with the requirements of this section unless the Secretary has certified the treatment technology under subparagraph (A).

''(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(I) COAST GUARD SHIPBOARD TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION PROGRAM.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology is being evaluated under the Coast Guard Shipboard Technology Evaluation Program.

''(II) BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES CERTIFIED BY FOREIGN ENTITIES.—An owner or operator may use a ballast water treatment technology that has not been certified by the Secretary to comply with the requirements of this section if the technology has been certified by a foreign entity and the certification demonstrates performance and safety of the treatment technology equivalent to the requirements of this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.

''(2) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—

''(A) IMPOSITION OF CONDITIONS.—In certifying a ballast water treatment technology under this subsection, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, may impose any condition on the subsequent installation, use, or maintenance of the treatment technology onboard a commercial vessel as is necessary for—

''(i) the safety of the vessel, the crew of the vessel, and any passengers aboard the vessel;

''(ii) the protection of the environment; and

''(iii) the effective operation of the treatment technology.

''(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—The failure of an owner or operator to comply with a condition imposed under subparagraph (A) is a violation of this section.

''(3) USE OF BALLAST WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES ONCE INSTALLED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an owner or operator who installs a ballast water treatment technology that the Secretary has certified under paragraph (1) may use the treatment technology, notwithstanding any revisions to a ballast water performance standard occurring after the installation so long as the owner or operator—

''(i) maintains the treatment technology in proper working condition; and

''(ii) maintains and uses the treatment technology in accordance with—

''(I) the manufacturer's specifications; and

''(II) any conditions imposed by the Secretary under paragraph (2).

''(B) LIMITATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall cease to apply with respect to a commercial vessel after the first to occur of the following:

''(i) The expiration of the service life of the ballast water treatment technology of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary.

''(ii) The expiration of service life of the vessel, as determined by the Secretary.

''(iii) The completion of a major conversion of the vessel.

''(4) TESTING PROTOCOLS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue guidelines specifying land-based and shipboard testing protocols or criteria for—

''(A) certifying the performance of ballast water treatment technologies under this subsection; and

''(B) certifying laboratories to evaluate such treatment technologies.

''(5) PROHIBITION.—Following the date on which the requirements of subsection (b)(1) apply with respect to a commercial vessel pursuant to the implementation schedule issued under subsection (b)(3)(B), no manufacturer of a ballast water treatment technology shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water treatment technology for the commercial vessel unless the technology has been certified under this subsection.

''(f) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish an alternative method of compliance with this section for a commercial vessel having a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters.

''(2) FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION.—In establishing an alternative method of compliance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider—

''(A) the effectiveness of the alternative method in reducing the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species relative to the performance standard; and

''(B) any other factor the Secretary considers appropriate.

''(3) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—The Secretary may establish as an alternative method of compliance appropriate ballast water best management practices to minimize the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

''(g) GEOGRAPHICALLY LIMITED AREAS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (c), (e), and (i) shall not apply to a commercial vessel that—

''(A) operates exclusively within a geographically limited area, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator; or

''(B) operates pursuant to a geographic restriction issued for the commercial vessel under section 3309 of title 46, United States Code.

''(2) PETITION FOR DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

''(A) SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS.—Following the date of issuance of final regulations under subsection (b), an owner or operator may petition the Secretary for a determination under paragraph (1).

''(B) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition submitted by an owner or operator under subparagraph (A).

''(C) DEADLINE.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition submitted by an owner or operator under subparagraph (A) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

''(3) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify the Administrator and the Governor of each State the waters of which could be affected by the discharge of ballast water from a commercial vessel for which a petition has been granted under paragraph (2) of the granting of any such petition.

''(4) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—For a commercial vessel for which a petition is granted under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall require the owner or operator to implement appropriate ballast water best management practices to minimize the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

''(h) RECEPTION FACILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator shall discharge ballast water in compliance with subsection (c) or (f) unless discharging ballast water into—

''(A) an onshore facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards issued by the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary; or

''(B) an offshore facility for the reception of ballast water that meets standards issued by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator.

''(2) ISSUANCE OF STANDARDS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section—

''(A) the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall issue the standards referred to in paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue the standards referred to in paragraph (1)(B).

''(3) SOLE METHOD OF DISCHARGE.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, and upon petition by an owner or operator, may issue to an owner or operator a certificate stating that a commercial vessel is in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b)(1)(A) if discharging ballast water into a facility meeting the standards issued under this subsection is the sole method by which the owner or operator discharges ballast water from the commercial vessel.

''(4) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS.—An owner or operator discharging ballast water under this subsection shall discharge such water in accordance with a ballast water management plan approved under subsection (i).

''(i) COMMERCIAL VESSEL BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An owner or operator shall discharge ballast water in accordance with a ballast water management plan that—

''(A) meets requirements prescribed by the Secretary; and

''(B) is approved by the Secretary.

''(2) FOREIGN COMMERCIAL VESSELS.—The Secretary may approve a ballast water management plan for a foreign commercial vessel on the basis of a certificate of compliance issued by the country of registration of the commercial vessel if the requirements of the government of that country for a ballast water management plan are substantially equivalent to regulations issued by the Secretary.

''(3) RECORDKEEPING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subparagraph (B), an owner or operator shall maintain in English and have available for inspection by the Secretary a ballast water record book in which each operation of the commercial vessel involving a ballast water discharge is recorded in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

''(B) ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF RECORDKEEPING.—The Secretary may provide for alternative methods of recordkeeping, including electronic recordkeeping, to comply with the requirements of this paragraph.

''(j) REGULATION OF BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—Effective on and after the date of enactment of this section—

''(1) the Administrator (or a State in the case of a permit program approved under section 402) shall not require any new permit or permit condition under section 402 for any discharge of ballast water from a commercial vessel into navigable waters; and

''(2) except as provided by subsection (k), a State or political subdivision thereof shall not adopt or enforce any law or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to such a discharge.

''(k) STATE AUTHORITY.—

''(1) STATE PROGRAMS.—The Governor of a State desiring to administer its own inspection and enforcement authority for ballast water discharges within its jurisdiction may submit to the Secretary a complete description of the program the Governor proposes to establish and administer under State law. In addition, the Governor shall submit a statement from the State attorney general that the laws of the State provide adequate authority to carry out the described program.

''(2) APPROVAL.—The Secretary, with the concurrence of the Administrator, may approve a program of a State submitted under paragraph (1) providing for the State's own inspection and enforcement authority for ballast water discharges within its jurisdiction, if the Secretary determines that the State possesses adequate resources to—

''(A) inspect, monitor, and board a commercial vessel at any time, including the taking and testing of ballast water samples, to ensure the commercial vessel's compliance with this section;

''(B) ensure that any ballast water discharged within the waters subject to the jurisdiction of the State meets the requirements of this section;

''(C) establish adequate procedures for reporting violations of this section;

''(D) investigate and abate violations of this section, including the imposition of civil and criminal penalties consistent with subsection (o); and

''(E) ensure that the Secretary and the Administrator receive notice of each violation of this section in an expeditious manner.

''(3) COMPLIANCE.—Any State program approved under paragraph (2) shall at all times be conducted in accordance with this subsection.

''(4) WITHDRAWAL OF APPROVAL.—Whenever the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines, after providing notice and the opportunity for a public hearing, that a State is not administering a program in accordance with the terms of the program as approved under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall notify the State, and, if appropriate corrective action is not taken within a period of time not to exceed 90 days, the Secretary, with the concurrence of the Administrator, shall withdraw approval of the program. The Secretary shall not withdraw approval of a program unless the Secretary has first notified the State and made public, in writing, the reasons for the withdrawal.

''(5) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the Administrator or the Secretary to carry out inspections of any commercial vessel under subsection (n).

''(6) STATE LAWS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a State may enact such laws as are necessary to provide for the implementation of the State ballast water inspection and enforcement program provided under this subsection. The requirements for a ballast water inspection and enforcement program contained in such State law shall be substantively and procedurally equivalent to those required in this section, and any requirements relating to recordkeeping, reporting, and sampling or analysis contained in such State law shall be substantively and procedurally equivalent to the requirements of this section and its implementing regulations and guidance.

''(l) DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF A COMMERCIAL VESSEL.—

''(1) EVALUATION OF INCIDENTAL DISCHARGES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary, shall complete an evaluation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel.

''(B) FACTORS.—In carrying out the evaluation, the Administrator shall analyze—

''(i) the characterization of the various types and composition of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel by different classes, types, and sizes of commercial vessels;

''(ii) the volume of such discharges for representative individual commercial vessels and by classes, types, and sizes of commercial vessels in the aggregate;

''(iii) the availability and feasibility of implementing technologies or best management practices for the control of such discharges;

''(iv) the characteristics of the receiving waters of such discharges;

''(v) the nature and extent of potential effects of such discharges on human health, welfare, and the environment;

''(vi) the extent to which such discharges are currently subject to and addressed by regulations under existing Federal laws or binding international obligations of the United States; and

''(vii) any additional factor that the Administrator considers appropriate.

''(2) REGULATION OF INCIDENTAL DISCHARGES.—Effective on and after the date of enactment of this section—

''(A) the Administrator (or a State in the case of a permit program approved under section 402) shall not require any new permit or permit conditions under section 402 for any discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel; and

''(B) a State or political subdivision thereof shall not adopt or enforce any law or regulation of the State or political subdivision with respect to such a discharge.

''(m) EFFECT ON VESSEL GENERAL PERMIT.—

''(1) EXPIRATION.—Notwithstanding the expiration date set forth in the Vessel General Permit, the Vessel General Permit shall expire as follows:

''(A) The terms and conditions of section 6 of such permit or any law of a State regulating the discharge of ballast water or any discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel, upon the date of enactment of this section.

''(B) For each commercial vessel, the terms and conditions of such permit (except the terms and conditions referred to in subparagraph (A)) applicable to a discharge of ballast water—

''(i) on the date on which—

''(I) a ballast water treatment technology certified under subsection (e) is installed on the commercial vessel;

''(II) an alternative method of compliance established for the commercial vessel under subsection (f) is implemented for the commercial vessel;

''(III) a petition is granted for the commercial vessel under subsection (g); or

''(IV) a certificate is issued for the commercial vessel under subsection (h); or

''(ii) in any case not described in clause (i), on December 18, 2013.

''(2) DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL VESSELS.—Notwithstanding the expiration date set forth in the Vessel General Permit, the terms and conditions of such permit (except the terms and conditions referred to in paragraph (1)(A)) applicable to discharges incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel shall remain in effect.

''(n) INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) COAST GUARD ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall enforce the requirements of this section and may utilize by agreement, with or without reimbursement, law enforcement officers or other personnel and facilities of the Administrator, other Federal agencies, and the States.

''(B) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding any enforcement decisions of the Secretary under subparagraph (A), the Administrator may use the authorities provided in sections 308, 309, 312, and 504 whenever required to carry out this section.

''(2) COAST GUARD INSPECTIONS.—The Secretary may carry out inspections of any commercial vessel at any time, including the taking of ballast water samples, to ensure compliance with this section. The Secretary shall use all appropriate and practical measures of detection and environmental monitoring of such commercial vessels and shall establish adequate procedures for reporting violations of this section and accumulating evidence regarding such violations.

''(o) COMPLIANCE.—

''(1) DETENTION OF COMMERCIAL VESSEL.—The Secretary, by notice to the owner or operator, may detain the commercial vessel if the Secretary has reasonable cause to believe that the commercial vessel does not comply with a requirement of this section or is being operated in violation of such a requirement.

''(2) SANCTIONS.—

''(A) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Any person who violates this section shall be liable for a civil penalty in an amount determined under clause (ii). Each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation. A commercial vessel operated in violation of this section is liable in rem for any civil penalty assessed for that violation.

''(ii) PENALTY AMOUNTS.—The amount of a civil penalty assessed under clause (i) shall be determined as follows:

''(I) For vessels with a ballast water capacity less than 1500 cubic meters, not to exceed $25,000 for each violation.

''(II) For vessels with a ballast water capacity of 1500 cubic meters but not more than 5,000 cubic meters, not to exceed $28,750 for each violation.

''(III) For vessels with a ballast water capacity greater than 5,000 cubic meters, not to exceed $32,500 for each violation.

''(B) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Any person who knowingly violates this section shall be punished by a fine of not less that $5,000 nor more than $50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment shall be by a fine of not more than $100,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 6 years, or both.

''(C) REVOCATION OF CLEARANCE.—Upon request of the Secretary, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall withhold or revoke the clearance of a commercial vessel required by section 60105 of title 46, United States Code, if the owner or operator is in violation of this section.

''(3) ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—

''(A) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—If the Secretary finds that a person has violated this section, the Secretary may assess a civil penalty for the violation. In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the prohibited acts committed and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior violations, and such other matters as justice may require.

''(B) CIVIL ACTIONS.—At the request of the Secretary, the Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States to enforce this section. Any court before which such an action is brought may award appropriate relief, including temporary or permanent injunctions and civil penalties.

''(4) EXCLUSION.—No person shall be found in violation of this section whose commission of prohibited acts is found by the Secretary to have been in the interest of ensuring the safety of life at sea.

''(p) REGULATION UNDER OTHER SECTIONS OF THIS ACT.—This section shall not affect the regulation of discharges from a commercial vessel pursuant to section 311 or 312.''.

SEC. 703. DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A COVERED VESSEL.

(a) DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A COVERED VESSEL.—

(1) NO PERMIT REQUIRED.—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A COVERED VESSEL.—No permit shall be required under this Act by the Administrator (or a State, in the case of a permit program approved under subsection (b)) for a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a covered vessel (as defined in section 312(p)).''.

(2) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR COVERED VESSELS.—Section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(p) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR COVERED VESSELS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

''(A) COVERED VESSEL.—The term 'covered vessel' means every description of watercraft, or other artificial contrivance used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, that is engaged in commercial service (as defined under section 2101 of title 46, United States Code), and—

''(i) is less than 79 feet in length; or

''(ii) is a fishing vessel (as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code), regardless of length of the vessel.

''(B) DISCHARGE INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A COVERED VESSEL.—The term 'discharge incidental to the normal operation of a covered vessel' means a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel (as defined in section 321), insofar as the commercial vessel is a covered vessel.

''(2) DETERMINATION OF DISCHARGES SUBJECT TO BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—

''(A) DETERMINATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall determine the discharges incidental to the normal operation of a covered vessel for which it is reasonable and practicable to develop best management practices to mitigate the adverse impacts of such discharges on the waters of the United States.

''(ii) PROMULGATION.—The Administrator shall promulgate the determinations under clause (i) in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall consider—

''(i) the nature of the discharge;

''(ii) the environmental effects of the discharge, including characteristics of the receiving waters;

''(iii) the effectiveness of the best management practice in reducing adverse impacts of the discharge on water quality;

''(iv) the practicability of developing and using a best management practice;

''(v) the effect that the use of a best management practice would have on the operation, operational capability, or safety of the vessel;

''(vi) applicable Federal and State law;

''(vii) applicable international standards; and

''(viii) the economic costs of the use of the best management practice.

''(C) TIMING.—The Administrator shall—

''(i) make initial determinations under subparagraph (A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection; and

''(ii) every 5 years thereafter—

''(I) review the determinations; and

''(II) if necessary, revise the determinations based on any new information available to the Administrator.

''(3) REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall promulgate regulations on the use of best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a covered vessel that the Administrator determines are reasonable and practicable to develop under paragraph (2).

''(B) REGULATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate the regulations under this paragraph as soon as practicable after the Administrator makes determinations pursuant to paragraph (2).

''(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In promulgating regulations under this paragraph, the Secretary may—

''(I) distinguish among classes, types, and sizes of vessels;

''(II) distinguish between new and existing vessels; and

''(III) provide for a waiver of the applicability of the standards as necessary or appropriate to a particular class, type, age, or size of vessel.

''(4) EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.—This subsection shall not affect the application of section 311 to a covered vessel.

''(5) PROHIBITION RELATING TO COVERED VESSELS.—After the effective date of the regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating under paragraph (3), the owner or operator of a covered vessel shall neither operate in, nor discharge any discharge incidental to the normal operation of the vessel into navigable waters, if the owner or operator of the vessel is not using any applicable best management practice meeting standards established under this subsection.''.

SEC. 704. CONFORMING AND TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 301(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1311(a)) is amended by inserting ''312, 321,'' after ''318,''.

(b) REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATOR'S ACTIONS.—The first sentence of section 509(b)(1) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1369(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and (G)'' and inserting ''(G)''; and

(2) by inserting after ''section 304(l),'' the following: ''and (H) in issuing any regulation or otherwise taking final agency action under section 312 or 321,''.

SEC. 705. REGULATION OF BALLAST WATER AND INCIDENTAL DISCHARGES FROM A COMMERCIAL VESSEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, the following discharges shall not be regulated in any manner other than as specified in section 312 or 321 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as added by this title):

(1) A discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel.

(2) A discharge of ballast water from a commercial vessel.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''ballast water'', ''commercial vessel'', and ''discharge incidental to the normal operation of a commercial vessel'' have the meanings given those terms in section 321(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as added by this title).

SEC. 706. NONINDIGENOUS AQUATIC NUISANCE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1990.

(a) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES IN WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES.—Effective on the date of issuance of final regulations under section 321(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (as added by this title), section 1101 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4711) is repealed.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Effective on the date of enactment of this Act, section 1205 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4725) is repealed.

The CHAIR. No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text shall be in order except those printed in House Report 112–267 and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 455.

Each amendment other than amendments en bloc may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in House Report 112–267 not earlier disposed of.

Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to section 3 shall be considered read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. LOBIONDO

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I have an en bloc amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 18 printed in House Report 112–267:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LOBIONDO OF NEW JERSEY

Page 18, line 13, strike ''section 569a'' and insert ''section 569a(a) for the sixth national security cutter and section 569a for the seventh national security cutter''.

Page 40, before line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 409. AUTHORITY TO EXTEND THE DURATION OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 7508. Authority to extend the duration of medical certificates

''(a) GRANTING OF EXTENSIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may extend for not more than one year a medical certificate issued to an individual holding a license, merchant mariner's document, or certificate of registry if the Secretary determines that the extension is required to enable the Coast Guard to eliminate a backlog in processing applications for medical certificates or in response to a national emergency or natural disaster.

''(b) MANNER OF EXTENSION.—An extension under this section may be granted to individual seamen or a specifically identified group of seamen.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

''7508. Authority to extend the duration of medical certificates.''.

Page 56, after line 3, insert the following:

SEC. 612. REPORT ON SURVIVAL CRAFT.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the carriage of survival craft that ensures no part of an individual is immersed in water.

(b) CONTENT.—The report shall include information on—

(1) the number of casualties as the result of immersion in water by vessel type and area of operation reported to the Coast Guard for each of fiscal years 1991 through 2011;

(2) the effect the carriage of such survival craft has on vessel safety, including stability and safe navigation;

(3) the efficacy of alternative safety systems, devices, or measures; and

(4) the cost and cost-effectiveness of requiring the carriage of such survival craft on vessels.

Page 58, line 15, after ''technology'' insert ''to reduce or eliminate aquatic invasive species''.

Page 62, line 2, strike ''or'' at the end.

Page 62, line 7, strike the period at the end and insert ''; or''.

Page 62, after line 7, insert the following:

''(iii) a discharge into navigable waters from a commercial vessel when the commercial vessel is operating in a capacity other than as a means of transportation on water.

Page 64, line 3, strike ''December 19, 2008,'' and all that follows through the period at the end of line 5 and insert ''February 6, 2009.''.

Page 65, line 12, strike ''point'' and insert ''port or place''.

Page 65, line 22, insert '', if such system does not introduce aquatic nuisance species into navigable waters, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator'' before the semicolon at the end.

Page 71, line 11, strike ''this subparagraph'' and insert ''clause (ii)(II)''.

Page 86, line 8, strike ''guidelines specifying'' and insert ''requirements for''.

Page 87, beginning on line 6, strike ''this section for'' and all that follows through the period at the end of line 8 and insert the following: ''this section for—

''(A) a commercial vessel having a maximum ballast water capacity of less than 8 cubic meters; and

''(B) a commercial vessel that is 3 years or fewer from the end of its useful life, as determined by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b)(2)(B)(v).

Page 87, line 24, strike ''Subsections (c), (e), and (i)'' and insert ''Subsection (c)''.

Page 88, beginning on line 2, strike '', as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator''.

Page 88, line 7, insert '', or an equivalent restriction, as determined by the Secretary, issued by the country of registration of the commercial vessel'' before the period.

Page 107, line 10, insert '', in consultation with the Administrator,'' before ''shall promulgate''.

Page 110, after line 18, add the following:

TITLE VIII—PIRACY

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Piracy Suppression Act of 2011''.

SEC. 802. REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN TO PROTECT FOREIGN-FLAGGED VESSELS FROM PIRACY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, shall provide to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Service and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on actions taken by the Secretary of Defense to protect foreign-flagged vessels from acts of piracy on the high seas. The report shall include—

(1) the total number of incidents for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011 in which a member of the armed services or an asset under the control of the Secretary of Defense was used to interdict or defend against an act of piracy directed against any vessel not documented under the laws of the United States; and

(2) the total cost for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for such incidents.

SEC. 803. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR USE OF FORCE AGAINST PIRACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 517 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 51705. Training program for use of force against piracy

''The Secretary of Transportation shall establish a training program for United States mariners on the use of force against pirates. The program shall include—

''(1) information on waters designated as high-risk waters by the Commandant of the Coast Guard;

''(2) information on current threats and patterns of attack by pirates;

''(3) tactics for defense of a vessel, including instruction on the types, use, and limitations of security equipment;

''(4) standard rules for the use of force for self defense as developed by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating under section 912(c) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 46 U.S.C. 8107 note), including instruction on firearm safety for crewmembers of vessels carrying cargo under section 55305 of this title; and

''(5) procedures to follow to improve crewmember survivability if captured and taken hostage by pirates.''.

(b) DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish the program required under the amendment made by subsection (a) by no later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''51705. Training program for use of force against piracy.''.

SEC. 804. SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT IMPELLED CARGO.

Section 55305 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT IMPELLED CARGO.—

''(1) In order to assure the safety of vessels and crewmembers transporting equipment, materials, or commodities under this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall direct each department or agency (except the Department of Defense) responsible for the carriage of such equipment, materials, or commodities to provide armed personnel aboard vessels of the United States carrying such equipment, materials, or commodities while transiting high-risk waters.

''(2) The Secretary of Transportation shall direct each such department or agency to reimburse, subject to the availability or appropriations, the owners or operators of such vessels for the cost of providing armed personnel.

''(3) For the purposes of this subsection, the term 'high-risk waters' means waters so designated by the Commandant of the Coast Guard in the Port Security Advisory in effect on the date on which the voyage begins.''.

SEC. 805. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on efforts to track ransom payments paid to pirates operating in the waters off Somalia and improve the prosecution of such pirates. The report shall include—

(1) the status of Working Group 5 of the Contact Group on Piracy Off the Somali Coast, any efforts undertaken by the Working Group, and recommendations for improving the Working Group's effectiveness;

(2) efforts undertaken by the United States Government to implement and enforce Executive Order 13536, including recommendations on how to better implement that order to suppress piracy;

(3) efforts undertaken by the United States Government to track ransom payments made to pirates operating off the coast of Somalia, the effectiveness of those efforts, any

operational actions taken based off those efforts, and recommendations on how to improve such tracking;

(4) actions taken by the United States Government to improve the international prosecution of pirates captured off the coast of Somalia; and

(5) an update on the United States Government's efforts to implement the recommendation contained in General Accountability Office report GAO–10–856, entitled ''Maritime Security: Actions Needed to Assess and Update Plan and Enhance Collaboration among Partners Involved in Countering Piracy off the Horn of Africa'', that metrics should be established for measuring the effectiveness of counter piracy efforts.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. SHULER OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 18, line 10, insert ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''With respect to''.

Page 18, line 24, strike the closing quotation marks and the final period.

Page 18, after line 24, insert the following:

''(b) USE OF MATERIALS, PARTS, AND COMPONENTS MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES.—In entering into contracts and placing orders under subsection (a), the Commandant shall give priority to persons that manufacture materials, parts, and components in the United States.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. MCINTYRE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 30, line 18, strike ''; and'' and insert a semicolon.

Page 30, line 21, strike the period and insert ''; and''.

Page 30, after line 21, insert the following:

(4) coordinate with local businesses to promote an efficient marine transportation system.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS OF MARYLAND

At the end of title IV of the committee print, add the following:

SEC. 409. IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIONS TO ENABLE QUALIFIED UNITED STATES FLAG CAPACITY TO MEET NATIONAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIONS.—Section 501(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''When the head''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) The Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall—

''(A) in each determination referred to in paragraph (1), identify any actions that could be taken to enable qualified United States flag capacity to meet national defense requirements;

''(B) provide each such determination to the Secretary of Transportation and the head of the agency referred to in paragraph (1) for which the determination is made; and

''(C) publish each such determination on the Internet site of the Department of Transportation within 48 hours after it is provided to the Secretary of Transportation.

''(3)(A) The Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall notify the Committees on Appropriations and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

''(i) of any request for a waiver of the navigation or vessel-inspection laws under this section not later than 48 hours after receiving the request; and

''(ii) of the issuance of any waiver of compliance of such a law not later than 48 hours after such issuance.

''(B) The Administrator shall include in each notification under subparagraph (A)(ii) an explanation of—

''(i) the reasons the waiver is necessary; and

''(ii) the reasons actions referred to in paragraph (2)(A) are not feasible.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. MCCAUL OF TEXAS

At the end of title IV of the committee print, add the following:

SEC. 409. CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES.

Section 3316 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) if the Secretary of State determines that the foreign classification society does not provide comparable services in or for a state sponsor of terrorism.'';

(2) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) if the Secretary of State determines that the foreign classification society does not provide comparable services in or for a state sponsor of terrorism.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) The Secretary shall revoke an existing delegation made to a foreign classification society under subsection (b) or (d) if the Secretary of State determines that the foreign classification society provides comparable services in or for a state sponsor of terrorism.

''(f) In this section, the term 'state sponsor of terrorism' means any country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism pursuant to section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (as continued in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act), section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or any other provision of law.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. MURPHY OF CONNECTICUT

Page 56, after line 3, insert the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 612. CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT WHEN AWARDING CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 569c. Consideration of information relating to employment when awarding contracts

''(a) JOBS IMPACT STATEMENTS.—The Secretary, in issuing a solicitation for competitive proposals with respect to a Coast Guard contracting opportunity, shall state in the solicitation that the Secretary may consider information (in this section referred to as a 'jobs impact statement')—

''(1) that the offeror may include in its offer; and

''(2) that relates to the effect of the contract on employment in the United States if the contract is awarded to the offeror.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The information that may be included in a jobs impact statement may include the following:

''(1) The number of jobs expected to be created in the United States, or the number of jobs to be retained in the United States that otherwise would be lost, if the contract is awarded to the offeror.

''(2) The number of jobs expected to be created or retained in the United States by the subcontractors expected to be used by the offeror in the performance of the contract.

''(3) A guarantee from the offeror that jobs created or retained in the United States as a result of the contract being awarded to the offeror will not be moved outside the United States after award of the contract.

''(c) USE IN EVALUATION.—The Secretary may consider information in a jobs impact statement in the evaluation of an offer relating to a Coast Guard contracting opportunity and may request further information from the offeror in order to verify the accuracy of any such information submitted.

''(d) ASSESSMENT.—With respect to a contract awarded to an offeror that submitted a jobs impact statement, the Secretary shall track the number of jobs created or retained in the United States as a result of the contract. If the number of jobs estimated to be created or retained in the jobs impact statement significantly exceeds the number of jobs created or retained as a result of the contract, the Secretary may evaluate whether the contractor should be proposed for debarment.

''(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the use by the Secretary of jobs impact statements in evaluating offers relating to Coast Guard contracting opportunities.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following:

''569c. Consideration of information relating to employment when awarding contracts.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MS. BROWN OF FLORIDA

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 612. REQUIREMENT OF CORPS.

The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of the Corps of Engineers, shall continue to study the project related to the Jacksonville Port Authority in Jacksonville, Florida, without applying any additional peer reviews described by section 2034 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2343).

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. RIBBLE OF WISCONSIN

Page 58, strike lines 18 through 24 and insert the following:

''(7) COMMERCIAL VESSEL.—The term 'commercial vessel' means every description of watercraft, or other artificial contrivance used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water—

''(A) that is engaged in commercial service (as defined under section 2101 of title 46, United States Code); or

''(B) that is owned or operated by the United States, other than a vessel of the Armed Forces (as defined under section 312 of this Act).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to support the en bloc amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of Mr. LOBIONDO's manager's amendment and appreciate its consideration en bloc with other amendments.

In general, the amendment provides helpful technical and clarifying changes to the underlying committee print which will improve the bill. In particular, the provision that grants the Coast Guard discretionary authority to extend the duration of medal certificates is important because it will help ensure that mariners are not left on the dock simply because of administrative backlogs within the Coast Guard preventing the timely issuance of new certificates.

Also I support the inclusion of the amended version of Chairman LOBIONDO's piracy legislation, H.R. 2039, the Piracy Suppression Act of 2011, and expect that it will help to strengthen our efforts abroad to address the growing threat piracy poses to maritime commerce.

In regards to additional amendments in the en bloc, Mr. SHULER's Amendment No. 2 is an important one and encourages all federal agencies certainly to enter into contracts and buy products produced in the U.S., creating jobs for Americans, and the Coast Guard should be no exception.

With regards to Mr. CUMMINGS' amendment, I am certainly supportive of that. It mirrors H.R. 3202. Waivers granted by the Maritime Administration this past summer to allow foreign-flagged vessels to transport oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to other areas in U.S. territorial waters raised legitimate concerns that the administrative waiver process lacked transparency and accountability. This amendment would establish new notice and justification requirements for waivers of our Coast Guard's laws and would help to ensure that our merchant fleet is not unnecessarily disadvantaged in the future.

With regards to Mr. MURPHY's amendment, the gentleman from Connecticut, I can think of no reason why it would not be appropriate for the Coast Guard, when it is soliciting for competitive proposals, to also seek optional job impact statements from these companies bidding on the contract. This will allow the contract officer to assess not only cost comparisons, but also job creation comparisons when making an award and would serve the interests of both the Federal Government and the offerer. This would appear to me to be a good way at little or not cost to better leverage the job-creating potential of contracts awarded by the Coast Guard. And certainly I want to thank the chairman for including Mr. MURPHY's amendment into the en bloc amendment.

Mr. Chair, certainly there are a few other amendments that folks can speak to at the time that they wish, but we have no objection to the en bloc, and we encourage its support and its passage.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I urge support of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the McCaul Amendment to the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act.

For over 75 years, the Jones Act allowed only one non-governmental organization, the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), a not-for-profit marine classification society located in my district in Houston, the authority to review and inspect U.S. flagged vessels on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 1996, Congress expanded this authority to allow foreign-based classification societies to perform similar tasks.

Today, five foreign classification societies act as Agents of our government on behalf of the Coast Guard.

Unfortunately, four of these foreign organizations also act as Agents of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the review and inspection of Iranian flagged vessels.

These foreign-based classification societies also continue to have business interest with, and often operate within, other rogue nations and state sponsors of terrorism.

I support the McCaul Amendment, which would close this loophole in our laws and send a clear message to foreign-based classification societies that you must choose to work with the United States or work with state sponsors of terrorism, such as Iran.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the word and spirit of the Iranian sanctions regime that this Chamber has supported time and again, and vote in favor of this amendment.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO).

The amendments en bloc were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 19, beginning on line 7, strike subsection (a) (and redesignate the succeeding subsections accordingly).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the work of Chairman LOBIONDO and Chairman MICA and, of course, our ranking member, Mr. LARSEN, and the ranking member, Mr. RAHALL. I appreciate the effort that they put into this Coast Guard reauthorization.

I also appreciate the close working relationship I have with the chairman, Mr. LOBIONDO. During my tenure as chairman of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, he served as my ranking member, and now that he is chair, I appreciate the commitment to diligent oversight that characterizes his leadership of the subcommittee.

I wish we had been able to reach an agreement on the issue at hand, but as that has not been possible, I'm offering this amendment to strike section 301(a) of the bill. Section 301(a) would eliminate provisions included in the Coast Guard authorization of 2010 that I authored to establish an ombudsman in each Coast Guard district. The district ombudsmen are intended to serve as liaisons between the Coast Guard and ports, terminal operators, ship owners, and labor representatives. The ombudsmen will enable these stakeholders to seek further review of disputes regarding the application of the Coast Guard regulations.

Let me be clear that the provisions creating the ombudsman specifically provide that ''the district ombudsman shall not provide assistance with respect to a dispute unless it involves the impact of Coast Guard requirements on port business and the flow of commerce.''

The provisions further clarify that in providing such assistance, the district ombudsman shall give priority to complaints brought by petitioners who believe they will suffer a significant hardship as a result of implementing the Coast Guard requirement.

□ 1220

I authored the provisions creating the ombudsman at the request of the port community, which approached me seeking another mechanism to engage with the Coast Guard to ensure that the application of regulations achieves critical safety and security objectives while having the least possible impact on commerce.

Many Members of Congress, and particularly those on the other side of the aisle, profess that limiting the power of government and ensuring that businesses are not burdened by inappropriate regulations are among their top priorities. Given these priorities and given the need to ensure that regulations do not threaten commerce or jobs, I am frankly quite deeply surprised that the majority would seek to eliminate a provision that specifically provides businesses with an avenue through which they can seek changes in regulatory decisions in an effort to improve their businesses.

Let me also be clear that I understand that the Coast Guard has not yet appointed any ombudsman—and I know that the service would probably prefer never to appoint an ombudsman because they would prefer that their regulatory decisions not be challenged. That said, rather than eliminating the requirement that the Coast Guard appoint an ombudsman, I believe that this authority should be implemented quickly to give businesses the opportunity to improve the application of Coast Guard regulations.

Finally, let me also explain that this provision does not require any new personnel to be hired. The statutory language is clear, and staff have reconfirmed with the Coast Guard that the position of ombudsman could be a collateral duty that a qualified staff member performs in addition to their other duties. This is not my ideal arrangement, but I raise this point so that it is clear that the implementation of this provision does not require the Coast Guard to hire new staff members.

I urge all Members who are concerned about the impact that undue regulatory burdens may have on commerce to join me in supporting this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland for his kind comments. And it is correct, we've had an outstanding working relationship. We've been able to come together on many issues and share a lot of information that has helped us both come to a better conclusion.

Unfortunately, in even great relationships sometimes there is some disagreement. It's an honest disagreement on how we should proceed. I understand the gentleman's argument, but I believe that the provision is duplicative and costly. The implementation of this language I think will worsen the challenges for the Coast Guard at a time when they're facing very difficult money constraints. We've heard the talk about how they don't have the resources to do what they need to do, and we have to worry about their critical missions being able to be conducted.

The Coast Guard does not support the adoption of this provision; they did not last year. I, once again, want to thank the gentleman from Maryland for working so closely with me, but, unfortunately, I have to oppose this particular amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), the ranking member of the subcommittee.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I support Mr. CUMMINGS' amendment striking the provision in the underlying bill that would eliminate the requirement for the Coast Guard to establish ombudsmen in Coast Guard districts around the country.

In committee, Mr. CUMMINGS offered and subsequently withdrew his amendment in the hope that some compromise could be reached. Because the program is little more than a year old, I suggest that it might be premature for Congress to repeal this new program. But I certainly do want to recognize the work that Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. LOBIONDO did to try to find some accommodation.

But I do encourage people to support this amendment to allow the ombudsman program to continue so that we might be better able to get a fair evaluation of the program in the future.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2____. ACADEMY NOMINATIONS.

(a) APPOINTMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 182 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) NOMINATIONS.—

''(1) Half of each incoming class, beginning with academic year 2014, shall be composed of cadets nominated by:

''(A) The Vice President or, if there is no Vice President, by the President pro tempore of the Senate.

''(B) A Senator.

''(C) A Representative in Congress.

''(D) The Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, the Delegate in Congress from the Virgin Islands, the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, the Delegate in Congress from Guam, the Delegate in Congress from American Samoa, or the Resident Representative from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress, including the Resident Commissioner and the Resident Representative, is entitled to nominate 3 persons each year. Cadets who do not graduate on time shall not count against the allocations pursuant to subparagraphs (A) through (D).

''(2) An individual shall be qualified for nomination, selection, and appointment as a cadet at the Academy only if the individual—

''(A) is a citizen or national of the United States; and

''(B) meets such minimum requirements that the Secretary may establish.

''(3) The Superintendent shall furnish to any Member of Congress, upon the written request of such Member, the name of the Congressman or other nominating authority responsible for the nomination of any named or identified person for appointment to the Academy.''

(b) TRANSITION.—With respect to the nomination of individuals, pursuant to section 182 of title 14, United States Code, who will matriculate in academic program year 2013, not less than 25 percent of the class shall be from nominations made pursuant to subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (a)(1) of such section 182 (as amended by subsection (a) of this section).

The Secretary is hereby authorized to take any additional action the Secretary believes necessary and proper to provide for the transition to the nomination, selection, and appointment process provided under this section.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment would allow Members of Congress to nominate qualified candidates for admission to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Located in New London, Connecticut, the Coast Guard Academy is one of the five prestigious U.S. service academies. The others are the Military Academy in West Point, New York; the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York.

These service academies provide 4-year undergraduate educations on a tuition-free basis to help mold talented young people into the Nation's future leaders. Upon graduation, service academy cadets become commissioned officers in active or reserve components of the military, the Merchant Marines, or the U.S. Coast Guard.

Under current law, Members of Congress are authorized to nominate candidates to all U.S. service academies except the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The Coast Guard Academy uses an admissions process similar to the processes used at traditional civilian colleges and universities.

On an average, the Coast Guard accepts almost 400 applicants each academic year. Of those 400 applicants, a disproportionate number hail from States that border the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The rest of the country is largely underrepresented. My amendment seeks to foster greater geographic diversity in the Coast Guard Academy's applicant pool by allowing each Member of Congress to nominate up to three qualified candidates. Similar language that I offered with the gentleman from Maryland, Representative CUMMINGS, was accepted by voice vote during consideration of the 2012 Coast Guard authorization bill. I want to recognize Representative CUMMINGS as a cosponsor of my amendment and a true partner in this effort.

Under my amendment, for academic year 2013, the Coast Guard would be required to allocate a quarter of the slots in the incoming class to qualified candidates submitted through the congressional nomination process. In subsequent academic years, half of the slots would be filled through the congressional nomination process.

My amendment does not require the Coast Guard to alter or lower its selection criteria. To the contrary, it anticipates that the Coast Guard will utilize its criteria to select the best candidates from the pool of Member-nominated candidates to fill half of the slots in the incoming class, just as it will do in filling the remaining slots in the other half of the class.

Additionally, my amendment does not require the Coast Guard to increase class sizes; that's a decision for the Coast Guard. At its essence, it seeks to ensure that the Coast Guard attracts the best candidates from all over the country by increasing the applicant pool.

Each of us has experienced the disappointment of having a talented young person that we nominated to one of the four other service academies rejected. We all understand that it's a very competitive process and slots are scarce. I, for one, would welcome the opportunity to bring that person to the attention of the Coast Guard Academy and help put him or her on a path to accomplishing much for themselves, their families, and the Nation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I appreciate what the gentleman from Mississippi is attempting to do here; however, I don't think this is workable. Every Member of Congress would, every 4 years, get to nominate someone to the Coast Guard Academy. I send a number of qualified young people in that direction every year. And the Coast Guard strongly opposes this amendment.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

First of all, I just want to salute the amazing effort by Representative CUMMINGS and Representative THOMPSON over the last 4 or 5 years to really, I think, profoundly change behavior at the Academy's admissions office in terms of forcing them to widen the scope of their search for qualified students all across America. In the incoming class this year, we have students who hail from 48 States. We have 31 percent female cadets starting this year and 21 percent minority.

□ 1230

As both of the gentlemen who are the proponents of this amendment know, that is a stark contrast to the situation that existed a short time ago. And I think, again, it is partly due to their external pressure, but also the fact that the Coast Guard Academy's leadership took the challenge and has really been, I think, actively recruiting all across the country to achieve, again, what I think is a goal that the gentleman from Mississippi has well spoken, that we can draw from a wider pool rather than just the bi-coastal parts of the United States of America.

What I would just say, why I stand today in opposition is just that the incoming class is also a small class. It's 288 cadets. If you sort of just try and do the math in terms of a body of 435 Members of the House, 100 in the Senate, and even with the 25 percent safeguard that Mr. THOMPSON thoughtfully added to this amendment, I think it really would just be a cumbersome addon to a process that really, again, is actively engaged.

Admiral Sandra Stotz is the new superintendent at the academy, the first female superintendent of a military academy in American history. And I can just attest to the fact, having met with her on a number of occasions since she just started this past fall, she is focused like a laser beam in terms of making sure that the great work that was started over the last 2 years or so is going to continue.

And Members can be part of that. We can all, again, go out and talk to high schools, put it on our Web sites, have Coast Guard cadets act as interns in our office, do what we can to make sure that this amazing institution that, again, is just producing great leaders for the future of our country, will draw on, again, the great diversity of our Nation, both geographical and socially.

So, again, I support the goal of this amendment. It's just the mechanics that, again, I would just respectfully rise in opposition and, again, pledge that as someone who represents the New London district, will continue to work with the proponents to make sure that the good progress that's been made over the last couple of years or so will continue.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi. Thank you for your leadership and thank you for your kind words.

I'm truly amazed by what the Coast Guard is able to accomplish, particularly given the limits of its budget. But I remain the Coast Guard's biggest supporter.

During my tenure as chairman, I also had the opportunity to be the service's most constructive critic. Among the many areas where I pushed the Coast Guard to set and achieve higher goals was the area of diversity. Data presented to the subcommittee showed that minorities comprised approximately 12 percent of the class of 2012 and just 16 percent of the class of 2013.

By comparison, approximately 35 percent of the Naval Academy's class of 2013 is comprised of minorities. And the tremendous gains in diversity achieved by the United States Naval Academy suggested that the Coast Guard Academy's outreach had been too limited. And as a result, many students across the country from a wide variety of communities and backgrounds simply were not made aware either of the education that they could receive for free at the Coast Guard Academy or the unique service opportunities available in the Coast Guard.

I'm very proud to say that the Coast Guard has begun making that effort, and they are now beginning to realize the promise that our Nation's diversity represents. As a result of what I know has been a tremendous effort, 34 percent of the Coast Guard's Academy's class of 2015 is comprised of minority students, nearly triple the percentage of minorities in the class of 2012.

I believe that implementing a nominations process at the Coast Guard Academy, something that I proposed along with Mr. THOMPSON during our consideration of previous Coast Guard authorizations, will help continue and advance the achievements of the Coast Guard.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, I support Mr. THOMPSON's amendment to insert a congressional nomination process for admission to the United States Coast Guard.

This provision, which was included in Coast Guard legislation that passed the House during the 111th Congress, would establish the same process to allow Members of Congress the opportunity to nominate individuals for entrance into the Coast Guard Academy.

I realize that the Coast Guard does not support the Congress imposing a nomination process on the agency, but if it does result in a more diverse workforce within the Coast Guard, we will all be better for it, including the Coast Guard, too.

CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS AT THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

VOTE ''YES'' ON THE THOMPSON AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2838

The following list is of States and Territories where no applicants were accepted for the incoming Coast Guard Academy Class of 2015—Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Prepared by the House Committee on Homeland Security, Democratic Staff, November 4, 2011.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. PALAZZO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 303 (and redesignate subsequent sections, and conform the table of contents, accordingly).

Page 22, strike lines 10 through 14 and insert the following:

SEC. 303. MAJOR ACQUISITIONS REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 569a. Major acquisitions report

Page 25, strike line 12 and all that follows before line 16 and insert the following:

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to such subchapter the following:

''569a. Major acquisitions report.''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment would strike section 303 of the bill, which places harmful restrictions on the future contracting and construction of the United States Coast Guard national security cutter.

The national security cutter is a much needed and extremely cost-effective ship for the Coast Guard, and it has actively proven its value through highly successful counterdrug and other missions while replacing an aging Coast Guard fleet. This is a ship the Coast Guard desperately needs and replaces the 378-foot endurance cutters, most of which are 40 to 50 years old.

Just recently, the commandant of the Coast Guard told the press, we can't the get rest of those out soon enough. On average, the Coast Guard's legacy high-endurance cutters are able to achieve approximately 140 of their programmed 185 days under way a year.

Maintenance costs continue to escalate, and further delay of the transition to national security cutters will only exacerbate challenges we are already facing meeting fleet readiness and mission requirements. This ship represents the centerpiece of the Coast Guard fleet.

The first two national security cutters are enabling the Coast Guard to meet a wide range of missions now. During initial deployment, the national security cutters have netted hundreds of millions of dollars in drug busts. In fact, the street value of cocaine seized in the NSC's first two deployments alone exceeds the total cost of building a national security cutter. It is easy to see that this ship is an exceptional investment in our national security.

As it currently stands, H.R. 2838 would prohibit the Coast Guard from moving forward on NSC 6 and NSC 7. The $77 million pending in FY12 will enable the Coast Guard to contract for long lead time materials and transition to a planned construction contract in fiscal year '13. This is the most cost-effective method of procuring and building any ship, whether it's for the Coast Guard, Navy or the Marine Corps.

As you delay shipbuilding contracts, labor costs and material costs go up as a result of standard inflation. As these costs go up, the costs to the taxpayers go up, called escalation.

Simply put, by continuing steady production of this ship, we are saving the taxpayer money and creating a better product for the Coast Guard. This ship is extremely important to our Nation's industrial base which already faces a serious challenge in a time of tight budgets.

National security cutters are responsible for 1,300 jobs in over 40 States throughout the industrial base. In a time of deep cuts, this means real American jobs. We can't afford for America to lose more in terms of economic and national security. The continued, uninterrupted production could potentially save the taxpayers millions of dollars per ship and approximately 1,300 jobs across America.

One of my greatest concerns remains the purchase of long lead time materials to ensure that we do not delay production in the future. I have spoken with Mr. LOBIONDO today, and I believe that we can find a solution to this issue before or during the conference process. With the cooperation of the Coast Guard and my friends on the committee, I feel confident we can continue to deliver the best product to the Coast Guard at the best possible price to the taxpayer.

I am willing to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PALAZZO. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi and assure him that we have discussed and we will continue to work toward a common goal which we both share.

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman's amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. NAPOLITANO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 47, line 10, strike ''and'' at the end.

Page 47, after line 10, insert the following:

(2) in subsection (c) by inserting ''or Guam'' before the period at the end; and

Page 47, line 11, strike ''(2)'' and insert ''(3)''.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Our bipartisan amendment gives United States-flagged tuna vessels in the western Pacific Ocean the option of using Guam in addition to American Samoa as their annual required port of call in order to meet U.S. maritime regulations.

This amendment would save the U.S. tuna industry millions of dollars and thousands of man-hours that are needlessly wasted being forced by the U.S. maritime regulations to travel 2,600 miles out of their way to make port visits.

The background is that the 2006 Coast Guard Authorization Act allowed U.S.-flagged tuna vessels in the western Pacific to use internationally licensed officers.

□ 1240

The international officer provision was created because maritime officers in the western Pacific are primarily from western Pacific nations. U.S. maritime unions were not opposed to the provision. In order to meet the requirements of that provision, the bill has required tuna vessels to make an annual port call in American Samoa, some 2,000 miles away.

In 2006, the tuna fleet in the region was very small at 12 boats. American Samoa had a market to process the fish for those boats. Since 2006, however, the tuna fleet in the western Pacific has grown to 38 vessels.

Mr. Chairman, approximately 25 of those vessels supply fish to western Pacific processors and then ship the fish product to California, to Georgia, to Illinois, to Puerto Rico for canning. These canneries provide thousands of U.S. jobs. These 25 vessels are still required to travel over 2,600 miles to American Samoa and waste 7 days at sea. This costs each boat more than half a million to make this unnecessary trip.

The purpose of this amendment is to give these tuna boats the option of stopping in Guam in order to meet the requirement of visiting a U.S. port once a year, while receiving marine inspection by the largest Coast Guard sector station in the region.

And, of course, Guam is very close to the tuna fishing grounds. Guam's Coast Guard infrastructure and personnel are excellently equipped to provide these tuna vessels with proper marine inspection and safety review on a timely basis.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment which will save our U.S. tuna industry millions of dollars. The U.S. House of Representatives is already on record supporting this provision. The provision was part of the Coast Guard authorization of 2009 that overwhelmingly passed this House.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I yield my time to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I rise respectfully in opposition to the gentlelady's proposed amendment.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps unknown to many of my colleagues of the House, for more than 50 years my little district of American Samoa has been the backbone of the U.S. tuna fishing and processing industries, just like Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been the backbone of the rum industry.

Today, the U.S. tuna processing industry includes three major brands of canned tuna, namely, Bumble Bee, Chicken of the Sea, and StarKist.

Bumble Bee was formerly owned by a Canadian company, then purchased by U.S. investors and is now resold to an investment group from Great Britain.

Chicken of the Sea continues and has always been a subsidiary company of Thai Union, which currently is the world's largest producer of canned tuna.

StarKist was formerly a subsidiary company of Heinz Foods Corporation out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, then was sold to Del Monte out of San Francisco, and it was purchased by the Dongwon Company out of South Korea.

All three of these major tuna processor companies have corporate offices in Pittsburgh and in San Diego. However, their methods of processing and canning of tuna are quite different, along with the manner in which our U.S. tuna fishing fleet has been operating given the tremendous change now taking place in the entire global tuna industry.

I want to say that I have the utmost respect for my good friend, the gentlelady from California, and out of principle, I just want to respectfully say there are some very unique features of the situation and why I respectfully oppose the amendment.

Eighty percent of the entire economy of my district depends on the tuna industry, and if something happens in terms of the balance between the processors and our fishing fleet, this is where the problems and the complications have come about.

To the extent that the South Pacific Tuna Corporation, which owns about 25 of the 30 or 40 vessels that make up the U.S. tuna fishing fleet, the problem here is that we've got a problem of outsourcing, where two of these companies, Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee, do not process the whole fish.

As far as tuna is concerned, 90 percent of the value of the tuna comes in the gutting and the processing. The canning is only about 10 percent. What has happened is that Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee have chosen not to buy the whole fish but to simply buy the loins of the fish, as it was cleaned in foreign countries where workers there are paid only 60 cents an hour, as opposed to the only company that currently buys the whole fish, which is StarKist. They buy the whole fish, and it provides jobs for my district.

Because of the global economic recession that we have experienced, and because of the terrible tsunami and earthquake that was subjected to my people 2 years ago, one of the processing companies, Chicken of the Sea, just took off after making billions of dollars worth of canned tuna in my little district, leaving the economy of my territory a disaster.

What has happened is that there is another added feature of this whole problem with the tuna industry. We have what is now pending, the U.S. Regional Tuna Fishing Treaty with 16 other Pacific island countries. Part of the problem that came out of this treaty arrangement was, because the tuna fishing fleet at the time felt that because tuna was a highly migratory fish, they could go anywhere in the world and fish regardless of what the EEZ zones of these countries are. Well, they tried that in Latin America and we had our vessels confiscated. So what happens? Our tuna fishing fleet moved on to the western Pacific; and it was in that one incident that one of our vessels was confiscated by this little island country called the Solomon Islands, and the whole thing went up in the air.

It was necessary that then-Secretary of State George Shultz and Mr. Negroponte came in and this was how we started having this regional tuna fishing treaty for and on behalf of the benefit of our tuna fishing fleet. And this is how we tried to do to make sure that there is a constant supply of tuna that could be brought in to be processed, the whole fish, by the two processing plants that we have in American Samoa. This is no longer the case.

I respectfully ask my colleagues, vote down this proposed amendment.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2011.

Re Docket No. *USCG–2010–1146*
DOCKET MANAGEMENT FACILITY (M–30)
U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR OR MADAM: I am writing in support of the USCG's Draft Policy Letter (CG–543) on ''Safety Requirements and Manning Exemption Eligibility on Distant Water Tuna Fleet Vessels'' published in the Federal Register on January 20, 2011.

I am also writing to rebut misinformation put forward by the South Pacific Tuna Corporation (SPTC) in response to USCG–2010–1146.

Legislative Background

In 2005, as a Member of Congress representing the U.S. Territory of American Samoa, I was involved with the enactment of the initial 2006 foreign officer provision. At the time, I was visited by many of the individuals now on the (SPTC) team, as well as Mr. Dave Burney, now deceased, who served as the Executive Director of the U.S. Tuna Foundation.

Due to a shortage of licensed U.S. citizens willing to serve as officers on U.S. tuna vessels, Mr. Burney and many of the individuals now on the SPTC team sought my support for a provision which would allow the U.S.-flag distant water tuna fleet to employ internationally licensed personnel to serve as officers (except for the master). These individuals informed my office that this exemption was necessary to keep American Samoa's economy stable and our canneries operational given that the Territory's private sector economy is more than 80% dependent, directly or indirectly, on the U.S. fishing and processing industries.

I was also informed that this provision was necessary to build up the fishing fleet which had dwindled to about 12 or 14 boats. No boats meant no fish to American Samoa's canneries and no fish meant no canneries.

So, for the benefit of American Samoa, language was inserted in the Senate to accommodate an exemption. However, because Congress intended the provision to help American Samoa's canneries and economy, the provision stipulated that the exemption would only apply to tuna vessels homeported in American Samoa.

Because of the uniqueness of the provision, Congress also limited the provision to 48 months and set an expiration date of July 10, 2010. Within that 48-month time period, it was my understanding that the U.S. Tuna Foundation and the individuals who are now part of the SPTC team would work to establish a program to train U.S. citizens and Nationals to serve as officers but this promise was not kept.

Also, last year, without consultation, SPTC's lobbyist sought to broaden the exemption to allow tuna vessels home-ported in Guam or CNMI to receive the same crew exemption as tuna vessels home-ported in American Samoa. Although SPTC failed in its attempt, it called into question SPTC's motive for broadening an exemption since neither CNMI nor Guam have a tuna industry. I believe SPTC's motive is easily explained by a brief overview of the U.S. tuna fishing fleet.

The U.S. Tuna Fishing Fleet

The U.S. tuna fishing fleet is currently made up of about 39 vessels, with one license still available. About 14 of these vessels are 100% U.S. owned. The other 25 tuna boats are newer vessels, built in foreign countries, with 51% U.S. ownership, and 49% foreign-ownership. Most of the foreign-built boats are part of a company known as the South Pacific Tuna Corporation (SPTC).

Mr. Chris Lischewski, CEO and former President of Bumble Bee, is a part-owner of South Pacific Tuna Corporation. Chicken of the Sea and/or its parent company, Thai Union, is also a part-owner of the foreign-built tuna boats.

Whether U.S. or foreign-built, all 39 tuna boats, or the entire U.S. tuna fishing fleet, fishes under the auspices of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, a treaty between the United States and 16 Pacific Island nations. Under the terms of the Treaty, the U.S. government pays out $18 million annually to the Pacific Island parties in return for the right of our U.S. tuna boats to fish in the exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of the 16 Pacific Island parties to the Treaty. The U.S. tuna boats also pay the Pacific Island parties about $3 million or more per year, depending on the amount of tuna they catch.

According to the U.S. Department of State, the landed value of the catch in 2008 was in excess of $200 million but the value of the tuna as it moves through the processing and distribution chain may be as much as $400 to $500 million.

Of the approximate 300,000 metric tons of tuna that is caught, which is referred to as

whole fish, about 120,000 metric tons is direct-delivered to American Samoa per year. Direct delivery means the tuna boats actually pull into American Samoa's port and offload their catch. Given Chicken of the Sea's closure, the amount of tonnage direct-delivered to American Samoa is now less but with the presence of a new cannery, Tri-Marine, we expect to be operating again at full capacity.

Contrary to SPTC's claims, American Samoa has the capacity to process up to 280,000 metric tons with room for growth. Nonetheless, for purposes of this statement, I want to point out what happens to the other 180,000 metric tons which American Samoa is not processing right now.

What happens is that the foreign-built tuna boats owned by SPTC, which Chicken of the Sea and/or Thai Union have part ownership in, are transshipping their catch to foreign nations where the tuna is cleaned, or loined, by workers who are paid $0.75 cents and less per hour.

In other words, 25 members of our very own U.S. tuna fishing fleet sell off their catch to foreign nations and then send the cleaned tuna loin back to Bumble Bee and Chicken of the Sea so that these two tuna canneries can maximize their corporate profits while offshoring American jobs. These 25 members of the U.S. tuna fishing fleet do this despite the fact that they fly the U.S. flag and are subsidized by the American taxpayer to the tune of $18 million per year to fish in the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Area. And what does the American taxpayer get in return? We get a depleted tuna stock not to mention the safety threat these new boats pose.

In the time it takes to make 3 direct-deliveries, the new SPTC foreign-built tuna boats can make 5 transshipment deliveries by offloading their catch to a big mother ship meaning that they can return more quickly to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty fishing grounds where they can catch more and more tuna at a more maddening pace, with very little U.S. Coast Guard oversight because of SPTC's unwillingness to pull into American Samoa's port, once a year.

Disregarding U.S. interests was never the Congressional intent of a crew exemption provision.

S. 3607

While SPTC would have the USCG believe that the U.S. House of Representatives supported a permanent exemption, this is not the case. What happened is SPTC had language inserted in H.R. 3619 without the knowledge of Guam, CNMI or American Samoa. But, last year, during conference, the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate agreed with my position and put a halt to SPTC's request to make this provision permanent.

House and Senate also agreed to require the DWTF to undergo a safety inspection in American Samoa once a year in order to accommodate my request for an annual call on the Territory's port.

On the evening before the bill went for a vote, SPTC's representatives visited my office and begged for an as-is two-year extension conditioned on the promise that SPTC would work to do right by American Samoa and honor its original commitments. In good-faith, I agreed to work with SPTC.

Conclusion

Regrettably, I have reviewed SPTC's statement submitted to the USCG and I am disappointed that once more, SPTC, has misrepresented the facts surrounding this manning provision or American Samoa's capabilities.

The original intent of a crew exemption provision was to bolster American Samoa's economy, not increase SPTC profits. This is why the exemption was only granted to vessels operating in and out of American Samoa. No other boats were provided this exemption and I am hopeful that the USCG will hold to Congressional intent and move forward with its Draft Policy Letter.

Sincerely,

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Member of Congress.

U.S. SENATE,
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2011.

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FALEOMAVAEGA: Thank you for your letter regarding the U.S. Coast Guard's draft policy on the ''Safety Requirements and Manning Exemption Eligibility on Distant Water Tuna Fleet Vessels.'' I am in full agreement with you that our intent in passing the original exemption was to support a U.S.-flag fleet that operated in and out of American Samoa. Accordingly, I am pleased the Coast Guard is making an effort to define this requirement in a meaningful way. Please be assured that I will notify the Coast Guard of my support for the proposed policy.

Aloha,

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
United States Senator.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, June 28, 2011.

Hon. DANIEL K. INOUYE,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to request your support in increasing funding for the South Pacific Tuna Treaty and for the Treaty to be renegotiated in a way that would distinguish between U.S. tuna boats that direct-deliver their fish to American Samoa, or another U.S. port, and those that do not.

When the Treaty was first negotiated, it was negotiated for purposes of providing U.S. foreign assistance to the Pacific Island Parties while also providing a tangible benefit to the U.S. By the time the Treaty was renewed in 2002 until now, the U.S. provided the Pacific Island Parties about $18 million annually in exchange for our U.S. tuna boats to fish in the Treaty area. The U.S. tuna boats also paid a collective, not individual, fixed rate of about $3 million per year, and above that amount depending on the amount of fish caught and the value of it.

We have since learned that according to the Congressional Research Service (CRS) the U.S. tuna boats harvest about $250 million worth of tuna annually but the value of the tuna as it moves through the processing and distribution chain may be as much as $500 million or more. Given that the PNA controls about 25–30% of the world's supply of tuna which is primarily in the Treaty Area, I believe that the Pacific Island Parties to the Treaty deserve a more equitable distribution of this wealth. $18 million plus the small contribution of the U.S. tuna boat owners is not enough.

Regarding U.S. interests, when the Treaty first went into effect, all three major brands of canned tuna in the U.S., including StarKist, Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee, purchased their tuna from U.S. tuna boats authorized to fish in the Treaty Area. The fish was then cleaned in the U.S., including American Samoa which was home to the largest cannery in the world because of our close proximity to the fishing grounds.

About a decade ago, Bumble Bee adopted a new model of doing business and began outsourcing American resources and jobs, which is contrary to the principles upon which the Treaty was founded. Chicken of the Sea followed suit. Both Chicken of the Sea and Bumble Bee now have their fish cleaned by low-wage workers in Thailand, Fiji and Papua New Guinea. Then they send their pre-cleaned fish to canneries in California, Georgia and Puerto Rico where they hire skeletal crews to put the fish into cans as a means of taking advantage of U.S. duty-free laws.

The USDA has caught on to this un-American way of doing business and this is why canned tuna processed by Bumble Bee and Chicken of the Sea does not qualify for the Buy America program. To date, StarKist is the only remaining tuna company that qualifies for the Buy America program because it is the only company that still cleans its tuna in the U.S.A., making StarKist the only tuna company that upholds the intent of the Treaty which is in place to also provide tangible benefits to the U.S.

As a result of this transformational shift which has taken place in the U.S. tuna industry during the past decade, foreign nations like Thailand are making billions at the expense of the U.S. taxpayer and Pacific Island Parties. Thailand, which has no fishing fleet of its own, has become the world's largest producer of canned tuna and controls about 30% of the private-label canned tuna business in the U.S.A. I attribute Thailand's success, in part, to a loophole in the South Pacific Tuna Treaty.

When the Treaty was first negotiated, all U.S. tuna boats off-loaded their fish in U.S. ports. Today, tuna boats that are 51% U.S. owned like those of the South Pacific Tuna Corporation trans-ship the majority of the fish they catch in the Treaty Area to Thailand. Thailand then buys the tuna that comes out of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Area and puts workers in America out of jobs because Thailand's fish cleaners, which are paid 75 cents and less per hour, directly compete against workers in American Samoa who are paid in accordance with federal minimum wage laws.

While it is true that boats from the South Pacific Tuna Corporation at one time indirectly supplied tuna to Chicken of the Sea/Samoa Packing in American Samoa, this has not been the case since Chicken of the Sea left American Samoa and set up a skeletal crew in Lyons, Georgia. In fact, according to the Congressional Research Service, of the approximately 300,000 metric tons of tuna that is caught by the U.S. tuna fishing fleet in the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Area, more than 180,000 metric tons is transshipped and outsourced to foreign nations, like Thailand, and I believe this un-American practice of outsourcing U.S. and Pacific Island resources must stop.

This is why I am hopeful that the U.S. State Department will make a distinction between tuna boats that directly off-load in American Samoa, and those that do not. For boats like those of the South Pacific Tuna Corporation which outsource, I believe their fishing days should be limited, that they should pay increased fees to fish, and that they should be required to pull into U.S. ports once a year for the privilege of the fishing in the Treaty Area. I also believe U.S. tuna boats that direct-deliver to U.S. ports, including American Samoa, should be given preferential treatment for licenses if the U.S. is not able to secure licenses for the entire fleet.

I would appreciate your support of these changes, and I will do everything I can to also garner support from the U.S. Department of State. As always, I thank you for

the good work you are doing and continue to wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, August 9, 2011.

Hon. ENI. F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. FALEOMAVAEGA: Thank you for your letter of June 28 regarding the 1987 South Pacific Tuna Treaty and for your interest in the ongoing negotiations to amend and extend that arrangement.

We recognize the vital importance of sustainable tuna fisheries to the Pacific and the significant contribution that the U.S. industry supported by the Treaty makes to the U.S. economy, particularly in American Samoa. We also recognize that there have been important changes in the Pacific since the Treaty was last extended. Under these circumstances, changes to the Treaty will be necessary to ensure that it remains an effective and viable agreement that promotes responsible and sustainable tuna fisheries, provides satisfactory economic returns to the Pacific Island Parties and contributes to the development of the small-island developing States. We are currently working to address these and other issues in the renegotiations, including at our most recent meeting in Samoa in July.

We appreciate your views on the issues of off-loading and the allocation of days or licenses among the U.S. fleet. We are sensitive to the need to negotiate an agreement that does not put the United States at a competitive disadvantage.

As the negotiations proceed, we will continue to keep you apprised of their progress. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance in this or any other manner.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. ADAMS
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. I've got to say, quite frankly, I appreciate the gentleman from American Samoa and his position. If I represented that island, I would be wanting to defend the monopoly that island has in the western Pacific today.

But the fact is, as a Nation, we've got to look at not only the great economic impact of this monopoly of forcing boats to travel for thousands of miles to get back to one centralized location because of a political decision here in Washington, but we've also got to look at this fact that the lady from California has an amendment that will address not just the economic impact but what about the environmental.

And I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, consider the fact that we talk about greenhouse gasses and emissions, but, as a law, we're requiring these fishing boats to travel for 6 to 7 days over thousands of miles because of our laws here. If we truly want to say we want to reduce emissions, we should reduce the emissions forced by regulation by supporting the gentlelady's amendment.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chairman, is there any time left on this side?

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Washington has expired.

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 1½ minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. I rise today in support of the amendment offered by my colleague from California, GRACE NAPOLITANO.

While I am sympathetic to and recognize the concerns of my friend and colleague from American Samoa, I have received significant support from my constituents to include Guam as an eligible port of call for annual safety inspections only to the U.S. distant water tuna fleet. Permitting the fleet to call on Guam in addition to American Samoa will create additional economic opportunities for my constituents.

□ 1250

The fleet can utilize Guam's Coast Guard sector, our port, our ship repair facilities, and can service their helicopters. It is a commonsense approach to enforce the safety inspection requirements for the U.S. flag vessels.

I want it to be very clear, Mr. Chairman, that I would like better assurance from the administration, industry, and stakeholders that this will not harm the tuna industry in American Samoa. That industry is critically important to their economy, and its competitive advantages must not be undermined.

I am committed to working with my friend to ensure that the American Samoa tuna industry remains strong. In fact, I am staunchly opposed to the distant water tuna fleet fishing in Guam's waters. The fleet is, in fact, prohibited from fishing in Guam's economic zone, and if it were to do so, it would threaten the livelihoods of our own local fishermen.

If this amendment passes, I would strongly urge the Coast Guard, the National Marine Fishery Services, and all relevant agencies to aggressively enforce existing regulations and to prevent any illegal opportunist harvest in Guam's waters.

Again, I support this amendment.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 95, after line 14, insert the following:

''(7) STATE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If any State determines that the protection and enhancement of the quality of waters within the State require greater environmental protection than would be achieved through the application of a standard specified under subsection (c) or established under subsection (d), the State may impose operational requirements that are more protective than such standards, except that a State operational requirement imposed under this paragraph may not—

''(i) require the installation of a ballast water treatment technology that differs from that required by the standard specified under subsection (c) or established under subsection (d); or

''(ii) apply until the Administrator and the Secretary determine that the waters of the State require greater environmental protection and such greater environmental protection can be achieved by the State operational requirement.

''(B) FACTORS FOR DETERMINATION.—

''(i) DETERMINATIONS BY ADMINISTRATOR.—In making the determination under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Administrator shall consider—

''(I) whether the receiving waters have been afforded special protection under Federal or State law;

''(II) the benefits to human health, welfare, or the environment of the additional protection for the receiving waters;

''(III) the reduction in risk to human health, welfare, or the environment resulting from the additional protection;

''(IV) the propagule pressure to be addressed by the additional protection;

''(V) applicable Federal and State law;

''(VI) applicable international standards; and

''(VII) the costs and benefits of providing the additional protection.

''(ii) DETERMINATIONS BY SECRETARY.—In making the determination under subparagraph (A)(ii) the Secretary shall consider—

''(I) the effect that the use of the State operational requirement for additional protection would have on the operation, operational capability, and safety of the crew and vessel;

''(II) the potential impacts on shipping, trade, and other uses of the aquatic environment;

''(III) applicable Federal and State law;

''(IV) applicable international standards; and

''(V) the costs and benefits of providing the additional protection.

''(C) DEADLINE.—Upon application of the State, the Administrator and the Secretary shall make the determination within 180 days of the date of the completed application.

''(D) APPROVAL OF STATE OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator and the Secretary determine upon application by a State that the protection and enhancement of the quality of waters within that State require more environmental protection and that such greater protection can be achieved by the operational requirement, the Administrator and the Secretary shall approve the application for the State operational requirement.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—The Administrator and the Secretary may not approve a State operational requirement if the requirement—

''(I) would have an unreasonable impact on the use of traditional shipping lanes; or

''(II) would prohibit the discharge of ballast water in all the waters of the State.

''(iii) REGULATIONS.—Following the approval of a State operational requirement by the Administrator and the Secretary under this paragraph, the Secretary shall by regulation implement the State operational requirement for the waters of the State.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, my amendment amends title VII of the Coast Guard reauthorization bill to recognize the importance of both Federal and State efforts to protect the waters of individual States by retaining a limited, surgical role for States to provide additional operational limitations to protect important State resource waters from the introduction of invasive species and other pollutants.

In concept, I agree with Chairman LOBIONDO that we should enact a stringent uniform national standard for ballast water treatment technologies for commercial vessels. It makes sense to set a high standard that is technologically achievable and reduces the likelihood of introducing invasive species into our native waters.

My amendment does not add or change any technological requirements in the bill. Let me say that again. My amendment does not add or change any technological requirements in the bill. This is an issue of extreme importance to industry for understandable reasons. Nor does it give States carte blanche to prevent ships from releasing ballast water. It simply provides for the ability of States to petition the Federal Government, under a set of criteria that protects international and domestic commerce, to identify and protect highly sensitive water resources within a State's existing jurisdiction.

My amendment is not without precedent. In 1996, Congress amended the Clean Water Act to require the Department of Defense to work with the EPA to regulate ballast water from military vessels through the Uniform National Discharge Standards program. In providing for these uniform national standards, the then-Republican-led Congress acknowledged a deep respect for the rights of States, including a residual authority for States to establish ''no discharge zones'' similar to those that would be allowed under my amendment if it were to pass.

Section 312 of the Clean Water Act, which is probably the closest analogy to the issue of ballast water discharges from commercial vessels, establishes uniform standards for discharges of marine sanitation devices. Section 312 specifically reserves a role for States to create ''no discharge zones'' for important State waters, provided that those zones will not adversely impact vessels from operating within the States.

The issue really boils down to this:

If you believe that States have a role to play, however limited, in determining if some of their State waters deserve additional protections while maintaining a uniform national standard, then you should vote for the Bishop amendment. If, on the other hand, you believe that States should have absolutely no say whatsoever in protecting particularly sensitive waters within their jurisdictions, then you should oppose the Bishop amendment. Given what we've done thus far in this Congress, I would hope that Members would continue to assert that States have a role.

Earlier this year, we passed H.R. 2018, the Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011. This bill would eliminate any Federal role in setting baseline water quality standards, giving full discretion to the States. The bill that is before us flips that precisely. It would provide no role for the States and give 100 percent of the role to the Federal Government.

I would ask that the House continue to recognize the role of States in setting standards for water quality in waters that they control, so I would urge the adoption of my amendment.

Before I close, I do, though, want to thank Chairman LOBIONDO. We worked very hard over the last several weeks in trying to come to a resolution of this matter. We were unable to get there, but it was not for lack of trying. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their efforts to bring this matter to a bipartisan resolution. I'm sorry we couldn't get there, but as I say, it was not for lack of trying.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the gentleman from New York is attempting to do. We did give a mighty effort in trying to reach an agreement. It's one of those situations where we just have a different point of view.

It is my opinion that this amendment would make the current situation even worse because it would allow States to completely prohibit the discharge of ballast water, if they chose, regardless of what technology was installed on a vessel. So here is the situation:

You could have a vessel owner install technology worth millions of dollars, technology that would treat ballast water to 1 million times the standard in the bill, and you could still have a State come in and say, We're going to prohibit the vessel from discharging.

It completely undermines the uniform standards that we are attempting to accomplish. The amendment would also allow States to dictate how much ballast water could be discharged, the depth of the water where the discharge is permitted, and even at what hours of the day.

I think—and, again, my opinion is—that this amendment would completely undermine our efforts to put in place a single uniform national ballast water standard and that, if this amendment were to go forward, it would actually gut this portion of it.

So I urge all Members to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. May I inquire as to how much time I have left?

The CHAIR. The gentleman has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Respectfully, I believe that my colleague and friend from New Jersey has mischaracterized pieces of the amendment.

Let me be clear. I quote:

The amendment would not allow States to require the installation of ballast water treatment technology that differs from that required by the standards specified under subsection (c)—in other words, what the underlying bill provides—and they could not impose standards until they had applied to the administrator and the Secretary, and they would have to determine that the waters of the State required greater environmental protection.

So this would be a State request to the EPA.

Finally, the administrator and the Secretary, by the language of this amendment, could not approve a State operational requirement if that requirement, A, would have an unreasonable impact on the use of traditional shipping lanes or, B, would prohibit the discharge of ballast waters in all waters of the State.

This is a very narrowly crafted effort to provide at least some role for the States, subject to the approval of the Federal Government.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. I rise today in opposition to the amendment of the gentleman of New York (Mr. BISHOP) and, subsequently, to that of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), which also affects the uniform national standard of ballast water discharge.

This legislation creates a national standard that we desperately need. Currently, each State is able to create its own rules and regulations for ballast water discharge. The State of New York recently enacted extreme new ballast water requirements that are 100 times more stringent than international standards. After an extensive study, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources determined that the technology does not exist to meet this standard. If allowed to go into effect, these regulations would cost Indiana approximately 8,800 jobs while doing little to protect the Great Lakes from invasive species.

□ 1300

On September 7, Governor Daniels of Indiana joined Wisconsin Governor

Walker and Ohio Governor Kasich in submitting a letter to New York Governor Cuomo opposing New York's extreme new ballast requirements.

I urge all my colleagues to save maritime jobs not only in Indiana but across the Great Lakes and vote against these two amendments.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011.

Hon. ANDREW CUOMO,
Governor of New York State, NYS State Office Building, Albany, NY.

DEAR GOVERNOR CUOMO: We are writing to share our concerns regarding regulations adopted by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) that could seriously impede maritime commerce in the Great Lakes States to the west of New York.

In late 2008, NYDEC issued rules intended to prevent the introduction of aquatic nuisance species into New York waters via the ballast water of commercial vessels. While we share NYDEC's concern regarding the impact of invasive species on the ecology of the Great Lakes, we note that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has coordinated a global treaty to require all ships to install environmental technology by 2016 to clean ballast water to a specific water quality standard. The IMO is the maritime arm of the United Nations and it coordinates international shipping policy. Many Great Lakes states have incorporated the IMO ballast water treatment standard into their own rules. Likewise, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has embraced these same requirements for new federal regulations to be issued later this year.

Under New York's regulations, shipowners must install technology on existing vessels by August 1, 2013, to treat ballast water to a level 100 times more stringent than the IMO standard. Any vessels built after January 1, 2013, must include technology to treat ballast water to a level 1,000 times more stringent than the IMO standard. These rules not only apply to ships visiting New York ports, but also extend to ships in passage through New York waters destined for the ports of neighboring states and provinces. The rules apply to ships whether or not they discharge ballast water.

Today, there is no technology approved by the USCG to meet New York's regulatory requirements. In fact, the USCG has yet to establish a ballast water treatment technology approval process. Shipowners will not install ballast water treatment systems unless USCG approved, because they are unable to obtain insurance otherwise.

We also note that in February 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) established ballast water treatment regulations similar to the NYDEC; i.e., 100 times the IMO standard. Wisconsin's ballast water discharge general permit required the WDNR to conduct a feasibility determination of this standard, which it completed in December 2010. After considerable analysis, and in consultation with the Ballast Water Collaborative, a group of leading environmental scientists, vendors, naval architects and other experts in the U.S. and Canada, including New York DEC staff, the WDNR concluded that treatment technologies do not exist today to meet the 100 times IMO standard. The WDNR ballast water general permit was subsequently modified to require the IMO standards.

Ohio and Indiana employ the Vessel General Permit (VGP) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)—which has gone through each state's 401 review process and includes conditions that do not exceed IMO standards to regulate ballast waters. Further, USEPA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Coast Guard to, when inspecting vessels, ensure they are complying with the VGP.

We know the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tasked its Science Advisory Board (SAB) to address the question of whether ballast water treatment technology exists now, or in the foreseeable future, to meet a standard greater than IMO. In the SAB's recently issued final report, it emphatically stated that no such technology exists.

The State of New York is now the only jurisdiction in the Great Lakes that still regulates ballast water treatment technology more stringently than the IMO standard, and New York's standards are technologically impossible to meet. Unless the NYDEC regulations are amended, they will possibly force the closure of the St. Lawrence Seaway, and imperil thousands of maritime-related jobs in the Great Lakes States and Canada. Fortunately, the final USCG ballast water regulations will be published in the next few months. We have always supported a strong, consistent—standard that covers all U.S. waters.

NYDEC regulations are already having an effect on maritime commerce in the Great Lakes as shippers, ports, industry and labor unions look to establish long-term business agreements and plan future investments. Preventing the spread of invasive species continues to be a top priority for all of us, but waterborne shipping is critical to our economies, and we must work together toward controlling invasive species while also protecting the commerce of our nation's waterways. We urge New York to take prompt action and amend its ballast water regulations to align with the IMO and USCG standards.

Sincerely,

GOV. SCOTT WALKER,
Wisconsin.
GOV. MITCH DANIELS,
Indiana.
GOV. JOHN KASICH,
Ohio.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise with great affection for my friends from New York, both Mr. BISHOP and Ms. SLAUGHTER; but I have to set the table on what this is about.

The Coast Guard has been promulgating a Federal standard in line with the international maritime standard for the discharge of ballast water. And despite what people say—they say a new invasive species comes into the lakes every 28 days. That's true; but they don't come in in the ballast water of ships because industry, governments—both American and Canadian—and the States have worked hard to make sure that that does not occur.

But in the face of that, an organization called the New York Department of Environmental Conservation proposed regulations, as Mr. BUCSHON said, that when fully implemented would be a thousand times more stringent than the IMO standards. And what that effectively means is—and when you talk to these folks they say, Well, that's the great mother of invention. If we put these standards out there, the great mother of invention, they're going to invent something. But sadly for New York, their vendor—the one that they were counting on for this technology—said they are not even willing to have it be tested by a third party for verification that it works. So this amendment and those proposals would basically shut down waterborne commerce in the United States of America.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LATOURETTE. I will yield to you in just a second.

But here's the skinny: New York's regulations are more obnoxious because they cover just passage. You don't have to take a drop of ballast water in if you're in New York waters, and you don't have to discharge a drop. Just the mere fact of sailing through New York waters—which you have to do in the Great Lakes—would cause these regulations to come into effect.

Now, I had to go to the extraordinary length of offering an amendment in the Interior appropriations bill that said if New York continues on this crazy course, that they get no money out of the Interior appropriations bill. Now, that wasn't designed to cheat our friends in New York out of funds. That was designed to get their attention. We have their attention. We have to work together to solve this in a bipartisan way. This amendment and the next amendment are not going to do that.

I am happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I appreciate my friend from Ohio for yielding.

I want to be clear. What the gentleman from Ohio is describing is the current state of affairs. The underlying bill would change the current state of affairs. And the amendment that I'm seeking to the underlying bill would render the New York State standards moot because it would accept the technological standards imposed in the underlying bill. So the New York standards, as ambitious as they are, would go away.

What this would simply say is that New York and other States that are interested—such as California, such as Michigan—could establish certain operational requirements subject to the approval of the EPA that would allow for the protection of certain waters in the State.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I really had something pithy to say, but we will continue this later.

I thank the Chair.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SLAUGHTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 112–267.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), I offer an amendment.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike title VII of the committee print.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer an amendment with my distinguished colleague from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), which would remove a controversial measure that has been inserted into the underlying Coast Guard reauthorization. The measure forces States to adopt a weak international ballast water standard as a ceiling for regulatory efforts. In doing so, it preempts the right of States to respond to emerging invasive species and provides no incentive for future innovation in critical ballast water technology.

Each minute 40,000 gallons of ballast water containing thousands and millions of foreign bacteria, viruses, animals, and plants are discharged into U.S. waters. That's 21 billion gallons of ballast water annually. Once introduced, invasive species, such as the Asian carp, are exceedingly difficult to control and are often impossible to eradicate.

Having no natural predators, aquatic invasive species easily feed on native fish and other aquatic wildlife, foul beaches, degrade fisheries, clog water intake pipes and other infrastructure, disrupt the food chain, and contaminate our drinking water. We spend more than $1 billion a year simply trying to get rid of zebra mussels which to date we have spent $5 million trying to eradicate and have not even come close.

Ballast water is a serious matter, with far-reaching implications for this Nation. We lose billions of taxpayer dollars every year trying to combat and contain the invasive species brought into our waters by foreign shipping vessels. Many of our Nation's communities and all around the Great Lakes rely on these bodies of water for recreation, drinking, as well as their livelihoods.

The Great Lakes, which face significant challenges from invasive species, contain 20 percent of the freshwater on the planet. And I think those of us on both sides of the aisle who live adjacent to those lakes have always felt an obligation to try to protect that. And we must also remember that those are international waters, and our Canadian friends also have a say here. Unfortunately, the ballast water provisions in this measure protect the foreign shipping magnates rather than the Great Lakes and the people who live there.

The Dingell-Slaughter amendment strikes title VII from this measure, which will remove the damaging ballast water language. This amendment will allow us to pass the important Coast Guard reauthorization while giving Congress an opportunity to come to a responsible and reasonable agreement with respect to ballast water standards.

I urge my colleagues to support the Dingell-Slaughter amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOBIONDO. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Again, I rise with great affection for both Mr. DINGELL and Ms. SLAUGHTER, who are wonderful colleagues and friends in this House.

But this amendment is the Bishop amendment on steroids. So this amendment, unlike the Bishop amendment, would go back and remove the requirement that's in the bill, and New York would be free to go about its business and shut down waterborne commerce in the Great Lakes.

Now, the sad thing for the State of New York—and I know the people in New York think that they are pretty important and they run the whole place, but they don't. And, sadly, we have five Great Lakes that flow through and touch a number of States, Ohio being included in that. And just a couple of observations.

You know, this isn't a bunch of people that don't like the Great Lakes versus a bunch of environmentalists that want to protect it. The very first piece of legislation I had signed into law by President Clinton—and it's tough to get a bill signed into law by a President of the other party—was the reauthorization of the National Invasive Species Act, coauthored by John Glenn in the United States Senate.

I know invasive species. But I am going to tell you, because of the work of John Glenn and because of the work of a lot of good people, since 1995, I challenge anybody offering this amendment to come up with one invasive species that has gotten into the Great Lakes—and this notion that it's 28 days—yes, they come in on boats; they come in in people's boots; they come in swimming from other places. The biggest threat that we've got is the Asian carp. It's not coming in ballast water. It's swimming up the Mississippi, and we have got to fight with the President about whether or not we have an electronic barrier that keeps these awful fish out of the Great Lakes.

Now, the longshoremen don't like what New York is doing. Labor is not onboard with what Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. DINGELL are attempting to do. A July 2011 evaluation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency—so fresh off the charts—determined that the technology does not exist, does not exist. Even if a ship owner had a gazillion dollars and wanted to buy something off the shelf, it doesn't exist to meet the water quality level stipulated by New York.

□ 1310

For this reason, the maritime industry, together with labor, believes that these regulations are unworkable and if left unchanged will cause economic harm when they come into effect, resulting in complete cessation of commercial maritime commerce in New York waters.

Now, at a time when everybody around the country is screaming about jobs, what are we going to do? All the longshoremen, you don't have to work anymore. The guys that drive the boats, you don't need to work anymore. The folks that unload the boats, no, you don't need to work anymore. Why? Because one State out of the eight States that border the Great Lakes has decided to come up with something not passed by their legislature, passed by this New York environmental council. It's crazy.

We, again, in a good bipartisan way need to work together to fix this problem. Let's find the right way to keep the zebra mussel and the round goby and the sea lamprey and the Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. But to allow New York to go down this path with the passage of this amendment is destructive to jobs in the Great Lakes, and I hope that the amendment is defeated.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan, who cares as much as anybody from New York, the dean of the House and the cosponsor of the amendment, Mr. DINGELL.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, this is a very important question. The Great Lakes are 20 percent of the world's freshwater supply. It is endangered, and the fish and the wildlife and the whole ecosystem are endangered by the constant entry of imported species that come in in the ballast water of ships entering the Great Lakes. What we're talking about here is protecting something of enormous value that has been here since geological times and which has provided enormous opportunity for our people—food and all manner of things, including recreation, transportation, fish and wildlife.

This process of trying to give a few bones to a bunch of importers who are bringing these things in from the Black Sea and other places in Europe is a shameful thing if permitted. The United States and the Congress have not done the job that we should have

done to protect our Great Lakes. And already we have a large number of things, including some nasty diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia, sort of the Ebola virus of fish. This is something we have to protect our Great Lakes against, and other waters of the United States.

If foreign shippers are going to be bringing in dirty ballast water, discharging it into our Great Lakes, if the States want to spend the time protecting the States' water and the interest in the Great Lakes, or other bodies of water which are threatened by these practices, they want to do it, the Congress should very well permit them to do it because failure to do it is going to jeopardize 20 percent of the world's freshwater. And more importantly, a resource which is recreational which relates to fish and wildlife values and which provides us with opportunity for transportation, drinking water, and a whole array of other precious and important things. If we don't adopt this amendment, we'll find we're taking care of a bunch of foreign ship owners instead of our people and the future of the United States.

Support the amendment.

My home state of Michigan is blessed with a vast and marvelous natural resource—our Great Lakes. As a steadfast conservationist, I firmly believe that we owe it to future generations to restore and protect this national treasure. In addition to that, however, we also must consider the economic value of our Lakes.

Ballast water, which is used to stabilize freighters, is taken on board before a voyage begins. It can often contain organisms which become invasive species when released in non-native navigable waters. For the reasons outlined above, ballast water represents a significant threat to our Great Lakes.

The language in this bill would restrict states like Michigan from enacting commonsense laws to protect our shores, local economies, and recreation opportunities. The Dingell-Slaughter amendment would strike that language and allow Great Lakes and other coastal states to make the necessary decisions that are in their individual state's best interest in order to keep these invasive species from destroying our waters, fisheries, shorelines, and economies.

Among the invasive species affecting the Great Lakes are the zebra and quagga mussels. On the beaches of Lake Erie and Lake Michigan, we have seen fish and bird kills numbering in the thousands because zebra and quagga mussels have caused massive botulism outbreaks. Zebra and quagga mussels concentrate nutrients along the bottom of the nearshore area and make the water very clear. The extra food and sunlight promotes the growth of algae that coats the lake bottom in thick mats. As it dies, it becomes infected by botulism. The zebra and quagga mussels eat the dead algae and the botulism, which has no effect on them, and in doing so create higher and more deadly concentrations of botulism. When fish eat the zebra mussels, they die of botulism poisoning and wash up on the beach. There, birds eat them, and they too die of botulism poisoning.

Power and water treatment plants are also at risk. Zebra and quagga mussels attach themselves to hard surfaces including water intake pipes. Gradually these invasive species build and build until they clog the pipes, risking shutdown of these facilities.

Other invasive species include the Spiny Water Flea and the Fishhook Water Flea which fish can't digest. The viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) disease is like the ebola virus for fish. While it's mortality rate in the Great Lakes is still relatively low, it has caused thousands of fish deaths, further polluting the waters and shorelines.

Invasive species are costing Federal, State, and local governments as well as businesses billions of dollars every year. I ask that you vote for this amendment to give states the tools they need to fight invasive species.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 2 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from New York has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. LoBIONDO. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LaTOURETTE).

Mr. LaTOURETTE. Again, I have nothing but affection for Mr. DINGELL and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mr. DINGELL. If the gentleman will yield, let me express my great respect and affection for the gentleman.

Mr. LaTOURETTE. I thank the gentleman. It's mutual. And LOUISE likes me too.

But listen, here's the deal: There's not going to be anybody recreating on Great Lakes, fishing, and all the wonderful things we get to do on Lake Erie, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and Lake Huron, because nobody's going to be working. And so without jobs, people are not going to have the opportunity to enjoy the splendor of 28 percent of the world's freshwater.

Again, sadly, people in New York have decided they want to come up with a standard that nobody can meet. Now, in 2013 when fully implemented, what does that mean? That means a boat comes down the St. Lawrence Seaway and travels into New York, and if you can't meet their standard, 1,000 times more stringent than the international standard, guess what? You can't sail. The people can't sail on the ship. The people can't put goods on the ship.

Now again, despite my affection for the authors of this amendment, I've talked to the longshoremen. I've talked to the Canadians. I've talked to the people on the St. Lawrence Seaway, and they say that the problem with invasive species today in the Great Lakes isn't ballast water, it's the Asian carp swimming up the Mississippi River, and it's things brought in from other sources. It's not ballast water. It's not ballast water because Republicans and Democrats, since the beginning of my time here, 18 years, have worked together to get this right. This is wrong, and I urge it to be defeated.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We have to allow States, as we always have, to have a voice in protecting their ecosystems and economies. As long as we conform to the Federal law, we have always been able in States to enhance them. But if we want to really truly solve this threat of invasive species in our waters, and I personally believe it is quite serious because both in my time in the State legislature and the Federal legislature, that was certainly pointed out to me.

I urge my colleagues to support the Dingell-Slaughter amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I strongly, strongly, strongly oppose this amendment. This current regulatory nightmare will shut down our shipping lanes. It is unworkable, and I hope our colleagues understand the consequences if this amendment were to pass. I urge opposition to the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the Dingell/Slaughter amendment and urge its adoption by the House.

This is not primarily a shipping issue, or a sportsman's issue, or an issue for the environmental community. For me, it's a Great Lakes issue. I believe that all sides of this debate support reasonable and achievable ballast water standards that are protective of our nation's aquatic ecosystems against the spread of invasive species. But we can do better than the standards that have been grafted onto this Coast Guard bill.

I represent Lake St. Clair, which is a small but important lake in the Great Lakes system. The lake is heavily used for fishing, boating, and swimming, and it is a source of drinking water for millions. Lake St. Clair is also ground zero for the invasion of zebra mussels in the United States. In the mid-1980s, a ship that had come from a port in Europe dumped its ballast water into Lake St. Clair. From that moment, we have fought a losing battle against the zebra mussels. They have spread throughout the Great Lakes and gone on to invade the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and beyond. The zebra mussels have literally changed the very ecology of the Great Lakes. Millions of dollars are spent each year trying to control them.

Unfortunately, the zebra mussels are not an isolated incident. Hundreds of non-indigenous aquatic invaders have made their way into the Great Lakes in the ballast water of ships. At long last, it's time for the United States to adopt strong ballast water discharge standards. It is the failure of the federal government and this Congress to do so that has prompted the states to take action.

The proposed ballast water standards in the bill before the House are inadequate and risk further damage to the Great Lakes and other aquatic ecosystems in the United States. I cannot support them. I urge the House to adopt the Dingell/Slaughter amendment.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I understand that some are arguing that maintaining the ''status quo'' in states can set disparate ballast standards is better than moving any legislation establishing a stronger national ballast water standard, which is widely agreed upon as a necessary tool in our fight against waterborne invasive species.

While I share their concerns about the need to address this issue, I cannot support that stance. We need a national ballast water standard and if the House does not take a position in this bill, I am afraid that this issue will once again fall off the Congressional agenda. I feared a yes vote on the Slaughter-Dingell amendment—which would strip out the ballast water section altogether—would take away the last realistic chance for the House to consider this issue. This concern is relevant given that the ''Super Committee'' is set to dominate the legislative agenda in both Chambers, and after that, the upcoming elections.

The House last passed legislation setting a national ballast water standard in 2007. We can't wait another four years to even begin this discussion. I also recall, at that time, just like now, ballast water legislation was attached to Coast Guard reauthorization legislation.

I hear concerns about the need to protect and improve states' rights to protect their waters and the citizens and industries that depend on them. For this reason, I supported an amendment by Congressman TIM BISHOP that would strengthen the provision of the ballast water section of the bill to allow states' to enact stronger protections, with federal approval, to ensure they meet key standards.

No legislation is perfect. However, we have a legislative process by which we can work to improve and address concerns. I know that a number of my colleagues spoke during the debate about continuing to work together to improve the ballast water provision. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Senate further on this issue.

I cast my vote on this amendment reluctantly. I am concerned that simply sending the ballast water issue back to Committee, rather than to the Senate, would have likely been a death knell for further action in the 112th Congress. We have waited long enough. The Great Lakes can't wait. Wisconsin can't wait any further.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 707. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR VESSELS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title or the amendments made by this title, a qualified vessel shall operate for the life of the vessel under the terms and conditions of the Vessel General Permit, as in effect on November 1, 2011, without regard to any expiration dates in such permit.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) QUALIFIED VESSEL.—A vessel is a qualified vessel for purposes of subsection (a) if the vessel is, as of November 1, 2011—

(A) on, or nominated for inclusion on, the list of National Historic Landmarks; and

(B) subject to part 5.3 of the Vessel General Permit.

(2) VESSEL GENERAL PERMIT.—The term ''Vessel General Permit'' has the definition given such term in section 321(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as added by section 702.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I rise today in support of my amendment, along with the co-leads, Chairman TOM PETRI from Wisconsin and Congressman DAN BENISHEK of Michigan.

Today we're talking about a particular ship, the *SS Badger* located in Ludington, Michigan. It travels between Ludington and Manitowoc, Wisconsin. This particular ship has been operating on the Great Lakes for over 50 years, most recently coming back into service in 1991, using all private dollars to make that happen.

Its uniqueness is recognized by the designation of the National Register of Historic Places and by both the States of Wisconsin and Michigan. Its propulsion system is recognized as a mechanical engineering landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

The *Badger* is currently operating under special rules developed by the EPA in 2008. These rules are set to expire at the end of 2012. Without certainty provided by this amendment, the Badger could very easily, frankly, be forced off the Great Lakes at the end of 2012.

□ 1320

With an annual economic impact of roughly $35 million between two small port cities both in Wisconsin and Michigan, keeping the *Badger* operational is absolutely vital to our communities. I urge all of my colleagues today to join us in recognizing the historic significance of these Great Lake steamships by supporting the Huizenga-Petri-Benishek amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Who seeks time in opposition?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At this time I yield to my colleague, Chairman TOM PETRI from Wisconsin.

Mr. PETRI. I thank my colleague for offering the amendment, and I rise in support of it.

Mr. Chair, this amendment recognizes the unique and special character of historic ships and would keep in place the current EPA vessel discharge program for historic ferries.

I am particularly interested in this because the SS *Badger*, which operates on Lake Michigan between Ludington, Michigan, and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in my Congressional district, is believed to be the last coal fired vessel in regular commercial service.

This 50-year-old ship is an important part of our history, culture and tradition. It is currently on the National Register of Historic Places and has been nominated as a National History Landmark as an important part of our heritage.

The economic impact on Manitowoc, a small city of only 34,000 people, is $14 million a year, and the *Badger* is responsible for providing about 250 jobs on both sides of the lake. It attracts about 100,000 visitors to our cities each year.

Under this amendment, historic ferries would continue to operate under the parameters of the current general vessel permit. The Badger management has spent significant resources over the last few years trying to find a way to convert the vessel to a more modern propulsion system. But it is a difficult, complicated, and costly task.

Even with the passage of this amendment, the owners of the *Badger* will continue working with the Maritime Administration and the Great Lakes Maritime Research Institute on a program to repower steamships—with the *Badger* serving as the model vessel for the study.

Congress and the EPA have recognized the special nature of historic steamships before. Just a couple years ago, we exempted more than 50 older and unique Great Lakes steamships from new air emission rules. (I might add that effort was spearheaded by then-Chairmen Dave Obey and Jim Oberstar.) This amendment follows that model, and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

The discharge from the *Badger* has been repeatedly tested and it is non-toxic and NOT hazardous. It uses high quality, low-sulfur coal. The *Badger* operators have taken many steps over the years to reduce discharges and coal use. Some act as if the *Badger* has been out of compliance for decades—but prior to 2008, ''discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel'' were excluded from getting discharge permits. It was a 2006 court decision that required the new permits.

The *Badger* serves as an extension of Hwy. 10 across Lake Michigan and carries semitrucks and large oversized vehicles and other vehicles that otherwise would be driving around the Lake and through the congested Chicago area. By one estimate, that saves one million gallons of fuel each year and reduces air emissions.

The environment will not be saved by shutting down the *Badger*, but you will kill jobs, our local economy and a bit of our history.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. At this time, Mr. Chair, I yield to my fellow Congressman from Michigan, Representative DAN BENISHEK.

Mr. BENISHEK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I appreciate my fellow freshman and colleague from Michigan for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, this is a simple amendment that addresses a growing problem with our friends at the EPA—their love of bureaucratic red tape. I represent a district with more Great Lakes coastline than any other. Shipping and ferries are a part of the Great Lakes heritage. The USS *Badger* continues this tradition, transporting travelers, cars, trucks, and equipment across Lake Michigan.

Don't be confused. This amendment does not make the *Badger* exempt from EPA regulations. The EPA will continue to regulate discharge limits and other requirements. It simply keeps in place the current regulations that recognize the *Badger* as a unique and historic vessel. Keeping the *Badger* operational means saving 1 million gallons in fuel a year from vehicles driving around the lake. Passing this amendment is simple and common sense. It allows a national historic place to continue to function on the Great Lakes.

I urge passage.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. OLSON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 112–267.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 608 of the committee print and insert the following:

SEC. 608. STANDBY VESSELS.

(a) STUDY.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with appropriate representatives of industry, shall conduct a feasibility study to determine the capability, costs, and benefits of requiring the owner or operator of a manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel to locate a standby vessel—

(1) not more than 3 nautical miles from such manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel while it is performing drilling, plugging, abandoning, or workover operations; and

(2) not more than 12 nautical miles from such manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel while it is performing operations other than drilling, plugging, abandoning, or workover operations.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commandant shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 455, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I believe that issuing a mandate of this nature without proper study to determine if it will increase safety would be problematic. No one takes safety more seriously than the companies operating offshore. Since Deepwater Horizon, multiple safeguards have been put in place to ensure worker safety. I simply believe that the Coast Guard should have an opportunity to assess a provision of this nature before we establish an arbitrary mandate that they'll have to comply with.

This amendment does not—does not—prevent us from implementing measures to ensure worker safety. It simply requires a 6-month study first to allow the Coast Guard to analyze the safety benefits so that we can provide the safest environment for our offshore drilling workers.

The Coast Guard may determine that standby vessels should be required. If so, I will work to ensure that happens. I'm just asking that we review this issue thoroughly and prudently before we rush to legislate.

However, at this time, I understand the need to withdraw my amendment and appreciate Chairman MICA's willingness to work with me to address my concerns as we work through the legislative process. I also appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana, whose provision in the bill I sought to improve with my amendment. I am grateful for his commitment to work with me on our differences.

With that, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 112–267, on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 3 by Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland.

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

Amendment No. 6 by Mrs. NAPOLITANO of California.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. BISHOP of New York.

Amendment No. 8 by Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CUMMINGS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 174, noes 227, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 832]

AYES—174

Ackerman	Frank (MA)	Moran
Altmire	Fudge	Nadler
Andrews	Garamendi	Napolitano
Baca	Gonzalez	Neal
Baldwin	Green, Al	Olver
Barrow	Green, Gene	Pallone
Barton (TX)	Grijalva	Pascrell
Bass (CA)	Gutierrez	Pastor (AZ)
Becerra	Hahn	Pelosi
Berkley	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Berman	Hastings (FL)	Peters
Bishop (NY)	Himes	Pingree (ME)
Blumenauer	Hinchey	Polis
Boren	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Boswell	Hirono	Quigley
Brady (PA)	Hochul	Rahall
Braley (IA)	Holden	Rangel
Brown (FL)	Holt	Reyes
Butterfield	Honda	Richardson
Capuano	Hoyer	Richmond
Carnahan	Inslee	Ross (AR)
Carney	Israel	Rothman (NJ)
Carson (IN)	Jackson (IL)	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Jackson Lee (TX)	Ryan (OH)
Chandler	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Chu	Johnson, E. B.	Sarbanes
Cicilline	Kaptur	Schakowsky
Clarke (MI)	Keating	Schiff
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Schrader
Clay	Kind	Schwartz
Cleaver	Kissell	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Kucinich	Scott, David
Cohen	Langevin	Serrano
Connolly (VA)	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Conyers	Larson (CT)	Sherman
Cooper	Lee (CA)	Shuler
Costa	Levin	Sires
Costello	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter
Courtney	Lipinski	Speier
Critz	Loebsack	Stark
Crowley	Lofgren, Zoe	Thompson (CA)
Cuellar	Lowey	Thompson (MS)
Cummings	Luján	Tierney
Davis (CA)	Lynch	Tonko
DeFazio	Maloney	Towns
DeGette	Markey	Tsongas
DeLauro	Matsui	Van Hollen
Deutch	McCarthy (NY)	Visclosky
Dicks	McCollum	Walz (MN)
Dingell	McDermott	Wasserman Schultz
Doggett	McGovern	Waters
Donnelly (IN)	McIntyre	Watt
Doyle	McNerney	Waxman
Edwards	Meeks	Welch
Ellison	Michaud	Wilson (FL)
Engel	Miller (NC)	Woolsey
Eshoo	Miller, George	Yarmuth
Farr	Moore	
Fattah		

NOES—227

Adams	Cassidy	Garrett
Aderholt	Chabot	Gerlach
Akin	Chaffetz	Gibbs
Alexander	Coffman (CO)	Gibson
Amash	Cole	Gingrey (GA)
Amodei	Conaway	Gohmert
Bachus	Cravaack	Goodlatte
Barletta	Crawford	Gosar
Bartlett	Crenshaw	Gowdy
Bass (NH)	Culberson	Granger
Benishek	Davis (KY)	Graves (GA)
Berg	Denham	Graves (MO)
Biggert	Dent	Griffin (AR)
Bilbray	DesJarlais	Griffith (VA)
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Grimm
Bishop (UT)	Dold	Guinta
Black	Dreier	Guthrie
Blackburn	Duffy	Hall
Bonner	Duncan (SC)	Hanna
Bono Mack	Duncan (TN)	Harper
Boustany	Ellmers	Harris
Brady (TX)	Emerson	Hartzler
Brooks	Farenthold	Hastings (WA)
Broun (GA)	Fincher	Hayworth
Buchanan	Fitzpatrick	Heck
Bucshon	Flake	Hensarling
Buerkle	Fleischmann	Herger
Burgess	Fleming	Herrera Beutler
Calvert	Flores	Huelskamp
Camp	Forbes	Huizenga (MI)
Campbell	Fortenberry	Hultgren
Canseco	Foxx	Hunter
Cantor	Franks (AZ)	Hurt
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Johnson (IL)
Carter	Gardner	Johnson (OH)

Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—32

Austria
Bachmann
Bishop (GA)
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Coble
Davis (IL)
Filner
Gallegly
Giffords
Heinrich
Higgins
Issa
Jenkins
Jones
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Pence
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schock
Smith (WA)
Sullivan
Sutton
Velázquez
Young (FL)

□ 1350

Messrs. FORTENBERRY and SCHILLING changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 832, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 218, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 833]

AYES—182

Ackerman
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonner
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capuano
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fudge
Garamendi
Gibson
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kingston
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOES—218

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Amash
Bachus
Barletta
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Pearce
Perlmutter
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Reichert
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
West
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—33

Austria
Bachmann
Bishop (GA)
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Coble
Davis (IL)
Filner
Gallegly
Giffords
Heinrich
Higgins
Issa
Jenkins
Jones
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Pence
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (WA)
Sullivan
Sutton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Westmoreland
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1354

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 833, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MRS. NAPOLITANO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 364, noes 37, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 834]

AYES—364

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Capito
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olver
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stutzman
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—37

Ackerman
Amash
Berman
Blackburn
Bonner
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Cantor
Clarke (NY)
Crowley
Diaz-Balart
Edwards
Fudge
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Honda
Hultgren
Johnson, E. B.
Kildee
Larsen (WA)
Long
Manzullo
Meeks
Mulvaney
Olson
Rangel
Ribble
Rogers (AL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Schmidt
Stivers
Terry
Tiberi
Towns
Walberg
Walsh (IL)

NOT VOTING—32

Austria
Bachmann
Bishop (GA)
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Coble
Davis (IL)
Filner
Gallegly
Giffords
Grijalva
Heinrich
Higgins
Issa
Jenkins
Jones
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Pence
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (WA)
Sullivan
Sutton
Velázquez
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There are 30 seconds remaining.

□ 1401

Messrs. HONDA and GUTIERREZ changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mrs. BLACK and Messrs. JOHNSON of Ohio, PALAZZO, and NUNES changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 834, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF NEW YORK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 174, noes 225, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 835]

AYES—174

Ackerman
Amash
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Benishek
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Camp
Campbell
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gibson
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Huizenga (MI)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rogers (MI)
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Stark
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Walberg
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOES—225

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Pearce
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Visclosky
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—34

Austria
Bachmann
Bishop (GA)
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Cassidy
Coble
Davis (IL)
Filner
Gallegly
Giffords
Heinrich
Herger
Higgins
Issa
Jenkins
Jones
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Pence
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (WA)
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Velázquez
Young (FL)

□ 1405

Mr. CHAFFETZ and Ms. KAPTUR changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 835, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. SLAUGHTER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 237, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 836]

AYES—161

Ackerman
Amash
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Benishek
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Butterfield
Camp
Capuano
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Forbes
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huizenga (MI)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moran
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rigell
Rogers (MI)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Speier
Stark
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Upton
Van Hollen
Walberg
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOES—237

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Calvert
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Hirono
Holden
Huelskamp
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Pearce
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Richmond
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Visclosky
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—35

Austria
Bachmann
Berg
Bishop (GA)
Burton (IN)
Capps
Cardoza
Coble
Davis (IL)
Filner
Gallegly
Giffords
Heinrich
Higgins
Issa
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Jones
Murphy (CT)
Owens
Paul
Payne
Pence
Peterson
Ross (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Shuster
Smith (WA)
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Velázquez
Young (FL)

□ 1409

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chair, on rollcall 836, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chair, I was in my district today to attend to matters concerning the opening of a new federal courthouse in Buffalo. This is one of the largest federal projects completed in western New York in recent years, supporting hundreds of jobs. This striking structure, standing at the center of Buffalo's business district, is symbolic of Buffalo's rising opportunities in connection to our unique architecture and history.

My presence in Buffalo caused me to miss several votes in the House today. As a strong supporter of both maritime commerce and the

environmental protection of the Great Lakes, I would like to submit for the RECORD how I would have voted on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act and other matters.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Nay on rollcall 829.
Nay on rollcall 830.
Yea on rollcall 831.
Yea on rollcall 832.
Yea on rollcall 833.
Yea on rollcall 834.
Yea on rollcall 835.
Yea on rollcall 836.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) having assumed the chair, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2838) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 2838.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1410

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2061

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a concurrent resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 86

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2061) to authorize the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who die of injuries in connection with their employment, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

''SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

''This Act may be cited as the 'Civilian Service Recognition Act of 2011'.

''SEC. 2. PRESENTATION OF UNITED STATES FLAG ON BEHALF OF FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO DIE OF INJURIES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR EMPLOYMENT.

''(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—Upon receipt of a request under subsection (b), the head of an executive agency may give a flag of the United States for an individual who—

''(1) was an employee of the agency; and

''(2) dies of injuries incurred in connection with such individual's employment with the Federal government, suffered as a result of a criminal act, an act of terrorism, a natural disaster, or other circumstance as determined by the President.

''(b) REQUEST FOR FLAG.—The head of an executive agency may furnish a flag for a deceased employee described in subsection (a) upon the request of—

''(1) the employee's widow or widower, child, sibling, or parent; or

''(2) if no request is received from an individual described in paragraph (1), an individual other than the next of kin as determined by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

''(c) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The head of an executive agency may disclose information necessary to show that a deceased individual is an employee described in subsection (a) to the extent that such information is not classified and to the extent that such disclosure does not endanger the national security of the United States.

''(d) EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION OF FLAG BENEFIT.—The head of an executive agency shall provide appropriate notice to employees of the agency of the flag benefit provided for under this section.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, may prescribe regulations to implement this section. Any such regulations shall provide for the head of an executive agency to consider the conditions and circumstances surrounding the death of an employee and nature of the service of the employee.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) EMPLOYEE.—The term 'employee' has the meaning given that term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code, and includes an officer or employee of the United States Postal Service or of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

''(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term 'executive agency' has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, and includes the United States Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission.''.

(2) Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to authorize the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of Federal civilian employees who die of injuries incurred in connection with their employment.''.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS ACT OF 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1487) to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1487

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 ''Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUSINESS TRAVEL CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—During the 7-year period ending on September 30, 2018, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, is authorized to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards (referred to in this section as ''ABT Cards'') to any eligible person, including business leaders and United States Government officials who are actively engaged in Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation business. An individual may not receive an ABT Card under this section unless the individual has been approved and is in good standing in an international trusted traveler program of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING TRAVEL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may integrate application procedures for, and issuance, suspension, and revocation of, ABT Cards with other appropriate international trusted traveler programs of the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE ENTITIES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security may consult with appropriate private sector entities.

(d) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, may prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section, including regulations regarding conditions of or limitations on eligibility for an ABT Card.

(e) FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may—

(A) prescribe and collect a fee for the issuance of ABT Cards; and

(B) adjust such fee to the extent the Secretary determines to be necessary to comply with paragraph (2).

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that the total amount of the fees collected under paragraph (1) during any fiscal year is sufficient to offset the direct and indirect costs associated with carrying out this section during such fiscal year, including the costs associated with establishing the program.

(3) ACCOUNT FOR COLLECTIONS.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an ''APEC Business Travel Card Account'' into which the fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be deposited as offsetting receipts.

(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the APEC Business Travel Card Account—

(A) shall be credited to the appropriate account of the Department of Homeland Security for expenses incurred in carrying out this section; and

(B) shall remain available until expended.

(f) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, may terminate activities under this section if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines such action to be in the interest of the United States.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO REVISE AND EXTEND REMARKS

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) be permitted to revise and extend his remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 7, 2011; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2011; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2011.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAYWORTH). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1002 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (P.L. 107–306) as amended by section 701(a)(3) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (P.L. 111–259), and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, of the following Member of the House to the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community:

Mr. CONAWAY, Texas

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MILTON KRINER II

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on October 9, 2011, a good friend and long-time scouter, John Milton Kriner II, passed away at the age of 53. A life marked with accomplishment and overcoming barriers, John was born in 1958 with Down syndrome. Despite life's challenges, John and his parents, John and Betta, always focused on the possible, not the limitations.

He graduated from State College Area High School, went on to receive certification from Centre County Vocational and Hiram G. Andrews Technical Schools, and was later employed by the State Area College School District. A member of Troop 339, Boy Scouts of America, John received the Eagle Scout with Gold Palm, Silver Beaver Award, Unit Commissioner, Honorary Camp Director, and Wood Badge Beaver Awards. He attended four BSA national jamborees, serving as a staff member, was a Vigil Honor member of the Monaken Lodge, Order of the Arrow, and an honorary member of Penn State University's Alpha Phi Omega. John was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church, where he served as an usher, greeter, and was a member of Disciples Sunday school class. He was also a State Special Olympic silver, bronze, and gold medal winner in swimming. John Kriner was a true inspiration to all who knew him. Well done, Scouter.

VFW 1—VETERANS ADMINISTRATION 0

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, during the hot days of last summer, the Veterans of Foreign Wars went to battle with the Veterans Administration. The VFW claimed the VA was censoring free speech and preventing the free exercise of religion at the National Cemetery in Houston. The VFW says the chapel at the cemetery was closed. The Bible, the cross, the Star of David were removed, and the chapel became a storage shed. VFW members also said the director of the cemetery censored prayers and prohibited the religious ceremony during burial of veterans.

The VFW sued the VA, and the VA naturally denied the whole thing. Recently, a Federal judge approved and agreed to an order requiring the chapel to be reopened, the Bible, the cross, the Star of David to be returned, and said that the VA must not interfere with free speech or the free exercise of religion at burials.

Madam Speaker, it is ironic that Americans have gone to war, fought for the principles of the Constitution; then when they come home, they face government hostility and the denial of First Amendment rights to the citizens when these veterans are buried in VA cemeteries. Now the veterans have won a battle against a government that wanted to deny them the American freedoms they fought for in lands far, far away.

And that's just the way it is.

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, the Department of Health and Human Services recently proposed a rule that would require all health plans to cover in full and, consequently, every American to subsidize procedures and drugs that are unrelated to medical necessity, traditionally considered electives, and can be very ethically divisive for many Americans. Why when 75 cents on every public health care dollar is spent on the management of chronic conditions, such as cancer, heart disease, and stroke, is the Health and Human Services Department prioritizing free sterilization, for instance?

This is distinctly unrelated to our Nation's health care priority challenges. I can only conclude that this is ideologically driven and most perniciously affects faith-based institutions who are the backstop of compassionate care for the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Many Republicans and Democrats have expressed very serious concerns about this. No American should be forced to choose between their faith and their job.

REGIONAL HAZE MANAGEMENT

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

Mr. BERG. Madam Speaker, with each new overreaching one-size-fits-all mandate, the Obama administration continues to burden the States with unnecessary costs and regulations that are hindering job creation. That's why today I introduced the Regional Haze Federalism Act. This will rein in the Obama administration and prevent a Federal takeover of State haze management.

States like North Dakota continue to act responsibly to create well-researched plans and to implement EPA-mandated policies; yet it's clear that these efforts to play by the rules aren't enough for the Obama administration. The administration's overreach would cost North Dakota over $700 million. Those costs will directly increase rates to our consumers across the State.

If we are truly committed to creating jobs and lowering energy costs, we need to empower the States and rein in President Obama's overreaching EPA.

HONORING CORPORAL JOSHUA ''J.B.'' KERNS

(Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, I rise today, as we approach Veterans Day, to honor Corporal Joshua ''J.B.'' Kerns. Corporal Kerns, from Ararat, Virginia, in Patrick County, served in the United States Marine Corps in the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 3rd Platoon. And one day in Afghanistan he, unfortunately, was hit with an IED explosion. This brave young man lost both legs and one arm.

One of the volunteers who worked with him as he recovered, Bert Caswell, working with Wounded Warriors, wrote a poem on his behalf, which I will put

into the RECORD, but I would like to read just a small piece of it. It's entitled ''What I've Learned.''

''And yet, you're only 21. But from you, Joshua, so much more I've learned, more than all my years under the sun! And that as long as we have such sons like you, and such families too, then our Nation will stand, yes, that old Red, White and Blue. And in our future, there's even more to learn from you!''

Thank you, Joshua ''J.B.'' Kerns, and all of our soldiers who serve our Nation.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

(By Bert Caswell)

CORPORAL JOSHUA B. KERNS, 2ND COMBAT ENGINEERS BATTALION, THE UNITED STATES MARINES

WHAT I'VE LEARNED
What . . .
What I've learned!
That in this our Country Tis of Thee, there are such most splendid souls as these!
Such Magnificent Men of Might, America's Bravest of all sons so bright like you J.B.!
United States Marines, who all so shine . . . all in their most Splendid Shades of Green!
As this is what I've learned!
And that a strong young courageous man, with his Brothers In Arms will go off to war . . . To Stand!
All for our Country Tis of Thee, will himself so ignore!
All for The Price of Freedom To So Insure!
And will so heroically walk through the valley of death, with but his own most sacred life so pledged!
And that his Brother In Arms will run straight into death, to get help for him . . . his most sacred gift to bless!
As did SST Rogers . . . who on that day, for you J. B. our world so left!
While, even when so close to death . . . with but only one arm left, I've learned!
That somehow still, you could summon up The Courage, The Strength, and The Iron Will!
To so cheat death, all with what was within your fine heart as etched!
With such power and might, and faith . . . to new heights to so teach us on each new day!
And that against all odds J.B., somehow you rose up to walk again . . . this most brilliant sight!
With but tears in your eyes, as your new life had begun . . . all on this most memorable night!
Is that not what Heaven is so for my son?
As this is What I've Learned!
That arms and legs, yea we all need . . . but we can survive!
But, without a magnificent heart like yours J. B's . . . we will so surely die!
And that, men who are armed with such courage and faith . . . can even make The Angel's cry!
No matter how dark each new day, with hearts of courage full . . . move onward, as do they!
To somehow! Someway! To rise up again, all out on their most heroic ways!
And, all of those magnificent families who so bare such heartache and pain . . .
Watching their loved ones courage, and will to live . . . as on their knees with tears they pray!
Will but in the darkest of all nights and days, will stand by them each hour will they!
For them too, one day Heaven so hold's a place . . . And I've learned that some men, are put upon this earth!
To So Teach Us, All In Their Fine True Worth!
As to my soul J. B., you've taught me what comes first!
And if I ever have a son, I wish he could shine as bright as you JB, this one!
One of Virginia's, most gallant of all sons!
As I cry, as I watch from where your great heart has so come!
Running to recovery, all up to new heights . . . all in what you have so done!
As you make me so weep my son!
Whenever, I so think of . . . those valleys, from which you've come!
As I watch all of those mountains so high, that you've climbed . . . As Thy Will Be Done!
As all of those promises to your fine soul, that you so made and kept my son!
As you Did Not Give Up! Did Not Give In! Did Not Moan, or Beg My Friend!
While, from a death bed, to a wheel chair . . . until those first steps, standing there!
As your precious Mother's tears did run!
As you walked again, as we've all learned so much from you JB . . . That, you are More Than A Man!
And, that you are a Marine's Marine . . . one of The Best Dam Things This Country Has Ever Seen!
Hoo . . . rah Jarhead . . . all in your Most Magnificent Shades of Green!
And yet, you're only twenty one . . . but from you Joshua so much more I've learned!
More, than all of my years under the sun!
And that as long as we have such sons like you, and such so families too!
Then, our Nation Will Stand . . . yes, That old Red, White and Blue!
And in the future, there's even more to learn from you!

□ 1420

THE THREAT OF A NUCLEAR ARMED IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity, and I would like to thank the members of the House staff that are staying beyond voting hours for our opportunity to speak, and I promise that I will reward your efforts with brevity.

This is the end of another difficult week for a lot of Americans. For too many Americans, it's another week without a paycheck. For many Americans, this is the week their unemployment benefits will expire and they will have no income next week. For many Americans, this is the last weekend they'll be in their home because the foreclosure is about to be executed upon. And sadly, for many Americans, this might be the last time that he or she closes the doors on their business. This time they close it for good.

Our constituents and neighbors are hurting, hurting desperately, and I think there has been far too little attention paid to those problems here in this institution. I hope that when we return after what is, parenthetically, our 12th recess of the year, we will get to work on the jobs problem for our country and try to put our people back to work.

As vital as that jobs crisis is, we can never put our country in a situation where we are not paying attention to threats to our security here at home and around the world. And I do want to spend a few moments this afternoon talking about what I think is a very significant threat, and that is the threat of Iran developing a nuclear weapon.

It is to the credit of the chairwoman of the international relations committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and the senior Democrat ranking member, Mr. BERMAN, that yesterday Republicans and Democrats on that committee came together to pass what I consider to be very powerful legislation that would work against the propagation of nuclear weapons by Iran. I hope that legislation is something that will be brought to the floor promptly and supported by Members from both sides. I think it is important to understand what more we could do and why it's so important to do it.

This is another productive day throughout our country. People are going to work in our cities and in our small towns and our suburbs. They are going to classes at universities and schools. They are visiting their loved ones in hospitals. It is, thank God, a normal day in America where we can do the things that we want to do. But, you know, a day 10 years ago in September of 2001 started like a normal day, too. September 11, 2001, was a beautiful, blue sky, crystalline day, and it ended as one of the worst days in the history of our country. The pain of that day is felt by people around this country not just in the New York metropolitan region, not just in Washington, D.C., not just in Pennsylvania, but around the country and around the world.

I fear and dread that a similar day could come from a scenario almost too terrible to imagine. Imagine a group of terrorists who are able to assemble a substantial amount of money but not an impossible amount of money—let's say about $2 million—and they're able to commandeer the services of scientists who are evil enough or hungry enough that they would lend their skills to the destructive task of making a small nuclear device, what we call a small improvised explosive device, a nuclear IED. And they don't need a missile to deliver this nuclear IED; they need a U-Haul truck. So they assemble the IED and they load it on the back of a U-Haul truck, and they drive it to a place where there's a lot of innocent Americans: The National Mall right outside of this building, a sports arena for an NFL football game, Times Square, or a church or a synagogue or a mosque where people are about to

worship. And they detonate the IED. The consequences are huge numbers of deaths in the immediate area of the explosion, a significant number of people sickened and eventually dying from nuclear poisoning, the contamination of the area of the explosion, and a devastating blow to the psyche of the United States of America.

How could this happen? Is this possible?

Well, it's possible only if terrorists get access to what's called fissile material from which you can make a nuclear bomb. Fissile material can only come from three places: You can make it, and it takes a very significant industrial complex to do so; you can steal it, and that's a problem that we're working on trying to prevent; or you can have a government that gives it to you because that government is committed to a terrorist agenda.

My colleagues, understand that the risk of Iranian nuclear proliferation includes firing a missile at U.S. troops or U.S. allies in the Middle East. It most certainly includes that risk, but it's not limited to that risk. I think the greatest risk of Iranian nuclear proliferation is the risk of fissile material being handed off by the Iranian Government to a terrorist organization that then assembles a small nuclear IED and brings havoc and death to innocent people in the United States of America. How do we stop that? How do we prevent that from happening? That was the focus of the effort of the Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday, and I think it should be the focus of our country and civilized countries around the world.

Now, it's important to understand the history of this problem, the context of this problem, the risk of this problem, and what I believe is the solution to this problem. The history is this:

Of all the Nations in the world, only one has conducted a nuclear weapons research program and systematically lied about the fact that it has done so, and that one nation is the Republic of Iran. The source, it's a document from the IAEA, the international agency that monitors nuclear development, from September 24, 2005, when that organization said that they were uncertain of Iran's motives in failing to make important declarations over an extended period of time and in pursuing a policy of concealment until October of 2003. This is not a political view of an American legislator or an ideological position of a journal. This is the official statement from the international agency that watches nuclear weapons. That's the history. A long history of deceit and concealment.

What's the context? How is Iran behaving in the present state of world affairs? First of all, they are killing United States troops in Iraq. Here's what the State Department's 2010 country terrorism report had to say about Iran:

Despite its pledge to support the stabilization of Iraq, Iranian authorities continue to provide lethal support, including weapons, training, funding, and guidance to Iraqi Shia militant groups that target U.S. and Iraqi forces.

This is a country that is actively engaged in an attempt to kill American soldiers in Iraq as we speak today.

Secondly, their brutality extends to their own people systematically. Let me highlight just one chilling and horrifying example reported by Amnesty International on October 11, 2011. An actress named Marzieh Vafamehr has become the latest individual to face a sentence of flogging—flogging. She was sentenced on or about October 8, 2011, to a year in prison and 90 lashes.

□ 1430

This is not the Middle Ages. I'm not reading from a historic treatise from the year 800. I'm reading from a sentence passed down by an Iranian court less than a month ago. What was her offense? Her offense was she appeared in a film called ''My Tehran for Sale'' in which she appeared in one scene without the mandatory head covering which women in Iran are required to wear and appears to drink alcohol in another. Her husband denied that she had consumed any alcohol, but the exact charge was levied, and this woman is in prison as we speak and once a month is beaten because she appeared in a movie in a way that was culturally offensive to the regime. This is the regime that is seeking a nuclear weapon.

What else in the context, what else are they up to? Well, let's listen to the statements of the President of Iran. Now he's not the person that really runs the country; the so-called Revolutionary Council does. But he's involved in its government, President Ahmadinejad, and here is what he said:

''Thanks to people's wishes and God's will, the trend for the existence of the Zionist regime is downwards, and this is what God has promised and what all nations want. Just as the Soviet Union was wiped out and today does not exist, so will the Zionist regime soon be wiped out.'' This is the regime that is attempting to acquire a nuclear weapon.

And, finally, we were all, I think, stunned by the reports last week that individuals who allegedly had ties to the Iranian Government were indicted in the American court system for allegedly plotting the assassination of the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States on U.S. soil. Now, Madam Speaker, I would hasten to point out, as you well know, in our system these are allegations, not facts, and so we cannot say that these things are true. But I can scarcely think of a time in the history of our country where we have indicted foreign nationals or U.S. citizens for an alleged conspiracy to murder a foreign diplomat on our soil. Perhaps these individuals will be found not guilty. Perhaps they will be found guilty. But the fact that there was probable cause to make such an assertion is deeply shocking and disconcerting. This is the regime that is attempting to achieve a nuclear weapon.

Now how close are they? Here's a report from May 24 of 2011. The world's global nuclear inspection agency, the IAEA, frustrated by Iran's refusal to answer questions, revealed for the first time on Tuesday that it, meaning the U.N. agency that watches nuclear weapons, it possesses evidence that Tehran has conducted work on a highly sophisticated nuclear triggering technology that experts said could be used for only one purpose: setting off a nuclear weapon. This is the regime that says it is trying to acquire centrifuges and nuclear power plants to create nuclear power for its people. But the quote that I just read is from the international agency, not from U.S. intelligence, not from our allies, not from those who oppose the Iranian regime, but from the neutral international agency, which, frankly, has criticized the United States on occasion, from the neutral international agency talking about what the Iranians are up to.

Now it's classified information as to how close they are to receiving this, and we are all under an oath not to talk about that classified information, but the public record is replete with information that the Iranians are aggressively pursuing such a weapon.

And here's an academic analysis that talks about how such a weapon could be used by a terrorist group that would be the beneficiary of an Iranian handoff of fissile material. Based upon this professor's analysis, and this is written by the executive director for the Project on Managing the Atom, Jeffrey Lewis from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the article is called the ''Economics of Nuclear Terrorism.'' Here is what Professor Lewis has to say: A terrorist organization like al Qaeda could plausibly build and deliver a nuclear weapon for less than $2 million. Two million dollars. Now, of course, that's $2 million after you've received the fissile material or bought it. Well, such an organization would now have a willing partner in Tehran that would own and be able to produce such fissile material.

We have an urgent economic crisis in our country. We need to fix it. We have a lot of other problems we need to fix. But this is happening. And we cannot let our attention to our economic crisis take our attention away from our duty to prevent this kind of catastrophe from happening to innocent people in the world.

So what do we do about it? What's the solution? How do we go forward in a way that stops the Iranians from getting this fissile material? To the credit of this Congress, both parties, and President Obama, the United States imposed bilateral sanctions on the Iranians about a year and a half ago. And

to the credit of the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Security Council imposed modest sanctions on the Iranians about a year ago, and there is some evidence that these sanctions are beginning to work.

The United States sanctions, which were led by then-ranking member ROS-LEHTINEN and now chairwoman, and by then-Chairman BERMAN, now ranking member, and frankly that relied upon the work of Senator KIRK in the Senate, focused on a gasoline embargo. It's an odd fact, but Iran, which is a country which exports crude oil, imports about 40 percent of its gasoline because its economy is so dysfunctional that it cannot refine its own products. Before the U.S. sanctions were imposed, the price of a gallon of gasoline heavily subsidized in Iran was 38 cents a gallon. Today it's $1.58 a gallon.

Now what does this mean? It means that an Iranian citizen who used to have to work 1 hour to fill their gas tank once a week now has to work 5 hours to fill their gas tank once a week. This is not a huge sacrifice, but it's making a dent in the economy of Iran.

It is our intention, obviously, not to in any way punish or jeopardize the well-being of the Iranian people. They are our friends, and we want them to be our friends and allies for years to come. But the simple, and I think compelling, logic of these sanctions is we are compelling the Iranian leadership to choose between pursuing their nuclear weapons ambitions but suffering economic consequences or abandoning those nuclear weapons ambitions and having the opportunity to restore their economy to some basic degree of health.

By the way, at a time when crude oil prices were rising, the Iranian economy stagnated. They had a negative growth of 1 percent last year, and they had stagnant growth the year before that. So at a time when they should have been enjoying robust economic growth because of rising crude oil prices, they were stagnant because of the effectiveness of these sanctions.

Perhaps the best evidence of effectiveness was from President Ahmadinejad himself, who this week stood before their parliament defending a cabinet member of his who is accused of some wrongdoing and said that one of the reasons why they had to engage in the wrongdoing was their economy was in bad shape because ''we can't do international banking transactions anymore.'' Well, there's some good news.

What I'm suggesting here is that the House should move rapidly to embrace and support the legislation that the Foreign Relations Committee marked up yesterday. And I think that legislation will enjoy broad Republican and Democratic support, as it did yesterday. I believe it was approved unanimously by the committee. I would then urge our administration to work with the Congress and sign such legislation and implement it.

Now, listen, Madam Speaker, I fully understand that sanctions alone may not be sufficient. And I'm not here today to argue for that proposition. What I am here today to argue for is the proposition that the sanctions we have imposed thus far have shown some signs of success. I think this is the time to intensify those sanctions, not to weaken them. I think this is a time for us to intensify our unified national resolve on this question. And despite our very profound differences on matters of economics and social policy, which is what a democracy ought to have, there should be no difference between us on the question of standing in a unified fashion in favor of more intense sanctions against Iran. The need is urgent and compelling.

□ 1440

You know, Madam Speaker, if someone had stood in this Chamber in the mid-1990s and said, If we don't focus our intelligence efforts on an obscure group of former mujahedin rebels in Afghanistan called al Qaeda, if we don't do that, the day may come when we will have a domestic Pearl Harbor, when the World Trade Centers will collapse, when thousands of people will perish, when the Pentagon, our own air space, will be attacked by civilians in our country, I think one would have thought that the Member was auditioning for a Tom Clancy film. It would sound very fantastic, very unlikely, and almost like science fiction or a spy thriller.

I wish September 11, 2001, had been fiction—I wish. That we had not had to go to those funerals and comfort those families who suffer today, I wish that were the fact. And there will be some who will say that the scenario we talked about earlier, about a nuclear IED exploding in Times Square or the National Mall or an NFL football game, is too provocative or too sensational or too scary. I hope they're absolutely right; I hope it's total fiction.

But I think we ought to know better. I think we ought to know better that there is a regime which has demonstrated its deceit, which has manifested its evil toward its own people and to our troops in the Middle East, that has used language that is more than just purple language, that is language that goes beyond the pale about the annihilation of Israel and of all those who would stand with Israel, and that now stands accused—or persons alleged to have been tied to that regime now stand accused in our courts of participating in a conspiracy to assassinate a foreign diplomat on our soil. These are people we should be concerned about.

And as we look at the question of whether such an attack could happen, I think the question is unequivocally: Yes, it can. Our responsibility is to, with equal equivocation, say, no, it won't, no, it won't; that we will use the resources at our disposal—our international alliances, our economic leverage, our diplomatic skill—to try to move the Iranians to the point where they would accept a reasonable deal which says if you want to have nuclear power plants in your country, that's your sovereign right; but you must buy your fuel from outside the country and you must abandon your ability to manufacture and synthesize fuel. That's a reasonable and fair settlement. We should use every tool at our disposal to encourage the Iranian Government to accept such a settlement.

And as any wise President should do, as President Obama has done, as President Bush did before him, as President Clinton did before him, as President Bush did before him, as Presidents Reagan and Carter did before them, any prudent American President must reserve the right to defend our sovereign interests with whatever tools are necessary should the need arise. I pray that the need will never arise. And I think if we act intelligently, forcefully, but urgently, I think that we can avoid that day and avoid a situation like I described earlier.

So, Madam Speaker, thank you for this time this afternoon. I'd like to again thank the staff for its indulgence. I commend the chairwoman of our committee and the ranking member. And I look forward to supporting their legislation, broadening our unified, bipartisan national effort to stand strong against the tyranny and evil of this regime and for the welfare of innocent people throughout the world and throughout our country.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.J. RES. 2

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I request that my name be removed as a sponsor to H.J. Res. 2.

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

There was no objection.

DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here on the floor to hear my friend from New Jersey's comments, very well thought through. And I feel sure we can find some commonality in our concerns and appreciate the man's heart and mind. Thank you.

One of the things under the debt ceiling act that was passed early August was a requirement for a vote on a balanced budget amendment. There are different versions of a balanced budget amendment. One has most of the things we hold dear, not only a requirement of balancing the budget, but also

a cap to spending as a percentage of gross domestic product, and also an increased supermajority in order to pass any tax bills raising taxes.

My concern has been that we had a wave election last November. We got over 80 new conservative freshmen, and we haven't cut spending like we should. I am more and more compelled that we need a cap on spending. All of our Members support that. But the question will be: What version of a balanced budget amendment will come to the floor for a vote?

I really do appreciate the comments of my friend from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS). There's been a lot going on in the Middle East. And it's not looking very good for those who love freedom, the right to make their own choices, because you find in some of the documentation of those who have pushed, supported rebellion, the so-called Arab Spring, their definition of freedom is the freedom to live under shari'a law and be completely governed by shari'a law. That's the freedom that their Arab Spring brings.

And it's been interesting, there's an article here from the Washington Examiner by Gregory Kane. The title says, ''Obama Becomes 'Silent Cal' on Libya, Shari'a.'' I'd just like to read this for the RECORD. And I'm inserting ''President'' into the mention of President Obama:

With each passing day, we're learning more and more about the people President Obama tossed us into bed with in Libya.

Here's a headline from the London Daily Mail, a British newspaper:

''Now the rebels impose Shariah law as Islamic rules become 'basic source' of Libyan legislation.''

In the story below the headline, readers learn from the chairman of Libya's National Transition Council that the country's new parliament will have ''an Islamist tint,'' that ''any existing laws contradicting the teachings of Islam would be nullified'' and that men would be allowed to have as many as four wives.

Again, the question must be put to Barack Hussein ''American Values'' Obama, president of the United States: exactly how do Shariah law and polygamy reflect American values?

Remember, when President Obama justified American and NATO airstrikes in Libya to support the rebel forces that toppled the regime of Moammar Qadhafi he claimed that preventing bloodshed was an ''American value.''

But there was bloodshed aplenty, as least on the side of Qadhafi forces. Qadhafi himself was a victim of the bloodshed, and the circumstances of his death that have come to light shed more light on what a sham Obama's claim of acting to preserve American values really is.

In a separate London Daily Mail story about Qadhafi's death, the paper printed the photo of an unidentified rebel who claimed he was the one who killed Qadhafi.

''We grabbed [Qadhafi],'' the young man said. ''I hit him in the face. Some fighters wanted to take him away and that's when I shot him, twice, in the face and in the chest.''

Later, it was revealed that more was done to Qadhafi than this young rebel merely shooting him in the face and chest.

Some reports say that, before he died, Qadhafi was sodomized with either a knife, bayonet or some other sharp object.

So let's recap:

President Obama commits American forces—as part of NATO.

□ 1450

I'll parenthetically add, when he did not have the sense to come before Congress and make the case here, as many of us on both sides of the aisle have been advocating. No matter who the President is, Republican, Democrat, if you can't come to Congress and make the case as to why American lives and American treasure should be put at risk, is it really something we ought to be doing as a country?

Now, resuming with the article:

1. President Obama commits American forces—as part of NATO—to supporting a rebel faction in Libya whose goal is to overthrow Qadhafi. Obama does this while having absolutely no clue about what kind of people make up this rebel faction.

2. The rebel forces prevail, primarily through NATO airstrikes. It was a NATO airstrike that took out a Qadhafi convoy fleeing Sirte that allowed rebel forces to capture the deposed Libyan leader.

3. Qadhafi ends up in the hands of what can only be considered a mob. He is beaten, tortured, possibly sodomized, and fatally shot in what has been oxymoronically described as ''mob justice.'' His body is then put on public display in a meat store.

4. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton flies into Libya and announces, with the smug arrogance we might expect from an official from Obama's administration, ''We came, we saw, he [Qadhafi] died.''

5. Leaders of Libya's National Transition Council announce that Shariah law will prevail in Libya.

6. President Obama is mum on No. 5.

He—President Obama—hasn't said one word about the blatantly false account of Qadhafi's death that interim Libyan Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril initially gave reporters.

He hasn't condemned the ''mob justice'' that led to Qadhafi's death, the beating, the torture, the alleged sodomizing. He hasn't mumbled so much as a syllable about Qadhafi's body being put on display in a meat store.

Obama hasn't said one word about Shariah being the law of the land in the new Libya. The man who was unavoidable for comment when it came to justifying American intervention in Libya has now pulled a complete Harpo Marx Act.

On this issue, Obama—President Obama—has made ''Silent'' Cal Coolidge look like a motor mouth.

That's an article from Gregory Kane in the Washington Examiner.

Then, interestingly, from the American Thinker, an article by Andrew Bostom, ''Liberated Libya: Al Qaeda Flag Aloft Benghazi's Courthouse.''

The courthouse in Benghazi, is the iconic seat of the revolt which toppled Qadhafi—Libya's ''(im) moral equivalent'' to Egypt's Tahrir Square. During the tumultuous months of Libya's brutal civil war, it was here that rebel forces established a provisional government, and propagandistic media center, crowing to foreign journalists about their ''heroic'' struggle ''for freedom.''

[Picture of al Qaeda flag]

One can now see both the Libyan rebel flag and the flag of al Qaeda fluttering atop Benghazi's courthouse.

I've got a blowup of that right here.

Just so those who felt so compelled to assist members of al Qaeda, we knew they were members of al Qaeda. We didn't know how many were part of the Libyan rebel forces, but we knew there were members of al Qaeda. We knew that there were people who were rebelling against Qadhafi, that as much as they wanted to kill Qadhafi want to kill Americans. And now we also know NATO forces, as the President kept saying, Oh, no, we're going to leave that to NATO forces. The United States military makes up 65 percent of NATO's military. It's American.

So let's look and recap the good that we've done in supporting those members of al Qaeda who took out Qadhafi, with whom this administration had lawful dealings before they decided to support taking him out and, hiding under NATO's name, took action to see that he was thrown out and, now, killed, brutalized.

So here we are, the al Qaeda flag flying over the courthouse in Benghazi. That's the daylight photo. Over here on this third we have the nighttime photo; and, once again, there is the al Qaeda flag waving proudly over that historic courthouse in Benghazi.

Going back to the article from the American Thinker:

According to one Benghazi resident, Islamists driving brand-new SUVs and waving the black al Qaeda flag drive the city's streets at night shouting, ''Islamiya, Islamiya! No East, nor West,'' a reference to previous worries that the country would be bifurcated between Qadhafi opponents in the east and the pro Qadhafi elements in the west.

Elhelwa adds these salient details:

Earlier this week, I went to the Benghazi courthouse and confirmed the rumors: an al Qaeda flag was clearly visible; its Arabic script declaring that ''there is no God but Allah'' and a full moon underneath. When I tried to take pictures, a Salafi-looking guard, wearing a green camouflage outfit, rushed towards me and demanded to know what I was doing. My response was straightforward: I was taking a picture of the flag. He gave me an intimidating look and hissed, ''Whomever speaks ill of this flag, we will cut off his tongue''

How about that for an American value?

''I recommend that you don't publish these. You will bring trouble to yourself.''

What glorious American values. Our President assured us that, without the support of Congress, without even a debate in Congress, he had to rush headlong into helping these people that turns out are, as we were concerned might be, al Qaeda. We had to help al Qaeda, with whom we had declared war, basically, by the President of the United States after 9/11 because they had declared war on us. And so this President, without coming and having a debate, decides he's going to go help these people before he knew who all exactly we were helping because they reflect American values.

Going back to the article. The author says:

''He followed me inside the courthouse, but luckily my driver Khaled was close by, and interceded on my behalf. According to Khaled, the guard had angrily threatened to

harm me. When I again engaged him in conversation, he told me ''this flag is the true flag of Islam'' . . .

Well, how about those American values that our President used our treasure, put our military members at risk in order to effectuate? Now we've got the al Qaeda flag flying in Libya, in Benghazi, over the historic courthouse that was the headquarters during the assault on Qadhafi.

□ 1500

We found out on 9/11 there were people in the world who were at war with us, and it turns out they had been at war with us at least since Iran, since those days when a naive but well-intentioned President named Carter had declared the Ayatollah Khomeini as a man of peace coming to Iran. The same President who gave away the Panama Canal that so many valued Americans lost their lives digging, creating, defending, was given away. There will be a price to pay for that at some point down the road by this country.

But we're already paying the price and have been since 1979 for the administration at that time while I was in the Army at Fort Benning watching those things happen, knowing it was a crime for me as a military member to criticize anybody in the chain of command, which was President Carter. We had to bite our tongues as we watched that administration welcome in the Ayatollah Khomeini.

So many lives have been lost. So many people tortured, killed. We've got Christians on the run all over the Middle East, Christians being killed around the Middle East. The last Christian church has now closed in Afghanistan that we sent American treasure and lives, lost so many American lives in order to rout the Taliban. And then we turn the country over to what the people there tell us is a very, very corrupt administration. Having met with leaders of the Northern Alliance with a few other Members of Congress, it's clear we have not done a good thing enforcing a centralized government in a country that cannot sustain it without mass corruption and brutality.

We also know from the recent comments of Karzai himself he's prepared to make peace and be an ally of people sworn to destroy us.

Afghanistan can be salvaged, but we have to be smart in the way that we do that. At the same time, we know that more of the 9/11 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia than from any other country. It certainly appears that there are people in Saudi Arabia who have made massive amounts of money because of our dependence on their oil who have used that money to fund terrorism that has been used against the United States to kill our precious men and women of our military.

We need to become energy independent. We need to get rid of any Department that has had as its avowed goal for 32 years to get off dependence on foreign energy and every year has done a poorer and poorer job of that, although they have made some nice contributions for people at Solyndra and other bankrupt companies. It's time to get rid of the Energy Department.

It's time to get serious about stopping the dependence on foreign energy. We know we've got enough natural gas. We can actually do that now. We have at least 100 years of use of natural gas. And I am fine taking a percentage of the royalties the Federal Government could get off of natural gas produced, oil produced on our own land, our own Federal land, and using it toward alternative energy. But I am not, as most of my friends here, are not in favor of borrowing more money to throw at companies like Solyndra that cannot make it on their own.

Or like the solar company in Nevada, the friends of Leader HARRY REID also getting massive money, 42, 44 cents of every dollar, which we had to borrow to throw at their friends who had gone bankrupt.

It's time we started using some common sense. You don't rush in to help in a rebellion until you know who you're helping, and this administration did not do that because to think that they knew who we were helping is really unthinkable.

That's my hope and prayer that this administration did not understand who it was helping who would one day fly al Qaeda flags over a building where housed the Government in Libya.

And we have sat idly by and watched Iran grow greater and stronger in strength in its move toward creating nuclear weapons, just as my Democratic friend from New Jersey was talking about, Iran getting closer and closer to having nuclear weapons. Plural. Our strong ally in the Middle East, who is becoming surrounded by those who want to take it out, Israel, is at threat for losing its very existence, an existence that was acknowledged and affirmed unanimously in the United Nations before it was taken over by people who sympathize with those who fly the al Qaeda flag.

Back in those days, it was a unanimous decision: How could a country, a Jewish state like Israel, not be created after the worst genocide, Holocaust, in the history of man?

They needed a country of their own, and what better place than in a place where King David ruled 1,400 years before there was a man named Mohammed, 1,400 years before the creation of modern-day Islam.

Well, I'm proud to say that Joel Rosenberg is a friend of mine. I was visiting with him last night. He's got a brand-new book out. Can't wait to read it. Joel Rosenberg has an article in the Washington Times, Friday, October 21, needs to be entered in the RECORD, and I'll do so by reading it.

The headline, the title is ''Confronting the threat from Iran.''

Joel Rosenberg writes:

The brazen Iranian terrorist plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador, kill Americans and blow up the Saudi and Israeli embassies in Washington was a wake-up call. The radical regime in Tehran has crossed a red line. Iran has murdered Americans in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon over the years. Now it appears to have ordered terrorist attacks inside our nation's capital. Should this prove true, Iran has engaged in an act of war.

Now the question is: Who will neutralize the threat from Iran before' the mullahs finish building nuclear warheads and the ballistic missile systems to deliver them?

''The international community must stop Iran before it's too late,'' Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned in his United Nations speech last month. If Iran is not stopped, we will all face the specter of nuclear terrorism, and the Arab Spring could soon become an Iranian winter. . . . The world around Israel is definitely becoming more dangerous.''

''Iran has not abandoned its nuclear program. The opposite is true; it continues full steam ahead,'' warned Maj. Gen. Eyal Eisenberg, home-front command chief for the Israel Defense Forces, in a September speech. He warned that the Arab Spring could turn into a ''radical Islamic winter'' and ''this raises the likelihood of an all-out, total war, with the possibility of weapons of mass destruction being used.''

The Obama administration is not taking decisive action to neutralize Iran. President Obama's policy of engagement with the mullahs has morphed into a policy of appeasement, and it has failed. Yet the White House has all but taken the use of force off the table. In September 2009, then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said, ''The reality is, there is no military option that does anything more than buy time.'' In April 2010, the New York Times reported that Mr. Gates had ''warned in a secret three-page memorandum to top White House officials that the United States does not have an effective long-range policy for dealing with Iran's steady progress toward nuclear capability.'' Little has changed in the past 18 months. What's more, the administration is pressuring Israel not to launch a pre-emptive strike against Iran despite the growing threat of a second Holocaust.

The American people, however, expect and deserve better. A bipartisan poll conducted in September by Democrat Pat Caddell and Republican John McLaughlin found that 77 percent of Americans think the Obama administration's current polices toward stopping Iran's nuclear program ''will fail.'' About 63 percent of Americans think Iran is the nation posing the greatest threat to us, ahead of China and North Korea. Remarkably, 63 percent of Americans also approve of pre-emptive military action against Iran if economic sanctions do not stop its nuclear program.

□ 1510

And they have not.

It is very clear that these sanctions have not slowed Iran from pursuing nuclear weapons. It appears very clear to those who look very long and who study the issue very long that Iran is counting on developing nuclear weapons before the sanctions totally cripple them, because they know, when they get nuclear weapons, they can then use them to extort the removal of the sanctions. They will not work in time. It's time to face up to that.

Going back to Joel Rosenberg's article:

War, of course, is not the preferred solution. There are a range of options a serious

American president could take to neutralize the Iranian threat. But none of them is likely to work unless the president is willing to publicly put the military option on the table and order the Pentagon to accelerate planning for massive airstrikes and special operations.

Will any of the Republican candidates for president step up? Articulating pro-growth economic policies is vital to the 2012 campaign, to be sure, but the GOP candidates must not drink the Kool-Aid that the economy is all that matters to the American people. To the contrary, anyone who is asking for the Republican nomination must articulate a clear, compelling and detailed strategy for neutralizing the threat posed by the apocalyptic, genocidal death cult in Tehran.

At the next debate, each of the Republican candidates for president should be pressed to directly answer the following questions:

1. As president of the United States, what specific actions would you take to stop Iran from obtaining and deploying nuclear weapons and using terrorism to advance its Islamic Revolution?

2. If you had intelligence that Iran was on the verge of building operational nuclear weapons, would your administration support an Israeli preemptive military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities?

3. Would you as president seriously consider ordering a pre-emptive strike by U.S. military forces to neutralize the Iranian nuclear threat?

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney recently delivered a foreign-policy address in South Carolina in which he raised the Iranian threat. ''Will Iran be a fully activated nuclear weapons state, threatening its neighbors, dominating the world's oil supply with a stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz?'' Mr. Romney asked. ''In the hands of the ayatollahs, a nuclear Iran is nothing less than an existential threat to Israel. Iran's suicidal fanatics could blackmail the world.'' Mr. Romney noted that he would ''begin discussions with Israel to increase the level of our military assistance and coordination'' and would ''reiterate that Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon is unacceptable.'' However, he did not specifically discuss how he would stop Iran from getting the bomb and sponsoring terrorist attacks.

Businessman Herman Cain has soared into the top tier of presidential candidates with a bold pro-growth tax-simplification plan, but he has spoken little of foreign policy. He has identified Iran as one of America's most serious national security threats and has been clear about his strong support for Israel. Drawing on his experience as a civilian contractor for the U.S. Navy working on ballistic-missile projects, Mr. Cain rightly has called for enhanced missile defenses to blunt an Iranian nuclear threat ''I would make it a priority to upgrade all of our Aegis surface-to-air ballistic-missile defense capabilities of all of our warships, all the way around the world,'' Mr. Cain told the Values Voter Summit in Washington earlier this month. ''Make that a priority, and then say to [Iranian President Mahmoud] Ahmadinejad, 'Make my Day.' '' His instincts are right, but missile defenses are insufficient to neutralize the Iranian threat.

Few of the GOP candidates better understand the Iranian threat—and the dangerous end-times theology of the current Iranian leadership, which is preparing for the coming of the Shia messiah known as the ''Twelfth Imam''—than former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. Thus far, however, he has not made Iran a major element of his campaign. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Rep. Michele Bachmann and Texas Gov. Rick Perry have barely mentioned the issue, though certainly they understand the dangers.

Only Rep. Ron Paul among the Republican contenders doesn't grasp the seriousness of the twin Iranian threats of terrorism and nuclear weapons. ''One can understand why [the mullahs] might want to become nuclear-capable, if only to defend themselves and to be treated more respectfully,'' Mr. Paul has written. The congressman opposes economic sanctions on Iran. He opposes pre-emptive strikes on Iran. Indeed, Mr. Paul has indicated he does not have a problem with Iran acquiring nuclear weapons because he doesn't think the mullahs in Tehran would actually use such weapons against their enemies. What's more, he has stated that he would not come to Israel's defense if Iran fired nuclear weapons at the Jewish state.

This article by Joel Rosenberg is an excellent article, and it used to be taken seriously.

Knowing Herman Cain personally, Governor Rick Perry personally, MICHELE BACHMANN personally, Rick Santorum personally, Newt Gingrich personally, I know they're all concerned about it, but because of the way the debates have been structured, this has not been an issue that has been pushed. I know all of those individuals well enough to know their hearts and to know they do not want Iran to have nuclear weapons and that they will do what's necessary to prevent it. The trouble is none of those individuals will become President or even have the chance to become President for 18 months.

It's time that the American people convinced the American President of this, who helped create the situation where al Qaeda—our enemies, our sworn enemies who want to destroy it—can fly their flags over the Libyan courthouse. It was more than the Libyan courthouse. It was the brief capital, the headquarters, for the people that this President chose to help.

A dangerous time.

Now, I have filed House Resolution 271. It has got a slew of cosponsors. They're all Republican, but I would hope that some of my friends on the other side of the aisle would join in with us on this.

Madam Speaker, I would hope that people would encourage their Members of Congress to sign on if they support what's here.

Basically, most of this resolution—it's not terribly long; it's just six pages—and most of that are whereas clauses stating facts.

□ 1520

The text is as follows:

H. RES. 271

Whereas archeological evidence exists confirming Israel's existence as a nation over 3,000 years ago in the area in which it currently exists, despite assertions of its opponents;

Whereas with the dawn of modern Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, some 150 years ago, the Jewish people determined to return to their homeland in the Land of Israel from the lands of their dispersion;

Whereas in 1922, the League of Nations mandated that the Jewish people were the legal sovereigns over the Land of Israel and that legal mandate has never been superseded;

Whereas in the aftermath of the Nazi-led Holocaust from 1933 to 1945, in which the Germans and their collaborators murdered 6,000,000 Jewish people in a premeditated act of genocide, the international community recognized that the Jewish state, built by Jewish pioneers must gain its independence from Great Britain;

Whereas the United States was the first nation to recognize Israel's independence in 1948, and the State of Israel has since proven herself to be a faithful ally of the United States in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel have a special friendship based on shared values, and together share the common goal of peace and security in the Middle East;

Whereas, on October 20, 2009, President Barack Obama rightly noted that the United States-Israel relationship is a ''bond that is much more than a strategic alliance.'';

Whereas the national security of the United States, Israel, and allies in the Middle East face a clear and present danger from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran seeking nuclear weapons and the ballistic missile capability to deliver them;

Whereas Israel would face an existential threat from a nuclear weapons-armed Iran;

Whereas President Barack Obama has been firm and clear in declaring United States opposition to a nuclear-armed Iran, stating on November 7, 2008, ''Let me state—repeat what I stated during the course of the campaign. Iran's development of a nuclear weapon I believe is unacceptable.'';

Whereas, on October 26, 2005, at a conference in Tehran called ''World Without Zionism'', Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated, ''God willing, with the force of God behind it, we shall soon experience a world without the United States and Zionism'';

Whereas the New York Times reported that during his October 26, 2005, speech, President Ahmadinejad called for ''this occupying regime [Israel] to be wiped off the map'';

Whereas, on April 14, 2006, Iranian President Ahmadinejad said, ''Like it or not, the Zionist regime [Israel] is heading toward annihilation'';

Whereas, on June 2, 2008, Iranian President Ahmadinejad said, ''I must announce that the Zionist regime [Israel], with a 60-year record of genocide, plunder, invasion, and betrayal is about to die and will soon be erased from the geographical scene'';

Whereas, on June 2, 2008, Iranian President Ahmadinejad said, ''Today, the time for the fall of the satanic power of the United States has come, and the countdown to the annihilation of the emperor of power and wealth has started'';

Whereas, on May 20, 2009, Iran successfully tested a surface-to-surface long range missile with an approximate range of 1,200 miles;

Whereas Iran continues its pursuit of nuclear weapons;

Whereas Iran has been caught building three secret nuclear facilities since 2002;

Whereas Iran continues its support of international terrorism, has ordered its proxy Hizbullah to carry out catastrophic acts of international terrorism such as the bombing of the Jewish AMIA Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1994, and could give

a nuclear weapon to a terrorist organization in the future;

Whereas Iran has refused to provide the International Atomic Energy Agency with full transparency and access to its nuclear program;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1803 states that according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, ''Iran has not established full and sustained suspension of all enrichment related and reprocessing activities and heavy-water-related projects as set out in resolution 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007) nor resumed its cooperation with the IAEA under the Additional Protocol, nor taken the other steps required by the IAEA Board of Governors, nor complied with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1696 (2006), 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007) . . .'';

Whereas at July 2009's G–8 Summit in Italy, Iran was given a September 2009 deadline to start negotiations over its nuclear programs and Iran offered a five-page document lamenting the ''ungodly ways of thinking prevailing in global relations'' and included various subjects, but left out any mention of Iran's own nuclear program which was the true issue in question;

Whereas the United States has been fully committed to finding a peaceful resolution to the Iranian nuclear threat, and has made boundless efforts seeking such a resolution and to determine if such a resolution is even possible;

Whereas the United States does not want or seek war with Iran, but it will continue to keep all options open to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons; and

Whereas Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said in January 2011 that a change of course in Iran will not be possible ''without a credible military option that is put before them by the international community led by the United States'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its threats of ''annihilating'' the United States and the State of Israel, for its continued support of international terrorism, and for its incitement of genocide of the Israeli people;

(2) supports using all means of persuading the Government of Iran to stop building and acquiring nuclear weapons;

(3) reaffirms the United States bond with Israel and pledges to continue to work with the Government of Israel and the people of Israel to ensure that their sovereign nation continues to receive critical economic and military assistance, including missile defense capabilities, needed to address the threat of Iran; and

(4) expresses support for Israel's right to use all means necessary to confront and eliminate nuclear threats posed by Iran, defend Israeli sovereignty, and protect the lives and safety of the Israeli people, including the use of military force if no other peaceful solution can be found within a reasonable time.

That's House Resolution 271. And I certainly hope that more Members of Congress will join us in supporting that position because time is running out.

It is also my hope and prayer that the rumors that have gone around about what this administration has told Israel behind closed doors do not have support. In fact, that's my hope and prayer. Because if this administration were to be telling Israel behind closed doors that if they move to protect themselves against a nuclear attack by Iran without the United States' permission—which would not be given—then Israel, since they do not have all of our stealth capability, do not have the most sophisticated bombs we have, will likely lose many planes and will be in need of replacement planes and parts.

I hope and pray that the rumor that they're telling them, we will not support them with replacement planes, replacement parts if they defend themselves, is not true. But this President, though he's been so vocal about why we needed to go support Libya, why it was in our American values, interest, has not talked a lot about what he's telling Israel behind the scenes.

Israel is in grave danger. We have been a friend because we believe in the same value of human life, the same value of freedom, of liberty. We owe it to them, our friends, our allies.

□ 1530

If we're not going to have the nerve to take action against a country that is sworn to be at war with us and to destroy us and take us out at all costs, then we should at least not stand in the way of a friend who wants to do so.

I have a few more things I want to cover here. There's an article from National Review online from The Corner by Andrew McCarthy, another brilliant man and, I'm proud to say, a dear friend. The headline: ''Did Obama appointee access confidential database in effort to smear Perry as 'Islamophobe'?''

At PJM, terrorism researcher Patrick Poole reports that Mohamed Elibiary, an appointee on President Obama's Homeland Security Advisory Council, is in hot water with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS). The issue is whether Elibiary used his privileged access to a state law-enforcement database to acquire intelligence reports and then tried to shop them to the media, urging that they showed rampant ''Islamophobia'' at TDPS under Governor Rick Perry.

Poole says no story was published because, according to one press source, there was ''nothing remotely resembling Islamophobia'' in the leaked reports. The source told Poole, ''I think [Elibiary] was hoping we would bite and not give it too much of a look in light of other media outfits jumping on the Islamophobia bandwagon.''

The Islamophobia bandwagon was the subject of my column last weekend. Seems there are plenty of Islamists and Leftists climbing aboard.

Elibiary, you'll no doubt be stunned to learn, was also on the Obama DHS's working group on ''countering violent extremism.'' That's the brain-trust that helped devise the new Obama counterterrorism strategy I outlined (here and here) a few weeks back—the one that envisions having law-enforcement pare back their intelligence-gathering activities and take their marching orders from ''community partners.'' I call the new strategy ''factophobia.''

As noted by Poole and the Investigative Project on Terrorism, Elibiary's history includes an appearance at a conference honoring Ayatollah Khomeini; condemning the Justice Department's successful prosecution of a Hamas-financing conspiracy designed by the Muslim Brotherhood (the Holy Land Foundation case); praise for Brotherhood theorist Sayyid Qutb; and an aggressive email exchange with Rod Dreher in 2006 (when Dreher, at the Dallas Morning News, countered Elibiary's praise for Qutb), in which Elibiary reportedly called Dreher ''a Klansman without a hood'' [ACM: I think that means ''Islamophobe'' and warned him: ''Treat people as inferiors and you can expect someone to put a banana in your exhaust pipe or something.''

Who better could President Obama possibly choose to help formulate counterterrorism strategy? Actually, once you read the strategy, I think you'll agree that he made a perfect choice.

Then we have another article from National Review Online, again from Andrew McCarthy. Headline, ''Napolitano: On Elibiary, I know Nothing. I Know Nothing * * * ''

He said that Secretary Napolitano ''professes not to know anything about the matter''—he's talking about Elibiary—''or about how I got a guy who appears at a conference honoring Ayatollah Khomeini, who praises Muslim Brotherhood theorist Sayyid Qutb, and who condemns the Justice Department's successful prosecution of the Muslim Brotherhood's Hamas financing network (the Holy Land Foundation case), somehow winds up on the Department of Homeland Security advisory council that helped devise the Obama administration's counterterrorism policy.''

Actually, it turns out, as Secretary Napolitano testified, that actually she, as the Secretary of Homeland Security, gave this gentleman the secret security clearance which ultimately allowed him to access sensitive documents, at least three of which he downloaded and then tried to market to major media sources.

It is important to note that in the pleading that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed filed—and he is a very smart man. He may be crazy, but he is a very smart man. He did his own interpretation in English, so some of the articles are not quite appropriate, but he sets out a legal document and justifies all of the actions he took in working on 9/11's murder of 3,000 Americans. He takes verses from the Koran and uses them to justify his actions.

At one point in his pleading, which we have access to through our Web site—and this was declassified by the judge in the 9/11 cases involving five planners of 9/11. It was ordered released on the 9th day of March, 2009, and there are also transcripts of his colloquy with the judge in which he confessed to many other acts of terrorism, quite voluntarily, it was obvious.

But in his pleading, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, on behalf of himself and the four other defendants who were ready to plead guilty, announced they were pleading guilty before this administration; and the Attorney General-to-be, Eric Holder, announced they were going to give these guys a show trial in New York. So they withdraw their guilty pleas so they could get a show trial in New York. Now that's not going to happen, and now it looks like, 4 years after these people agreed to

plead guilty, which will be December of next year, they will still not have been tried because of the actions of this administration.

But Khalid Sheikh Mohammed says: We do not possess your military might, not your nuclear weapons; nevertheless, we fight you with the almighty God. So, if our act of jihad and our fighting with you caused fear and terror, then many thanks to God, because it is him that has thrown fear into your hearts, which resulted from your infidelity, paganism, and your statement that God had a son and your Trinity beliefs.

Then he goes on and he says: God stated in his book, verse 151, Al-Umran, Soon shall we cast terror into the hearts of the unbelievers, for that they joined companies with Allah, for which he has sent no authority; their place will be the fire; and evil is the home of the wrongdoers. That is just one part.

He also says: We ask to be near God. We fight you, destroy you, terrorize. You'll be greatly defeated in Afghanistan and Iraq, and America will fall politically, militarily, economically. Your end is very near, and your fall will be like the fall of the towers on the blessed 9/11 day.

But this gentleman references that one of the reasons that it's okay to kill Americans is because many Americans believe there is a Holy trinity, a Father, Son and Holy Ghost. They believe that God had a son that Christians call the Messiah.

My time is running out, so let me direct you to the Treaty of Paris, 1783, such a historic document. The most powerful country in the world at that time, 1783, was Great Britain. They had the most powerful Navy, the most powerful military; and yet a ragtag bunch of people who believed so firmly in the ideas of freedom and being able to practice most of them—in fact, a third of the signers of the Declaration, they weren't just Christians; they, as Martin Luther King, Jr., were ordained Christian ministers, and they believed in freedom and that God was giving us a chance to govern ourselves.

So after this ragtag bunch defeated the strongest country in the world, Great Britain, and they sat down in 1783 in Paris, and we had there on our behalf John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, three of our brightest minds, they had to set about figuring out: What can we put on paper to have Great Britain sign that will be so important that they would not want to risk violating an oath? What kind of oath could we put on this treaty that Great Britain would be scared to violate?

□ 1540

This treaty will want them to recognize the United States of America. What can we do to make it serious enough that they would not turn around the next month and say we had no right to be independent despite what they signed? There is an original copy of the Treaty of Paris in the State Department. Tours can be taken, I've taken tons of tours around Washington, D.C. Until my pastor and his wife, David and Cindy Dykes, were in town years back, I had not seen that. But I was taken aback, and I've got a copy of—this is a duplicate—of the Treaty of Paris, two pages, well, it's the first and last page here. There are 10 articles, so we've got the first and last pages here.

So how would you start a treaty in such a way that it would scare the strongest country in the world from violating their oath? Well, they figured it out, and they put it on the document. The biggest letters anywhere in the treaty are those in the first two lines, and they began ''In the Name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity.'' Starting the Treaty of Paris with ''In the Name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity,'' they knew would be strong enough to scare Great Britain into not violating the oath that they signed on that document.

Then you tie it in with Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's pleading, the very fact that they would sign such a document recognizing the Holy Trinity, according to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his interpretation of the Koran, that's justification for killing and terrorizing people that believe in the Holy undivided Trinity.

There's a war going on, and in Libya, apparently we fought for people who want to destroy us. The al Qaeda flag now flies proudly over this federal building in Beng'hazi, Libya. Congratulations to this administration for making that happen.

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

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS WILL RESTORE FAITH IN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BUERKLE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, tonight I want to speak on the subject jobs, jobs, jobs. Jobs will restore faith in government. Invest, build and grow.

One does not have to be a Christian to understand or believe what the Bible says about three critical things that are important to living our lives: faith, hope, and love. Today I want to connect the idea of faith to faith in government. Hebrews 11.1 says, ''Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.''

What are some of those things that are hoped for and not seen? When we drive a car, we have faith that when our light turns green and we go, the person driving the car in the other direction will obey the light when it turns red and stop. When we stop for a red light, we have faith that the car behind us will also stop and not ram us in the rear. We have faith that the pedestrians will obey the yield sign and not run out in front of our moving car. We have faith that if a driver turns on the right hand turn signal, they will not suddenly turn left in front of us. We have faith that other drivers will not recklessly endanger our lives by driving drunk. So whether driving to work or to play, it is faith that allows us to drive. And if another person runs a stop light, doesn't brake behind us, doesn't obey the yield sign, suddenly turns in front of us or drives drunk, they have broken the faith. In other words, when you're driving, the only thing that stands between you and death is faith.

If you fly on airplanes, you have faith. You have faith in a pilot that you've never met—that they're well trained, that they know how to take off and land, can handle a storm in the air, can handle an emergency, are physically fit, psychologically stable, and not drunk or on drugs. You have faith in the flight attendants that they've been trained to handle unruly passengers or an emergency situation. You have faith that the maintenance people have properly serviced the plane before it takes off. You have faith that the TSA employees have done their job and have not made an error that will put your life or the life of passengers in danger. You have a reasonable faith in the regulations of the FAA that the fuel, the engines, the body of the plane, and the runways are safe. A critical error anywhere along this line will damage and destroy your faith in air travel.

Train engineers have faith that drivers and pedestrians will not drive or walk around railroad crossing gates and endanger themselves or the train. Bus passengers have faith that the driver is not intoxicated, on drugs, or experiencing emotional problems that can endanger the public or their riders.

Look, Madam Speaker, how faith operates during medical emergencies. When we're at our weakest and suddenly become ill and need to be rushed to the hospital. We have faith that a well-trained ambulance and emergency medical technician will arrive quickly and provide us with care. We have faith that drivers on the road will pull over when they hear the sirens to allow our ambulance driver to get us quickly and safely to the hospital. We have faith in the doctors, the nurses, and the medical staff that they will provide us with the highest quality of care possible regardless of our perceived ability to pay or whether we have medical insurance.

Without the faith that our judicial system has laws that are rationally and morally sound and faith that our judges will conduct themselves in a respectful and fair way toward prosecutors and defendants, we cannot have a justice system that endures.

Earlier last month, I spent the day with the Johnson-Karlock family outside of Momence, Illinois, during their family's harvest season. As we were sitting down for lunch, Mr. Johnson led us in a short prayer to thank God for

the successful season's harvest. Through his prayer, I quickly learned how many factors a farmer has to rely on for a good harvest year. When I pray over my family's dinner, it's always ''God is good, God is great, thank you for the food that I'm about to receive for the nourishment of my body, for Christ's sake, Amen.'' And then my family sits down and eats.

But when I heard from Mr. Johnson's prayer, there must have been a dozen unseen factors on his mind that small family farmers depend on for their way of life. He expressed gratitude for the sun, gratitude for the rain, gratitude for the soil, and gratitude for the harvest. He prayed for protection against things that can destroy his crop and support for his equipment. His prayer was a mighty different prayer from the prayer that I normally pray over my food.

But the Johnsons and other small family farmers also believe in the Federal Government. If something bad does happen in a season, the Federal Government is there to provide crop insurance and disaster insurance to get them through tough times. They rely on the Federal Government to provide research that enhances production and yield and genetic engineering of the crop and seed breeding.

□ 1550

They have faith in their government that their government will be there in their time of need.

It doesn't matter whether you're a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a Buddhist, a Hindu, agnostic or atheist. It is impossible to live without faith. Our auto industry almost collapsed; so we can only have so much faith in General Motors and Chrysler and Ford. Our financial system did partially collapse; so we can only have so much faith in our banks, lenders, and investors. We can only have limited faith in the private sector because it has $2 trillion to $2.5 trillion sitting on the sideline, money that it refuses to invest in jobs and in the American people. And if Congress passed and the States ratified a balanced budget amendment, it would mean that the Federal Government could never meet the American people's needs or correct gaps among our people that need to be corrected, and we would lose faith in our government.

We need to have faith in the Federal Government—which is supposed to be a government of, by, and for the people—but we can only have such faith if it meets our people's current needs. Without such faith and deliverance by our Federal Government, we cannot survive as a Nation.

What is the greatest need of the American people today that a government of, for, and by the people should respond to? Jobs. The problem with this dysfunctional Congress is that it is not keeping the faith with the American people by providing them with their greatest need—jobs.

Every Member of Congress takes the following oath: ''I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.'' When we take that oath but leave 25 million people either unemployed or underemployed, internally we are creating potential domestic enemies.

I think I have demonstrated that all of us have faith. Men cannot live by bread alone, and we couldn't live if we didn't have faith. But to have faith in a government means that a government that is actually of, by, and for the people must be responsive to the people's needs. So when Congress or Members of Congress say—through words or deeds or actions or inaction—that the Federal Government can't help, it destroys the American people's faith in their government.

The greatest material need of the American people today is jobs, jobs, jobs. The greatest need of the American economy today is aggregate demand. The most effective and efficient way to meet the need for jobs and aggregate demand—in the spirit of FDR—is for the Federal Government to directly hire workers to do the work that needs to be done. The result of the Federal Government investing, building and growing the economy and creating full employment will be the restoration of faith in government.

For the last 30 years we've been bombarded with Ronald Reagan's conservative negative government rhetoric: ''Government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.'' That's an interesting phrase. How can a government of, by, and for the people be the problem? Logically, it says either we don't have a government of, by, and for the people, or that people are the problem. So the first thing we must do to counter this negative Reagan propaganda is to have the Federal Government do positive things to restore the American people's faith in government and in themselves.

Among the many things that the addition of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution did during the First Reconstruction after the American Civil War was to help to restore people's faith in the Federal Government's capacity to solve a problem.

In taking over Herbert Hoover's mess of conservative economics—complacency, limited Federal action and inaction—the first thing that Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal did—by the closing of banks to stop the run on currency and gold; Social Security for the aged; regulation of investment by the SEC; agricultural assistance to needy farmers; the Wagner Act that benefited working men and women; the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC; and the Works Progress Administration, the WPA, that put people back to work—was to restore faith in the Federal Government.

Lyndon Johnson's Great Society—whose war on poverty worked and reduced poverty, Medicare for the elderly, Medicaid for the poor, Elementary and Secondary Education Act for students, the 1964 Public Accommodations Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act for African Americans—for most Americans restored faith in the Federal Government.

Today, in order to restore the American people's faith in government, the Federal Government must jump-start the private economy by ''priming the pump'' and creating jobs. What do we need to do? Madam Speaker, we should move the money: jobs, not cuts; tax the rich; stop the wars; bring home our troops. What does move the money mean? It means we need to create a second economic stimulus, not because the first one failed—it worked, it stopped us from going into the abyss—but because the hole was deeper than we originally thought, we need a second stimulus.

My conservative colleagues in both parties are like the man whose house caught on fire and he tried to put it out with his garden hose and it didn't work. You know what he concluded? He concluded that water does not put out fires. But that was the wrong conclusion. He should have concluded that he needed more water and a bigger hose.

President Obama's original stimulus has given us 20 months of private jobs growth, but we need more to get us back on track. We need the President's American Jobs Act; we need JAN SCHAKOWSKY's Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act; and we need the plan that I'm putting together, the Invest, Build, Grow and Full Employment Act.

In March of 2009, Congress passed the first economic stimulus, which included $757 billion intended to save or create 2 million to 2.5 million jobs over 2 years. It succeeded, but it wasn't enough.

In December 2010, Congress passed an $858 billion bill extending the Bush-era tax cuts, which is expected to create 3 million jobs over the next 2 years. It may, but it's not enough. That's $1.6 trillion over 4 years that we've invested in create 5 million to 5.5 million jobs and will probably succeed, but it's not enough. We need a plan that fits the size of the problem. We need something more and something more efficient and effective to put 15 million Americans back to work.

Tax cuts are the worst and most inefficient way to create jobs. By congressional standards, $900 billion is not a lot of money, especially when it's used to jump-start the $15 trillion gross domestic product that is the American economy. If we can afford $712 billion to fight a war abroad in Iraq, we can afford $900 billion to put Americans back to work right here at home. We can move the money from those who can afford to give more to those who need it, and not hurt anyone. That's how we keep the faith.

We need to do what FDR did during the Great Depression—have the Federal Government directly hire workers. ''In times of economic crisis, government has a crucial important role to

play. People matter and results count. And we don't need to go too far back in our history to find examples,'' said Michael Hilzik, the Pulitzer prize-winning author and L.A. Times reporter who explored this issue in his latest book, ''The New Deal: A Modern History.''

For those of my conservative colleagues in both parties who say the government can't and doesn't create jobs, he writes: ''The WPA produced 1,000 miles of new and rebuilt airport runways, 651,000 miles of highway, 124,000 bridges, 8,000 parks, 18,000 playgrounds and athletic fields, some 84,000 miles of drainage pipes, 69,000 highway light standards, and 125,000 public buildings built, rebuilt or expanded. Among the latter were 41,300 schools. The transformative power of this effort is inestimable.''

FDR, using the Federal Government, directly created jobs because it took jobs to do all of that. FDR invested in and built up an entire region with the Tennessee Valley Authority. The Public Works Administration built the Grand Coulee Dam in the State of Washington and put 8,000 men to work, starting in 1933, using materials from 46 States.

□ 1600

In southern California, the PWA helped repair or replace 536 school buildings damaged or destroyed by the great Long Beach earthquake March 10, 1933.

In Florida, the PWA built the Overseas Highway, 127 miles of causeways and bridges connecting the mainland and Key West, and transformed the island into one of America's premiere tourist attractions.

In New York City, the PWA built the Triborough Bridge that connected three of the City's five boroughs, and it funded the building of LaGuardia Airport.

Hoover Dam, once known as Boulder Dam, is located in the Black Canyon of Colorado River on the border between Arizona and Nevada. It was constructed between 1931 and 1936 during the Great Depression, and in July 1934, it employed over 5,000 workers building the dam.

And in my home city of Chicago, the Lake Shore Drive Bridge was started in 1929, but the Great Depression prevented its completion until the WPA delivered funds in the mid-1930s. When completed in 1937, the bridge was 356 feet long and 100 feet wide, making it the world's longest and widest bascule bridge, a movable or draw bridge, a type of bridge that was developed and perfected in Chicago and used for many of its river crossings.

So we already have an economic model. The CCC, the WPA, the PWA, and FDR's New Deal. If we just had, Madam Speaker, the political will. The first phase of an overall 6-year $2.2 trillion proposal, we can take $600 billion, jump-start this economy by hiring 15 million workers at an average annual salary of $40,000. Some will make $20,000, some $60,000, depending on the job, to invest in America.

This project will rebuild our infrastructure, put Americans back to work, and create aggregate demand, the greatest need of this economy. And the aggregate demand will bring the $2 trillion to $2.5 trillion in private money sitting on the sidelines back into the game. The investment of private money will create even more jobs, and all of these workers will be paying taxes.

The number of Americans dependent on the Federal Government for unemployment compensation and food stamps will be reduced, which will help lower the deficit and debt faster than any current proposal.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has proposed a similar 5-year, $2.2 trillion plan to build and rebuild America's infrastructure for the future.

In 2011, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers, States have a combined debt of almost $200 billion. The Federal Government should bail them out and give Democratic and Republican governors and State legislatures a clean economic slate.

Our cities and counties are in debt. Set aside another $100 billion to bail out most, if not all of them, and give Democratic and Republican county presidents and commissioners, mayors, and city councils a clean economic slate: $700 million in Chicago; $48 million in the District of Columbia, for example.

So for a mere $900 billion, which is slightly more than each of the last two stimulus packages, we can bail out all States, most, if not all of the counties and cities, and put 15 million Americans back to work. The only thing that we lack in this Congress is the political will.

So I, again, say we need to restore people's faith. Move the money. Jobs, not cuts. Tax the rich. Stop the wars. And bring our troops home.

Robert Reich, in his latest book, ''Aftershock,'' argues that the central challenge at the heart of America's ongoing economic predicament is, and I quote, ''not to rebalance the global economy so that Americans save more and borrow less from the rest of the world, it is to rebalance the American economy so that its benefits are shared more widely within America.'' In other words, America's jobs and aggregate demand problems cannot be solved with the current maldistribution of income and wealth which is at the heart of our economic problems.

What am I talking about?

According to the most recent nonpartisan CBO report, and again, I quote directly, ''The top 1 percent of earners more than doubled their share of the Nation's income over the last three decades. In addition, government policy has become less redistributive since the late 1970s, doing less to reduce the concentration of income. The equalizing effect of Federal taxes was smaller in 2007 than in 1979, as the composition of Federal revenues shifted away from progressive income taxes to less-progressive payroll taxes.

''Also, Federal benefit payments are doing less to even out the distribution of income as a growing share of benefits, like Social Security, goes to the older Americans and regardless of their income.

''From 1979 to 2007, the average inflation-adjusted after-tax income grew by 275 percent for the 1 percent of the population with the highest income. For others in the top 20 percent of the population, average real estate tax household income grew by 65 percent.

''By contrast, for the poorest fifth of the population, average real after-tax household income rose only 18 percent. And for the three-fifths of the people in the middle of the income scale, the growth in such household income was just under 40 percent.''

In other words, the ''class warfare'' that Republicans have been reacting to and complaining about is exactly the opposite of what they say it is. It hasn't been class warfare by the poor and the middle class against the rich. The middle class and the poor are not jealous of the rich, and they're especially not jealous of those who are part of the ''greedy rich.''

The middle class and the poor have not been attacking the real job creators. Yes, they're opposed to giving more tax breaks, as Republicans want to do to the so-called job creators who already have $2 trillion to $2.5 trillion sitting idle on the sideline and who've not used that money to create jobs.

But make no mistake about it. There is class warfare going on. The nonpartisan CBO just documented that it's been class warfare by the rich against the middle class and the poor. That's what's really happening.

We live, Madam Speaker, in a representative democracy. Democracy is a government of, by, and for the people. A government of, by, and for the people will be responsive and meet the material needs of its people and its people's economy.

We don't really have an economic problem, at least one that we can't solve. Again, we have a political problem with my conservative colleagues in both parties in this Congress.

We have a problem of the American people not demanding that their Federal Government meet their need for jobs and the resulting economic aggregate demand.

The people of Occupy Wall Street, Occupy LaSalle Street, Occupy Oakland, and the other 99 percent movements that are springing up and becoming active around this country and around the world are beginning to demand that democratic governments everywhere address the existing economic inequality and be responsive to their need for meaningful jobs at meaningful wages.

In 2010, the Tea Party movement became politically active and moved Congress in a more conservative direction.

If the ''Occupy'' movements are to bring about real change, they must become politically active in 2012 and beyond. They need to move Congress in a more progressive direction, a direction that fits their needs.

Just like the ultra-conservative Tea Party movement pressured moderate Republicans to stiffen their backs on conservative things Republicans say they believe in, so too the Occupy movements must pressure Democrats to stiffen their backs on the liberal things that Democrats say they believe in.

Madam Speaker, we already know that my conservative colleagues in both parties believe in States' rights and deregulation, which will allow the private economy and market forces to wreak havoc on the economy and most Americans like it did in the first decade of the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, we already know conservatives in both parties believe in trickle down economics that never trickle down but always flood up.

Madam Speaker, we already know the consequences to the economy, workers, and society of laissez faire policies, bank crises that threaten and bring about even great depressions, failed corporations, disastrous home foreclosure crises, high unemployment, and corrupt politics.

Madam Speaker, we already know what conservatives on both sides of the aisle bring us. But will progressive Democrats advocate for bringing the American people anything better?

□ 1610

So I want to challenge myself and my progressive Democratic colleagues to do more. We say we care about the poor. Well, let's give the poor some bootstraps so they can lift themselves up. We say we care about the working class. Well, let's advocate for a solution that fits the size of the problem and create enough jobs to employ the American people who are unemployed and put all Americans to work—not by 2017, not by 2018, but by the end of the month.

Try missing a bill for 4 or 5 or 6 years. Only Washington could conclude that an unemployed or underemployed person has until 2018 to worry about bringing down unemployment numbers.

We say we want more home ownership. Well, let's propose meaningful solutions to address the housing foreclosure crisis. We say we're for the middle class. Let's advocate for policies that will restore the middle class's previous standard of living. We say we support students. Well, let's help them reduce their college debts. We say we support small businesses. Let's advocate for policies that will help small businesses grow and enable them to hire more workers.

We need to stand with family farmers like the Johnsons in my new congressional district and against agribusiness when they threaten to drive the Johnsons out of business.

So I say, Madam Speaker, in conclusion, let's put America back to work. Enough of the games. Invest in America. Rebuild America. Grow the American economy, end the housing foreclosure crisis and restore the American Dream. Enable college students to go back to school. Retrain our workers. Save our children. Save our family farms. Rebuild our bridges, our ports, our sewers, and our water systems. Build high-speed rail, public transportation, ports, levees, and new airports. Invest in alternative energy sources—wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal.

We can do better. Register and vote for politicians who will better represent the real economic interests of the American people. We can act. We can change things. We can restore faith in government and the private sector for the American people.

We must invest, build, and grow to accomplish full employment.

We must do better, Madam Speaker. We must put the American people to work. And most importantly, we must honor our highest obligation as Members of this institution, and that is to restore the American people's faith in the capacity of their government to bring about change positively in their lives.

I thank the Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today after 11:30 a.m. on account of personal reasons.

Mr. HEINRICH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2012 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2012 THROUGH FY 2021

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, to facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2012 and for the 10-year period fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2021. This status report is current through October 4, 2012.

The term 'current level' refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays. and revenues with the overall limits set in H. Con. Res. 34, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2012 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for action completed by each authorizing committee with the ''section 302(a)'' allocations made under H. Con. Res. 34 for fiscal year 2012 and fiscal years 2012 through 2021. ''Action'' refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2012 with the ''section 302(b)'' suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal year 2013 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 34. This list is needed to enforce section 402 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 34

[Reflecting action completed as of October 4, 2011—(On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)]

	Fiscal year	
	2012 [1]	2012–2021
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,858,545	(1)
Outlays	2,947,916	(1)
Revenues	1,891,411	30,296,017
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	2,966,294	(1)
Outlays	3,025,428	(1)
Revenues	1,890,917	30,279,647
Current Level over (+) / under (−)Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	+107,749	(1)
Outlays	+77,512	(1)
Revenues	−494	−16,370

[1] = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

Notes for 2012:The appropriate level for FY2012 was established in H. Con. Res 34, which was subsequently deemed to be in force in the House of Representatives pursuant to H. Res. 287. The current level for FY2012 starts with the baseline estimates contained in An Analysis of the President's Budgetary Proposals for Fiscal Year 2012, published by the Congressional Budget Office, and makes adjustments to those levels for enacted legislation.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Budget authority for FY2012 are above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

OUTLAYS

Outlays for FY2012 are above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

REVENUE

Revenue for FY2012 is below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

Revenue for the period FY2012 through FY2021 is below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2011

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

	2012		2012–2021	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
House Committee				
Agriculture:				
Allocation	−2,315	−2,228	−177,866	−176,005
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+2,315	+2,228	+177,866	+176,005
Armed Services:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Education and the Workforce:				
Allocation	−4,994	−2,522	−149,437	−133,808
Current level	+8,690	+3,492	−8,775	−4,630
Difference	+13,684	+6,014	+140,662	+129,178
Energy and Commerce:				
Allocation	−698	−1,207	−1,365,771	−1,366,350
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+698	+1,207	+1,365,771	+1,366,350
Financial Services:				
Allocation	−5,986	−6,485	−66,359	−67,488
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+5,986	+6,485	+66,359	+67,488
Foreign Affairs:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:				
Allocation	−1,900	−1,900	−16,600	−14,100
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+1,900	+1,900	+16,600	+14,100
House Administration:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:				
Allocation	−387	−1	−48,087	−47,701
Current level	−3	−3	−13	−13
Difference	+384	−2	+48,074	+47,688
Natural Resources:				
Allocation	−239	−190	−10,735	−10,472
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+239	+190	+10,735	+10,472
Oversight and Government Reform:				
Allocation	−8,102	−8,275	−153,145	−153,302
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+8,102	+8,275	+153,145	+153,302
Science, Space and Technology:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
Allocation	−17,250	−122	−132,784	−4,396
Current level	−185	0	−1,850	0
Difference	+17,065	+122	+130,934	+4,396
Veterans' Affairs:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current level	−26	−26	−7	−7
Difference	−26	−26	−7	−7
Ways and Means:				
Allocation	−7,903	−7,766	−1,115,884	−1,116,113
Current level	0	0	−19,891	−19,891
Difference	+7,903	+7,766	+1,095,993	+1,096,222

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

	302(b) suballocations as of Oct. 4, 2011 (H. Rept. 112–104)		Current level reflecting action completed as of Oct. 4, 2011		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	17,250	21,452	17,253	21,489	3	37
Commerce, Justice, Science	50,237	62,446	50,229	62,240	−8	−206
Defense	648,709	654,698	648,694	654,685	−15	−13
Energy and Water Development	30,639	44,577	30,624	44,522	−15	−55
Financial Services and General Government	19,895	23,523	19,895	23,523	0	0
Homeland Security	40,850	45,122	40,850	45,122	0	0
Interior, Environment	27,473	30,766	27,465	30,439	−8	−327
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	139,218	154,253	24,658	124,205	−114,560	−30,048
Legislative Branch	4,314	4,397	3,320	3,565	−994	−832
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	72,535	78,492	72,535	78,483	0	−9
State, Foreign Operations	39,569	46,060	0	28,254	−39,569	−17,806
Transportation, HUD	47,655	118,272	4,400	80,060	−43,255	−38,212
Subtotal (Section 302(b) Allocations)	1,138,344	1,284,058	939,923	1,196,587	−198,421	−87,471
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	1,138,344	1,284,058	939,923	1,196,587	−198,421	87,471
Memorandum:						
Emergencies [1]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Global War on Terrorism [2]	126,544	64,100	118,927	59,939	−7,617	−4,161

[1] Pursuant to H. Con. Res. 34, emergencies are not reflected in 302(b) allocations or current level above.

[2] Section 301 of H. Con. Res. 34, allows the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations to be adjusted by amounts designated for the Global War on Terrorism [GWOT]. The 302(b) allocations and current status above reflect any adjustments made to date for this purpose. Outlays displayed on the GWOT row, represent only new outlays resulting from new GWOT-related budget authority.

2013 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT to H.CON. RES 34

[Budget authority in millions of dollars]

Section 402 (c) (1) Limits	2,013
Appropriate Level	52,541
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs	
Medical Services	n.a.
Medical Support and Compliance	n.a.
Medical Facilities	n.a.
Subtotal, enacted advances[1]	0
Section 402 (c) (2) Limits	2013
Appropriate Level	28,852
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	n.a.
Office of Job Corps	n.a.
Education for the Disadvantaged	n.a.
School Improvement Programs	n.a.
Special Education	n.a.
Career, Technical and Adult Education	n.a.
Payment to Postal Service	n.a.
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	n.a.
Project-based Rental Assistance	n.a.
Subtotal, enacted advances[1]	0
Previously enacted advance appropriation[2]	2,013
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	445
Total, enacted advances[1]	445

[1] Line items may not add to total due to rounding.

[2] Funds were appropriated in Public Law 111–117.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2011.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2012 budget and is current through October 4, 2011. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 34, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, as approved by the House of Representatives.

This is CBO's first current level report for fiscal year 2012.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH OCTOBER 4, 2011

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,891,411
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,842,372	1,771,503	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	581,418	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−708,099	−708,099	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,134,273	1,644,822	1,891,411
Enacted this session:			
Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection & Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–9)	0	0	−490
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part II (P.L. 112–16)	−185	0	0
Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–25)	8,690	3,492	0
Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–26)	−26	−26	0
America Invents Act (P.L. 112–29)	−3	−3	−4
Total, Enacted this session	8,476	3,463	−494
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112–36)[1]	1,079,432	649,172	0
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	744,113	727,971	0
Total Current Level[2]	2,966,294	3,025,428	1,890,917
Total Budget Resolution	2,858,545	2,947,916	1,891,411
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	107,749	77,512	n.a.
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	494
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2012–2021:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	30,279,647
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	30,296,017
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	16,370

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.
[1] P.L. 112–36 provides funding for fiscal year 2012 through November 18, 2011.
[2] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 818. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to allow low for prepayment of repayment contracts between the United States and the Uintah Water Conservancy District.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on October 31, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1843. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the ''John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building''.

H.R. 1975. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 281 East Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California, as the ''First Lieutenant Oliver Goodall Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2062. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the ''Matthew A. Pucino Post Office''.

H.R. 2149. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4354 Pahoa Avenue in Honolulu, Hawaii, as the ''Cecil L. Heftel Post Office Building''.

H.R. 489. To clarify the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the C.C. Cragin Dam and Reservoir, and for other purposes.

H.R. 765. To amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that is subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 7, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3746. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Deaprtment of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Reactive Blue 69; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2009-C-0543)

received October 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3747. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Pursuant to Section 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Section 1(f) of Executive Order 11958, Transmittal No. 13-11 informing of an intent to sign the Project Agreement with the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3748. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3749. A letter from the Chief, Listing Branch, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Critical Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet [FWS-R1-ES-2008-0079] (RIN: 1018-AW84) received October 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3750. A letter from the Branch of Recovery and Delisting, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reinstatement of Listing Protections for the Virgina Northern Flying Squirrel in Compliance with a Court Order [Docket No.: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0035] (RIN: 1018-AX80) received October 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3751. A letter from the Acting director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Closure [Docket No.: 0912281446-0111-02] (RIN: 0648-XA709) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3752. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; 2012 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams and Ocean Quahogs; and Suspension of Minimum Atlantic Surfclam Size Limit [Docket No.: 101013504-0610-02] (RIN: 0648-XA529) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3753. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 101126522-0640-02] (RIN: 0648-XA704) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3754. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30803 Amdt. No. 3444] received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3755. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30804 Amdt. No. 3445] received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3756. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Restrictions on Operations Employing Former Flight Standards Service Aviation Safety Inspectors; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1154; Amendment Nos. 91-325, 119-15, 125-61, 133-14, 137-16, 141-16, 142-8, 145-29, and 147-7] (RIN: 2120-AJ36) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3757. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — WYTWORNIA SPREZETU KOMUNIKACYJNEGO (WSK) ''PZL-RZESZOW'' — SPOLKA AKCYJNA (SA) PZL-10W Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0760; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-10-AD; Amendment 39-16789; AD 2011-18-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3758. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines Model IO-720-A1B Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0604; Directorate Identifier 2011-NE-21-AD; Amendment 39-16791; AD 2011-18-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3759. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318, A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0917; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-157-AD; Amendment 39-16806; AD 2011-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3760. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 and ERJ 190 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-1310; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-067-AD; Amendment 39-16786; AD 2011-18-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3761. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0471; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-219-AD; Amendment 39-16800; AD 2011-18-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3762. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 190 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0216; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-197-AD; Amendment 39-16796; AD 2011-18-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3763. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model MD-90-30 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-0218; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-164-AD; Amendment 39-16719; AD 2011-12-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3764. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 767 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0957; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-062-AD; Amendment 39-16718; AD 2011-12-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3765. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Keller v. Commissioner, T.C. Memo 2006-131 [AOD-2011-44] received October 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 915. A bill to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from trans-national crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–268). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1447. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (Rept. 112–269). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1165. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman Office within the Transportation Security Administration for the purpose of enhancing transportation security by providing confidential, informal, and neutral assistance to address work-place related problems of Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–270). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1801. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for expedited security screenings for members of the Armed Forces; with an amendment (Rept. 112–271). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. House Resolution 255. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that effective sharing of passenger information from inbound international flight manifests is a crucial component of our national security and that the Department of Homeland Security must maintain the information sharing standards required under the 2007 Passenger Name

Record Agreement between the United States and the European Union (Rept. 112–272). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TERRY (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 3364. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 3365. A bill to reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 3366. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that bonus depreciation is not a cost allocated to a contract under the percentage of completion method for long-term contracts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 3367. A bill to provide public safety officer disability benefits to officers disabled before the enactment of the Federal public safety officer disability benefits law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FARR, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 3368. A bill to suspend the authority for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (the successor institution to the United States Army School of the Americas) in the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 3369. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 3370. A bill to provide that the United States Postal Service may not close any post office that does not have another post office within 8 miles as measured by public roads with regular year-round access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARNAHAN (for himself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WELCH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. POLIS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 3371. A bill to produce high-performance Federal buildings through an improved approach to building utilization, design, construction, and operations and maintenance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H.R. 3372. A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to deregulate the Federal milk marketing order program, to publish competitive milk price survey data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SIRES):

H.R. 3373. A bill to stimulate collaboration with respect to, and provide for coordination and coherence of, the Nation's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 3374. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for new qualified hybrid motor vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 3375. A bill to direct the President to impose duties on merchandise from the People's Republic of China in an amount equivalent to the estimated annual loss of revenue to holders of United States intellectual property rights as a result of violations of such intellectual property rights in China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHILLING:

H.R. 3376. A bill to curb wasteful spending by making 50 percent of year-end savings in salaries and expenses available for an additional fiscal year, and to use the remaining 50 percent for the purpose of deficit reduction; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AMODEI (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 3377. A bill to designate the Pine Forest Range Wilderness area in Humboldt County, Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. CAMP, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 3378. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Elm Avenue in Munising, Michigan, as the ''Elizabeth L. Kinnunen Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BERG (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

H.R. 3379. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to provide States increased flexibility in implementing standards through State implementation plans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:

H.R. 3380. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act concerning safe dietary ingredients in dietary supplements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DENT, and Mr. BILBRAY):

H.R. 3381. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for viral hepatitis surveillance, education, and testing in order to prevent deaths from liver cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA):

H.R. 3382. A bill to prohibit smoking in and around Federal buildings; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 3383. A bill to require railroad carriers to prepare and maintain a plan for notifying local emergency responders before transporting hazardous materials through their jurisdictions; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 3384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for the employment of wounded warriors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLDEN (for himself and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 3385. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a combat badge for helicopter medical evacuation ambulance (Medevac) pilots and crews; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 3386. A bill to encourage the use of medical checklists through research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Ms. HAHN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LATOURETTE, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 3387. A bill to amend the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 1990 to adjust the percentage differentials payable to Federal law enforcement officers in certain high-cost areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 3388. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Beaver, Chipuxet, Queen, Wood, and Pawcatuck Rivers in the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 3389. A bill to provide for the establishment of Clean Energy Consortia to enhance the Nation's economic, environmental, and energy security by promoting commercial application of clean energy technology; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 3390. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the feasibility and advisability of establishing a polytrauma rehabilitation center or polytrauma network site of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Fort Bayard, New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. PINGREE of Maine (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 3391. A bill to provide for the establishment of a national mercury monitoring program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. QUAYLE (for himself, Mr. COBLE, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. GOWDY, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas):

H.R. 3392. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for periodic review of major rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RIVERA (for himself, Mr. SIRES, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 3393. A bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to impose penalties and provide for the recovery of removal costs and damages in connection with certain discharges of oil from foreign offshore units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BACA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. HIRONO):

H.R. 3394. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the energy credit for microturbine property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

H.R. 3395. A bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers and importers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H.R. 3396. A bill to abolish the Office of Polar Programs of the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FLORES, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. LABRADOR, and Mr. CAMPBELL):

H.J. Res. 84. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting the United States government from increasing its debt except for a specific purpose by law adopted by three-fourths of the membership of each House of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA:

H. Con. Res. 86. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2061; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. DICKS, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H. Res. 458. A resolution congratulating the University of Washington on the occasion of its 150th anniversary and recognizing its contributions to Washington State and the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. FORBES):

H. Res. 459. A resolution encouraging any new government convened in Egypt to fully allow for the freedom of religion; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Ms. GRANGER):

H. Res. 460. A resolution expressing support for designation of 2012 as the ''Year of the Girl'' and celebrating the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts of the USA; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 3364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mrs. LUMMIS:

H.R. 3365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3. The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 3366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. TOWNS:

H.R. 3367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This Bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, known as the ''General Welfare Clause.'' This provision grants Congress the broad power ''to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.''[1]

[1] Please note, pursuant to Article I, section 8, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 3368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: . . . to provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 3369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause: Article 1, Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 3370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, which include the power to ''establish Post Offices and post Roads. . . .''

Furthermore,

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, which include the power to ''make all laws which shall be necessary for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers . . .''

By Mr. CARNAHAN:

H.R. 3371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1. ''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:

H.R. 3372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution: ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfarfe of the United States''

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 3373. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).''

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 3375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress's Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SCHILLING:

H.R. 3376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Appropriations

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 3377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7
The Congress shall have Power *** To establish Post Offices and post roads.

By Mr. BERG:
H.R. 3379.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 section 8 and amendment X to the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:
H.R. 3380.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CASSIDY:
H.R. 3381.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:
H.R. 3382.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. GONZALEZ:
H.R. 3383.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the Preamble to the Constitution; Clauses 1, 3, & 18 of Section 8 of Article I; and Clause 2 of Article VI.

By Mr. HEINRICH:
H.R. 3384.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8

By Mr. HOLDEN:
H.R. 3385.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 15 which grants Congress the power to make rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 16 which grants Congress the power to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress.

By Mr. HOLT:
H.R. 3386.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. KING of New York:
H.R. 3387.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. LANGEVIN:
H.R. 3388.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, Clause 1 and Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. MARKEY:
H.R. 3389.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3.

By Mr. PEARCE:
H.R. 3390.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. PINGREE of Maine:
H.R. 3391.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. QUAYLE:
H.R. 3392.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. RIVERA:
H.R. 3393.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Commercial Activity Regulation

By Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California:
H.R. 3394.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SHIMKUS:
H.R. 3395.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WALSH of Illinois:
H.R. 3396.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution: ''The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States . . .''

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:
H.J. Res. 84.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article V of the United States Constitution provides for amendments to the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 10: Mr. WOODALL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 104: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 210: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 361: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 374: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 436: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. ADAMS, and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 494: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 721: Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 735: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. AMODEI, and Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 744: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 749: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. REED.
H.R. 763: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 860: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 876: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 878: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 893: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 931: Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 942: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 969: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 973: Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 1044: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1063: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1084: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1111: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 1116: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 1130: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1138: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1148: Ms. HOCHUL and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1164: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1175: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KIND, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1221: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 1236: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. KIND.
H.R. 1340: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 1341: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 1385: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 1449: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 1533: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 1537: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 1546: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1588: Mr. HURT.
H.R. 1639: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1648: Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Mr. LUJÁN.
H.R. 1653: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 1681: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 1704: Mr. HANNA, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 1733: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1738: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1744: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1746: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 1811: Mr. RUNYAN and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1815: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 1876: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1905: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2016: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 2040: Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 2051: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. AUSTRIA, and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 2123: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 2131: Mr. ALEXANDER and Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 2144: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2195: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2214: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. BOREN, Mr. MARINO, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. POSEY, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. TURNER of New York, Mr. YODER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HERGER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2223: Mr. CRITZ.
H.R. 2245: Mr. COSTA, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2304: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 2341: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2346: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 2353: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa and Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 2396: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2421: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 2446: Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. HAYWORTH, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 2453: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2478: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2492: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. HANNA.
H.R. 2501: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2530: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2569: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WATT, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 2599: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2661: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2697: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2735: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. REED.
H.R. 2815: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 2829: Mr. BARTON of Texas.
H.R. 2853: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2866: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2874: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. POMPEO, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2880: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2885: Mr. WALSH of Illinois and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2910: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2913: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2925: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 2945: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 2959: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 2960: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 2962: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2966: Ms. HAHN.
H.R. 2972: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2985: Mr. GARDNER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3003: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3009: Mr. RIVERA.
H.R. 3010: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 3012: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 3015: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3046: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3059: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3061: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 3091: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 3101: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 3108: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 3112: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 3123: Mr. BOUSTANY and Mr. SCHOCK.
H.R. 3128: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 3134: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3142: Mr. GRIMM, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 3151: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3154: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3156: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 3178: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3181: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SCHILLING, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 3185: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 3187: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 3199: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 3200: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 3201: Mr. STARK, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. REYES, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3210: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 3236: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 3243: Mr. COLE and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 3265: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 3266: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 3269: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MARINO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. DENT, and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 3296: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 3297: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3300: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3308: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H.R. 3313: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3323: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3324: Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 3334: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3339: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.J. Res. 56: Mr. ROSS of Florida and Mr. AMODEI.
H.J. Res. 80: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.J. Res. 83: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Con. Res. 84: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H. Res. 60: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H. Res. 98: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H. Res. 111: Mr. WOLF and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 365: Mr. TOWNS.
H. Res. 376: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Ms. HIRONO.
H. Res. 429: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. POMPEO.
H. Res. 433: Mr. GRIMM.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1380: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. GOHMERT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF AGUDAS ACHIM

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of Congregation Agudas Achim in Peoria, Illinois.

Agudas Achim was founded in 1886 by a group of 18 settlers in Peoria as the first Traditional Orthodox Jewish Congregation in that part of the country. In the following decades, Agudas Achim grew to be the largest Traditional Jewish Congregation in Illinois outside of Chicago.

Since its founding, Agudas Achim has had a physical presence in many parts of the City of Peoria, constantly expanding its facilities to meet the needs of its growing congregation. From the South Side to North Peoria, Agudas Achim has put down deep roots in the city.

Throughout its long history, Agudas Achim has weathered many challenges and changing times, but it continues in its mission to serve the Traditional Jewish community in Central Illinois through assembly, study, and prayer. I congratulate the leaders and members of the congregation on this significant anniversary.

CONGRATULATING THE MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Marian High School girls' soccer team of Mishawaka, Indiana. The Knights competed in the Indiana High School Athletic Association state championship on October 29, 2011 at Kuntz Stadium in Indianapolis, with a tough 1 to 0 loss to first place Providence in a shootout following two overtime periods.

The Knights worked tirelessly this season, garnering an 18–3–1 record with half of their victories captured with more than five goals. Leading scorer, Junior Gabby Veldman, scored thirty-two goals during the season. A testament to the character of the Marian team, Senior Lauren Garatoni received the Mental Attitude Award from the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

The Marian team consisted of twenty-two young women, including: Liz Naquin, Brittany Payne, Denise (D.J.) Veldman, Gabby Lucchese, Lauren Wade, Tracy Scott, Shannon Hendricks, Madeline LaDue, Jen Smith, Josie Cressy, Gabby Veldman, Melissa Cunningham, Lauren Garatoni, Carson Ludwig, Claire Griffith, Maggie Wanecke, Maggie Hartnagel, Bridget Doyle, Cassie Sloma, Emma Capannari, Makaela Douglas, and Devon Smith.

I also congratulate the dedicated coaching staff of Head Coach Djamel Charmat and Assistant Coaches Erin Shindledecker and Jim Douglas, who helped guide the Knights to the state championship game. The coaches developed a team with depth, talent, a strong defense, a high scoring offense, and most importantly, good sportsmanship.

I offer my congratulations to the members of the girls' soccer team of Marian High School, the coaching staff, the school administration and community for their accomplishments this season including their second place finish in the IHSAA 1–A State Soccer Tournament.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, 2011, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall vote 825.

Had I been present for rollcall 825, on passage of H.R. 2930, a measure to amend the securities laws to provide for registration exemptions for certain crowdfunded securities, and for other purposes, I would have voted "no."

RECOGNIZING 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schuylkill Township, Chester County on the occasion of the 185th anniversary of its founding.

The first settlers to move into Schuylkill Township were Dutch, Swedish, and Welsh; many of whom were Quakers. They arrived in 1713 with James Anderson being the first European settler with his family to arrive. He had immigrated from the Isle of Skye in Scotland in 1707. His home and farmstead, "Anderson Place," still stands. Son Patrick was the first child born in the township. He was to serve as a captain in the Revolutionary War and later was promoted to Major. The Anderson family is buried in Anderson Cemetery on Valley Park Road. The last Anderson to reside at the farmstead was in 1955. William Moore arrived and built Moore Hall, which is a National Register home, as well as the Bull Tavern visited by General Washington.

The Friends Quaker Meeting is historic and was active in the abolitionist movement with the Underground Railroad. Corner Stores at the intersection of White Horse and Valley Forge Roads was the first and major commercial center in this area and continues today. Valley Forge Road was the major route between the western forges and the City of Philadelphia and continues as the Valley Forge Historic Corridor through Schuylkill Township.

Once a farm community, Schuylkill Township today seeks to preserve its agricultural landscape. The Open Space Commission is working to preserve open space with the Pickering Preserve and the purchase of Valley Park where meadow lands are being preserved. Preservation efforts are also underway for the Ticket Pavilion of the old Valley Park Trolley Park, which once operated to the delight of its residents.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the 185th anniversary of the founding of Schuylkill Township, I ask that my colleagues join me today in celebrating this momentous occasion and recognizing the Township's rich history and economic and social contributions to the quality of life enjoyed by its outstanding citizens and all of Chester County.

HONORING MR. PHILIP MELVIN UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the career of Mr. Philip Melvin (Phil) for his thirty years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Phil has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR) in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Phil began his tenure with the House in 1981 as a Mainframe Computer Operator. Diligently rising through the ranks, Phil was eventually selected to be the Lead Computer Operator. His duties entailed bringing the House's systems online, recognizing and diagnosing hardware and software problems, maintaining quality control of printed output, and training new Operations Staff. Mainframe operations were the heart of the House's emerging Information Technology Infrastructure.

Phil's technical expertise and delivery of mainframe operational services led to his appointment as a Mainframe Systems Programmer, whereby he provided the system tools and computer resources required to host the House's mission critical internal applications on the mainframe.

In the early 90's, Phil was selected to support a Distributed Systems Support Project, which required him to support the multiple e-mail systems then in use by the House. Phil was responsible for managing the main system that allowed Members to send/receive mail from several different e-mail systems. In

1995, he became part of the team that successfully merged all of the House's e-mail systems into one enterprise service. He then became the lead in implementing the Enterprise Fax system for the House which allowed Member offices to receive and send their faxes via e-mail. Phil has helped make the House e-mail and Enterprise Fax systems the reliable services the House relies on today. Continuing on the leading edge of technology, Phil's most recent duties were instrumental in the House's successful evolution to server virtualization.

Phil's knowledge, experience, dedication, mentoring and consistent outstanding performance in his daily tasks have set a fine example in providing superior customer service and earned him the respect and admiration of his co-workers.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Philip Melvin for his many years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3rd, I missed rollcall votes 821 and 822, for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 821: ''yea'' (Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 453, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 2940—Access to Capital for Job Creators Act and H.R. 2930—Entrepreneur Access to Capital Act)

Rollcall vote No. 822: ''yea'' (Dicks Motion to instruct conferees)

RECOGNIZING MT. PLEASANT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the congregation, administration, and supporters of Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church of Leesburg, Georgia as this fine institution celebrates 150 years of providing spiritual guidance and dedicated community service to the residents of Lee County, Georgia and individuals throughout the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. This tenured religious institution will commemorate its 150th anniversary on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at a service ceremony at 143 Mt. Pleasant Road in Leesburg.

This upcoming anniversary ceremony will enable church members, local dignitaries, community leaders and other individuals throughout Georgia to pay tribute to a house of worship that has positively influenced many lives and served as a sanctuary for those in need of spiritual counseling.

Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church traces its historical roots back to our nation's dark days of slavery. The Church was founded in 1861 by a band of baptized believers in Christ on property deeded to them by slave owners.

Some of the church's early pastors, including Reverend Dough Johnson, Ben London, Gain Byrd, Tom Johnson and Reverend Gene Murray, worked endlessly to establish Mt. Pleasant as a stable institution that tended to the spiritual needs of its congregation and provided assistance to other churches in need of resources. Early in its existence, Mt. Pleasant graciously allowed members of Old Piney Grove Church to share its facilities and bury their members in Mt. Pleasant's cemetery until construction of Old Piney Grove's building was completed.

Throughout the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, Mt. Pleasant's edifice has gone through numerous transformations and renovations. In 1890, the first frame building was constructed on the eastern edge of the church's current location on Mt. Pleasant Road in Leesburg, Georgia. This building was built on a wood frame with four windows on each side and two doors at the front.

In the late 1930s, under the leadership of Reverend Wallace Davis, Mt. Pleasant's church building was renovated. After the 1930s renovation, the church building also served as a school house.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Reverend P.S. Sparks oversaw the construction of a new church building that included pews and pulpit furniture. In the early 1980s, under the direction of Reverend W.D. Slaughter, a new dining hall was added to Mt. Pleasant's campus.

Over the years, Mt. Pleasant has remained a steadfast community leader and supporter of several humanitarian initiatives that have assisted those individuals most in need. Mt. Pleasant's Mission Outreach Ministry donates food and clothing to low-income communities throughout the Albany, Georgia metropolitan area. The church is also associated with charity efforts sponsored by the Christian outreach group, Samaritan's Purse.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church in Leesburg, Georgia for all the many things this institution has done and will continue to do to positively impact the lives of those in Southwest Georgia.

HONORING TEXANS FOR LIFE COALITION PRESIDENT KYLEEN WRIGHT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor Texans for Life Coalition President Kyleen Wright for her decades of work to protect life. Kyleen has been a leader and a fixture in the Texas pro-life movement for years, and her dedication to the unborn was critical to the recent passage of the sonogram law in the Texas Legislature. This law expands informed consent to include a visual presentation via sonogram.

Since 1975, Kyleen has been a tireless pro-life advocate. Beginning in her freshman year of high school, Kyleen has spent the last 36 years influencing and instituting policies conducive to strong families. Her work has culminated in significant policy changes in Texas, including the sonogram law and an abstinence education program in 1995. It is also thanks in part to Kyleen's work that the incidence of teen abortions has dropped by half since 1995.

The pro-life cause in Texas has many leaders, but few are as effective in the state capital as Kyleen. Whether it's working with the legislature or talking on the airwaves, Kyleen is leading Texas and America to a brighter and better future. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Kyleen Wright for a career of hard work to protect the unborn and their families.

RECOGNIZING NORMAN VUTZ, SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP'S 2011 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Norman Vutz on the occasion of being honored as Schuylkill Township's 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

A longtime Township resident, Norman moved to Schuylkill Township in 1978 and served 28 years as a member of its Board of Supervisors. One of Norman's greatest accomplishments was helping to facilitate the Township's transition from utilizing an independent contractor for roads to establishing its own Roads Department. With an excellent and dedicated Roadmaster, the Township is saving money, is better managed, and is providing more efficient service to its residents.

One of his favorite aspects of serving on the Board of Supervisors is working with the talented and dedicated Township staff and helping area citizens. These are the folks that have provided Norman such great satisfaction during his long years of public service.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his exemplary years of service to Schuylkill Township, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Norman Vutz on the occasion of his being honored as 2011 Outstanding Citizen of the Year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEM EDUCATION INNOVATION ACT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to articulate a vision for American education and a platform for developing a strong competitive workforce. Today I am introducing the STEM Education Innovation Act, which does exactly this by raising the profile of state and federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives.

By promoting and highlighting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, we will enable America to regain its

competitive edge in the global economy. This is essential so that the youth of America can once again be competitive with their international peers and attain satisfying, well-paying jobs. It is essential so that American "Job Creators" will be able to find future employees with the right skill sets to meet their needs right here at home.

My legislation will establish an Office of STEM Education at the Department of Education, through which we will be making a national and international statement that the STEM fields are a national priority. This office can speak with articulation on why we must compete at the highest level on international benchmark tests such as the PISA, NAEP and TIMMS tests.

By providing federal support for State Consortia on STEM Education, my bill helps States exercise their power to create, maintain, and grow their STEM platform. The bill acknowledges existing public-private collaborations and will grow such efforts in the STEM community. These state consortia are already springing up at the grassroots level. Through a federal matching grant, we will be reaffirming our Nation's priorities while allowing States to dictate and control their educational agenda by identifying best practices and implementing state standards.

Finally, my legislation will boost American ingenuity and innovation by promoting the development of transformational technology for the classroom through the Education Innovation Project. Through a small federal dollar investment, small startup companies and the private market will deliver a huge return on educational technological innovation.

Mr. Speaker, it is the aspiration of ALL Americans—rich and poor, rural and urban, public school and private school, Republican and Democrat—to realize the American dream for their children. The STEM Education Innovation Act builds up the platform of local educational communities all throughout the United States to collaborate and consolidate a solid educational platform holding up the pillars of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). By supporting STEM efforts in American public schools, we are investing in the future of American youth. We are also investing in American ingenuity, innovation, and infrastructure: ensuring an educated population to carry us forward into the future.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION OF THE WEST HILLS COLLEGE LEMOORE GOLDEN EAGLE ARENA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Hills College Lemoore on the occasion of the Dedication Ceremony of the Golden Eagle Arena, its new, state-of-the-art facility which will provide a venue for the expanding educational and athletic programs. The new 52,000 square-foot arena will provide a home to the Golden Eagles basketball and volleyball teams, while also facilitating class space for enhanced physical education.

Golden Eagle Arena represents the third phase of growth for West Hills College Lemoore. The college has grown substantially since opening its doors in 2002. With the construction of the new arena approved by the Lemoore City Council in 2006, tireless work has been put in to developing a center that can host a variety of athletic and academic events. The state-of-the-art lighting, sound and technological equipment found within this facility provide an ideal venue for a variety of performances. The versatile flooring ensures that the hardwood basketball court will remain in pristine condition and promote longevity for this grand investment. This 2,700 seat stadium will enrich student life and enhance the Golden Eagle spirit. Even though nascent, the Golden Eagle Arena has already been home to various high profile, national, public servant guest speakers.

West Hills College Lemoore has done nothing short of a job well done. After more than eighteen months of construction, the Golden Eagle Arena is complete. The perseverance of the Lemoore campus faculty, administration, students and community support has prevailed with this crown jewel in these tough economic times. In particular, I would like to commend the dedication of President Don Warkentin, Chancellor Frank Gornick, and the Board of Trustees: Mark McKean, Bill Henry, Nina Oxborrow, Steve Cantu, Edna Ivans, Jeff Levinson and Jack Minnite. Without the unwavering commitment of these individuals, projects and facilities like the Golden Eagle Arena would not be possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a proud supporter of the West Hills Community College District since my days in the California State Legislature. It is beautiful to see how this rural, community college meets its goal to serve its students with a diverse set of programs and curricula, while providing entertainment and enrichment venues such as the Golden Eagle Arena. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending West Hills College Lemoore and the community of Lemoore who have worked tirelessly to make the Golden Eagle Arena possible.

HONORING ALICE CARDONA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American trailblazer, a proud Puerto Rican and New Yorker whose advocacy for women's rights and minorities distinguished her as a true leader. Alice Cardona hailed from New York's Spanish Harlem or, El Barrio, where she was the first of nine children. From an early age, Alice began contributing to her community by volunteering with the Legion de Maria and providing psychological support to African American and Latino people in need. From this early experience, Alice had instilled in her a strong sense of the social, economic, and educational injustices facing people of color and the importance of remedying them.

Shortly thereafter, Alice worked for United Bronx Parents, where she helped foster parental involvement in the local school system. In 1964, she became involved in the first Head Start program in New York.

By the 1970s, she was working at ASPIRA and counseling young people. Alice's time there inspired her to return to college and complete her degree, empowering her to further assist New York's minority communities. Upon graduation, she continued with ASPIRA and found more ways to become engaged in her community. She played a valuable role with the National Conference of Puerto Rican women and also co-founded HACER/Hispanic Women's Center, an important resource for assisting Latinas to achieve their educational goals.

As a member of Governor Mario Cuomo's Administration, Alice was the assistant director for the New York State Division for Women, where she further advocated for bilingual education and worked to combat HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, and domestic violence.

IN the 1990s, I had the pleasure of working side-by-side with Alice during my tenure as Director of the Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs in the United States. Together, we led Atrevete, the most successful Hispanic voter drive in American history. I will always look back on her dedication, passion, and tireless work ethic as an inspiration.

Even in retirement, Alice dedicated herself to others by staying active with groups like the Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the National Association for Bilingual Education. Indeed, throughout her lifetime, she helped found more than 12 organizations dedicated to strengthening and empowering minority communities.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Alice Cardona passed away. She is fondly remembered by many of us as a friend and role model. For all Latinas, her life is a source of pride and for New Yorkers, an inspiration to continue striving for greater social justice and opportunity in our City, state, and country. I ask that all my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Alice Cardona, an activist, passionate defender of women's rights, champion of bilingual education, and advocate for working people everywhere.

THE VISA IMPROVEMENTS TO STIMULATE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (VISIT USA) ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Congressman DAVID DREIER to discuss a bill that we introduced yesterday, the Visa Improvements to Stimulate International Tourism to the United States of America, VISIT USA, Act.

This is the companion bill to S. 1746, which was introduced on a bipartisan basis in the United States Senate by Senator SCHUMER of New York and Senator LEE of Utah.

The VISIT USA Act is a common-sense proposal that is about one thing—creating jobs and boosting our economy.

According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, the travel and tourism industry accounts for more than 25 percent of all U.S. services exports—our nation's largest service export, in fact. In 2010, international travel to the U.S. accounted for $134 billion in receipts

for U.S. businesses and supported 7.4 million American jobs—including 152, 864 in my home state of Hawaii, and 873,000 in Congressman DREIER'S home state of California.

This legislation will help to support and grow this important industry by making travel to the U.S. easier and more efficient for foreign travelers. Specifically, the bill contains several provisions aimed at increasing visitors from China, making visa processing more efficient, and giving the State Department necessary flexibility to manage the visa process more effectively.

It will also help to solidify and strengthen our relationship with one of our most important travel partners, Canada, and even includes provisions to help address the housing crisis.

China has the world's largest population—1.3 billion people—yet only 802,000 visitors travelled to the U.S. in 2010. These 802,000 visitors spent approximately $5 billion in the U.S. during their stays, the seventh most spent in the U.S. by visitors from any country. Clearly, welcoming more visitors from China will benefit our economy and help to create jobs. In order to do this, the bill provides Chinese visitors that meet the appropriate security requirements with the ability to acquire five year, multiple-entry visitor visas.

The bill would also establish a pilot program that would allow the State Department to conduct visa interviews via videoconference. One of the key challenges for residents of these countries—like China, India, and Brazil—is the need to travel great distances to conduct in-person visa interviews. If successful, this pilot program will help to responsibly reduce wait times and effectively meet the demand for visas in countries with large rural populations.

The bill would also authorize the State Department to charge extra fees in order to expedite the processing of certain visas, and allow Customs and Border Protection to provide expedited visas for foreign dignitaries and other priority visitors. This can be especially important for international meetings, and events such as the Olympics. Finally, the VISIT Act will make changes to visa procedures for nation's that are working closely with the U.S. to combat terrorism.

The VISIT Act also allows the Administration to lower visa application fees during off-peak seasons to help incentivize applications when overall demand is low.

In addition to improving the visa processing system, and incentivizing travelers from untapped markets, the VISIT Act also includes provisions to encourage visitors from the U.S.'s top travel partner—Canada.

In 2010, the U.S. welcomed 20 million visitors from Canada. Those visitors spent over $20 billion during their stays. The VISIT Act creates a ''Canadian Retiree Visa'' which allows Canadian citizens over 50 to apply for 240 day visas. These visas would need to be renewed every three years, and visa holders would have to meet all necessary security requirements, and be able to prove that they have accommodations for the duration of their stay.

Overall, the reforms included in this bill are a cost-effective, bipartisan approach to incentivizing job creation and supporting a critical U.S. industry. In fact, to date the Senate legislation has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Travel Association, the American Hotel & Lodging Association, and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

I'm confident that there will be many other groups—from across the political spectrum—that will support these much needed reforms that Chairman DREIER and I are introducing today.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to see this measure passed.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAMES M. REDMOND OF THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and members of the Pennsylvania delegation (Mr. BRADY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PLATTS), I would like the following statement submitted for the RECORD.

I rise today to recognize the many years of outstanding service by James M. Redmond of the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Redmond has worked for The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania for 36 years, serving the last 20 years as the Senior Vice President for Legislative Services. During his tenure, he has used his extensive knowledge about, and expertise in, the state legislative process to achieve balance and compromise in resolving essential health care policy issues.

Mr. Redmond's successes as an advocate for hospitals and health systems have been attributable to his hard work, persistence, and steadfast commitment and adherence to integrity and ethics. He has been a key participant in numerous initiatives that strengthened Pennsylvania's hospitals and greatly improved patient care, including the development of Pennsylvania's trauma system.

Mr. Redmond began his career in health care administration at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center of Pennsylvania State University. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, with a degree in pharmacy, and a graduate of the University of Florida with a Master of Business Administration. A Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Mr. Redmond is also the author of numerous articles and reports on health care policy, and he has served on several state and national advisory groups.

During his distinguished 36 years with the Association, Mr. Redmond has repeatedly proven himself to be one of the Commonwealth's most respected advocates and health care leaders and we, as the Commonwealth's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives, wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

HONORING MAYOR BENNY MCGUIRE

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, great leaders govern with integrity, humility and with generosity to their community. In the Tennessee Eighth Congressional District, there is one leader whose efforts have been appreciated by his community and acknowledged by his peers. I rise today to congratulate the honorable Benny McGuire, as he begins his tenure of President over the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee.

A dedicated public servant, Mayor McGuire has not only contributed countless hours to Obion County, but he has set an example for other mayors to follow. Serving as the director of the Antioch Cemetery Association in Hornbeak, he also works as a chair of the Northwest Tennessee Development District and serves as a member on numerous local boards and committees. After only two terms as mayor of Obion County, he was selected by his peers to be named President of the Association of County Mayors of Tennessee, the statewide organization representing 95 county mayors and executives.

I value the great work and dedication that individuals like Mayor McGuire contribute to the West Tennessee area. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mayor Benny McGuire as he extends his dedication and devotion to the people of Obion County as well as all of Tennessee.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELKS LODGE #1243, IN CARBONDALE, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Elks Lodge #1243, in Carbondale, Illinois.

Carbondale Elks Lodge #1243 started with 81 charter members in 1911. The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks had begun just 43 years earlier in New York City. In these early years, those interested in starting a new lodge would petition an existing lodge for initiation. The list of names for the proposed Carbondale Lodge was sent to Murphysboro, Illinois Lodge #572 on May 10, 1911 and Carbondale Lodge #1243 was formed.

Through the years, Carbondale Elks Lodge #1243 has engaged in a number of programs to foster the Elks mission, ''To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship.'' Some current activities include organizing fund-raisers to benefit disabled and visually impaired children and holding an annual charity golf tournament.

Carbondale Elks Lodge #1243 has been a shining example of a fraternal organization

that strives not only to support its members but to provide resources and volunteer activities to benefit their greater community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers and members of Carbondale, Illinois Elks Lodge #1243 on their 100th anniversary and to wish them all the best for many years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SPC ADRIAN GARCIA

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Army SPC Adrian Garcia of El Paso, TX. SPC Garcia was only three weeks into his first deployment when he was attacked while on a routine patrol in Ramadi, Iraq in March 2007. SPC Garcia was manning the turret of an up-armored HUMMVEE when a Rocket Propelled Grenade attack shattered both of his legs. SPC Garcia's injuries were so severe that both of his legs required amputations above the knee, leaving him in a wheelchair.

On November 11, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Army SPC Adrian Garcia with a brand new home at no cost. SPC Garcia's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to SPC Garcia for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their Nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

RECOGNIZING THE COMMENDABLE SUPPORT EFFORTS OF CLEAR CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the commendable efforts of Clear Channel Communications Inc. in their support of diversity and small businesses within the radio broadcasting industry. For a long time, public broadcasting, especially in the area of radio, excluded or carried heavy restrictions on the voices coming from minorities and women of this country. These binding practices limited the freedom of expression for minorities and women in broadcasting and provided a frail platform upon which to deliver meaningful public affairs and news within these communities.

Radio broadcasting in past decades has experienced dramatic, positive change with the cultivation of environments which support minorities and women's matriculation from their traditional auxiliary support positions, such as disk jockeys or custodial workers, into more influential roles such as managers, engineers, and program directors. The change also removed barriers which once denied favorable circumstances for members of these populations to gain ownership and syndication. This shift has allowed for a broad array of broadcast opportunities to include more autonomy in the presentation of public affairs discussions, music, and information which more specifically reflects the culture and interest of the minority and female listening audiences.

Technological advancements and a growing social affinity for more digital interface have placed pressure on the radio industry to maintain its standing among other broadcasting mediums. This strain, coupled with the nation's financial tensions, has made staying up to speed with the changing times all the more difficult. However, impressively, the radio world continues to provide phenomenal listening programs to the masses. This tenacity has been seen in no place greater than within the minority and women sectors.

Clear Channel recognizes the impact minority and women broadcasters have had on broadcasting and has taken a laudable position to make investments to ensure their productive futures. Their plan to divest 448 radio stations in 88 markets, which lead to the donation of six stations to the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, MMTC, shows that Clear Channel has a keen awareness of the value diversity plays in broadcasting and shows that they have a sound understanding of the needs of small, local radio stations. Clear Channel's efforts to enhance the infrastructure for these individuals and business owners will aid in their abilities to boost their hiring capabilities, expand their listening audiences, increase advertisement revenues and support their communities by delivering excellent content.

Mississippi was one of the states privileged to be a part of this gesture of good faith with the acquisition of WHJA (AM) in Laurel, Mississippi. James Hardman, a minority broadcaster from Tulsa, Oklahoma, with decades of experience, plans to put WHJA back on the air under a local marketing agreement (LMA) with MMTC. Hardman intends to produce high quality and innovative programs focused on the African-American community while encompassing the cultural differences across the State of Mississippi. Economic and political empowerment in the African-American community has been difficult to achieve without access and control of the mass media resources that impact our communities. Clear Channel's dedication to assist with gains in this area creates opportunities for success for African-Americans in Mississippi.

Mister Speaker, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the meritorious efforts put forth by Clear Channel Inc. towards ensuring the viability of the minority and women communities within the radio broadcasting industry.

THE GREATEST GENERATION

HON. MICK MULVANEY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MULVANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Greatest Generation, as well as to welcome those who will soon be making the trip from their homes in South Carolina to our Nation's Capital.

Seventy years ago, their lives were interrupted by providence. By their selfless action, these ordinary men and woman became extraordinary.

They defended their country and their families. They protected the innocent and freed the captive.

They served freely and without reservation, in what was to become the deadliest conflict in human history.

Too often, Americans are reminded that freedom comes with a heavy burden. Thankfully, their generation understood this, and met the challenge bravely.

That is why there are no words that can express our gratitude, no medals or monuments sufficient to symbolize just how much we owe to them.

But the world we live in today, the freedoms we enjoy, the blessings we count, are all because of them.

That is why we continue to honor them.

And to remember.

RECOGNIZING THE ALAMEDA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Alameda County Social Services Agency, Department of Children and Family Services. Due to their exemplary work to open more good homes to foster children by actively recruiting and working with LGBT families, they have earned the All Children-All Families Seal of Recognition from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, a leading organization in the advocacy of LGBT civil rights.

Alameda is only the second county in the nation to receive this recognition. By eliminating the barriers that LGBT couples and individuals face when they chose to adopt or foster, Alameda County has helped to fulfill their mission of ensuring that every foster child finds a loving family. One example of how important Alameda County's work has been in this area is Lara and Emkay Bosque. Lara and Emkay have adopted two young children. Thanks to their efforts, two beautiful children are growing up in a permanent and loving family, instead of the foster care system. We need more families like the Bosques and I will be displaying their family photo in my office during November, which is National Adoption Month.

At this time of celebration for Alameda County it is important to remember that they are a shining example of what counties and agencies across the nation can do to decrease the number of children in our foster

care system by finding them permanent, stable homes. Currently our foster care system serves over 400,000 children, with over 105,000 waiting to be adopted. LGBT families can play an important role in decreasing the number of children in care. Unfortunately, LGBT individuals and couples face discrimination in 31 states when they attempt to adopt or foster. Congress invests over $7 billion in our child welfare system annually, yet we are allowing potential adoptive parents and foster families to be excluded to the detriment of children.

We should show our support of those children who are without families by passing HR 1681, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. I introduced this bill to protect those families looking to foster or adopt children from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status or on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

It is the purpose of our foster care system to find children families who will love and cherish them. There should be no added burden for anyone based solely on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.

I would again like to acknowledge Alameda County for their commitment to children in search of families and to the families willing and able to adopt a child in need. I hope more counties will follow their inspiring lead.

RECOGNIZING WOODFILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodfill Elementary School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon award winning educational institution in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private institutions whose students achieve academic excellence or have made profound advancement in closing the gaps of achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

To be named a Blue Ribbon School is to join an elite group. Of over one hundred thirty thousand schools in the United States, just over 6,000 have received this honor since its creation by the Department of Labor in 1982.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishment of this exceptional Kentucky institution, it is my hope that Woodfill Elementary School's leading example of hard work and growth encourage schools across the nation to strive for the same level of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the students, teachers, and administration of Woodfill Elementary School for their devotion to the success of the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL JOSE ''DANIEL'' GASCA

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corporal Jose ''Daniel'' Gasca of El Paso, TX. Corporal Gasca was driving an up-armored HUMVEE when it was hit by a control detonated IED in Fallujah, Iraq in September 2008. Corporal Gasca suffered spinal fractures, broken ribs, a ruptured spleen, and leg injuries so severe that both of his legs required amputation. Corporal Gasca, his wife, Angel, and their sons; 3 year old Mathew and newborn Eli, currently live in a non-handicapped home while Daniel continues his treatments and therapies at Walter Reed.

On November 10, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Corporal Gasca with a brand new home at no cost. Coporal Gasca's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Corporal Gasca for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, ''The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten.''

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial of Naval Aviation and its service to the United States of America.

Throughout the last century, the men and women of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard who have heeded freedom's call have become America's front line of defense. Generation after generation of children from the Emerald Coast have watched our country's finest aviators overhead and dreamt of following in their footsteps. I am proud to say that the First Congressional District of Florida holds a special place in its heart for the Blue Angels and all who fly in our nation's defense.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, NAS Pensacola, welcomed its first aviation unit on January 20, 1914, less than three years after the Navy purchased its first planes. On December 7, 1917, Pensacola was designated as the first permanent U.S. Naval Air Station. It was America's sole Naval Air Station until World War I. In the ensuing years, tens of thousands of America's finest Naval Aviators have trained at NAS Pensacola, including Neil Armstrong and Ted Williams. Today, all U.S. Naval Aviators begin their training at the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

From the first Naval Aviator, Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson, to the current class of flight students at NAS Pensacola, thousands of Naval Aviators have protected America's interests around the world and in outer space. Just like their predecessors from previous generations, today's students at NAS Pensacola go through rigorous training to serve on shore and at sea, at home and abroad, to protect the United States and support freedom wherever and whenever they are called. From combat patrols over Iraq and Afghanistan to relief missions in Haiti and around the world, Naval Aviation is a touchstone of America's naval might.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Naval Aviation for its contributions during its first 100 years and to honor it as it takes flight in the next 100 years.

HONORING ROBERT ALAN DUGGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Robert Alan Duggan, and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 46.

Born in Livonia, Michigan on February 23, 1965 to Patrick and Joan Duggan, Bob was a classmate and fellow graduate of the class of 1983 from Detroit Catholic Central High School. He went on to attend the Adrian College, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Broadcasting. While attending Adrian College he became a member of this nation's oldest and largest professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. Bob joined the Screen Actors Guild in 1997.

A true son of Livonia, Bob Duggan was born at St. Mary's Hospital, and there the incredibly benevolent heart that led him to donate more than 120 pints of blood to the Red Cross in his lifetime stopped beating. Bob was a long time member of St. Aidan Catholic Church, where he had served as an altar boy and faithfully attended every Sunday. He was a realtor who loved the Detroit area, and an avid sports fan.

Regrettably, on November 3, 2011, Robert Duggan passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved parents, Patrick and Joan, and his brothers Michael, Daniel, James, and Timothy. Bob was a devoted uncle, and will long be remembered by 13 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Duggan is remembered as a dedicated son, devoted brother, loving uncle, and a true friend. Bob was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community, and his country. Today, as we bid Robert Duggan farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and in honoring his devotion to our country and community.

CONGRATULATING THE AIDS CENTER OF NEW YORK CITY FOR 20 EXCELLENT YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the AIDS Service Center of New York City, for their 20 excellent years of serving Manhattan by helping New Yorkers suffering from HIV/AIDS and providing them the support to rebuild their lives.

What started out as a small organization in 1990, the AIDS Service Center stands today as a pillar in my community's ongoing fight against the deadly disease that disproportionately affects African-Americans and Hispanics in the District. Through the leadership of Director Sharen Duke and the Center's dedicated Board and staff, the AIDS Service Center has provided services to over 1,800 people each year, and engages with 18,000 people through their peer education and community outreach initiatives.

The work done by the AIDS Service Center of New York City is so crucial and needed all throughout our nation. In New York alone, over 100,000 people live with HIV/AIDS, and thousands more are unaware that they are living with this terrible virus. I am forever grateful for the significant impact the Center is making in the lives of people in Manhattan.

I hope all my Colleagues in the House today will join my community and me in once again congratulating the AIDS Service Center of New York City for their 20 years of passionate service. We must continue to advocate and support for our fellow brothers and sisters living with HIV/AIDS until this epidemic no longer threatens the way of their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL, THE AMERICAN MICROTURBINE MANUFACTURING AND CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill, the American Microturbine Manufacturing and Clean Energy Deployment Act of 2011.

This bill builds on the great American tradition of innovation and manufacturing. It will help our country create new high-paying jobs, promote investment in the clean energy economy, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill would accomplish these goals by establishing a 30 percent investment tax credit for microturbines, thereby granting parity with other renewable and fuel cell technologies. Microturbines, which have been supported by research and development funding from the Department of Energy, are small, ultra low emission gas turbines that produce usable efficient thermal energy and clean electrical power. While used most often in commercial buildings, microturbines have a wide range of applications, including renewable power, hybrid electric buses, trucks, and cars.

Over 90 percent of the world's microturbines are manufactured right here in the United States by American workers for American companies. And of the U.S. manufacturers, one is located in Southern California and employs a number of my constituents. Another manufacturing facility is located in New England. American microturbine companies enjoy a robust export market, which means customers across the globe are increasing energy efficiency and reducing pollution and their carbon footprint. But sadly, the domestic market is weak. Why? Because our incentive structure has failed to encourage the adoption of this readily available clean energy solution. This must change, and my bill will help increase deployment in our own country.

Where microturbines are deployed in the United States, there are numerous success stories. In the spirit of bi-partisanship, let me highlight one in my home state. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, which many of us have visited, deploys sixteen 65-kilowatt microturbines that provide onsite electricity. In addition, the waste exhaust from the turbines heat the facility's water supply and is then run through an absorption chiller to provide air conditioning to the Air Force One Pavilion. This innovative approach not only enhanced the environment around the library by eliminating the need to construct additional power lines, but it also saves the facility over $300,000 per year in utility bills.

We have the opportunity to help businesses and families across the nation save energy and preserve the environment. And, by enacting the American Microturbine Manufacturing and Clean Energy Deployment Act, we will create thousands of jobs. According to a recent survey of the microturbine industry, estimates are that the enactment of a 30 percent tax credit could immediately create over 2,000 new jobs. During the first year of the new tax credit, enough new microturbines could be deployed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 170,000 tons of CO_2. These numbers will only increase the years after the tax credit is enacted. While the potential of this energy technology is huge—eventually representing tens of thousands of jobs in the U.S. alone—deployment has been held back by the lack of incentive support.

Mr. Speaker, two of the most overarching public policy goals of the Congress and the country are to create jobs and promote energy efficiency and independence. I strongly believe that microturbine technology is a key component in our efforts to meet these challenges. This is an American-invented technology and an American-dominated industry. We should keep it that way. I urge our colleagues to join me in supporting this clean, innovative American industry.

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's veterans, who have courageously served our nation. These brave men and women deserve a debt of gratitude for their commitment to protecting the liberties that are the foundation of our country.

As we recognize their selfless dedication and accomplishments, we must be reminded of the challenges many veterans face when returning home from tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, upon returning to civilian life, many suffer from severe physical and mental wounds. In fact, 20 percent of all suicides in the United States are veterans. Furthermore, 25 percent of those who find themselves homeless are veterans and many of them are also unemployed. These figures are extremely alarming and quite frankly, unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, as we welcome home the thousands of American troops currently deployed overseas, we must ensure that they receive the benefits they rightly deserve. It is imperative that we provide the very best educational, medical, and employment benefits available to assist with their transition back home.

On this day, I encourage all Americans to honor our nation's veterans. My thoughts and prayers are with those brave men and women and their families. Let us remember those who have fought, those who have returned, and those who have not. We are forever indebted to their courage and dedication as well as their service to this great nation.

RECOGNIZING DR. JIMMY JONES UPON RECEIVING THE PHILIP O. LICHTBLAU, M.D. AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Jimmy Jones on receiving the Philip O. Lichtblau, M.D. Award. Dr. Jones has spent the last 45 years serving his patients, his community, and his country; and I am proud to recognize his lifetime of achievements.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee Medical School in 1956, Dr. Jones began his medical career with the U.S. Naval Hospital in Queens, New York. He continued his active duty service as a flight surgeon in the Navy through 1959. Dr. Jones remained in the Naval Reserve and retired in 1997 with the rank of Captain. After 1960, he worked in Boston, practicing general surgery, thoracic surgery, and ultimately pediatric surgery, which became his life's calling. In 1972, he moved to the Gulf Coast, serving as a pediatric surgeon at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. For 35 years, he was the only pediatric surgeon in the Panhandle. Dr. Jones returned to active duty from 1990–1997 as a surgeon in both Pensacola and Okinawa, Japan. Following his naval retirement, he returned to Northwest Florida as Surgeon-in-chief of the Pensacola Nemours Children's Clinic. In 2005, Dr. Jones became the Assistant Medical Director at the clinic, where he remains today.

Beyond his extensive career accomplishments, Dr. Jones has given his life to serving the children of our community. He works extensively with the Sacred Heart Foundation, the Children's Miracle Network, and founded the local Caduceus Society to create a mechanism for physicians to contribute towards

medical education for non-physicians. Countless nurses, pharmacists, and physical therapists have benefited from the Society's support. Dr. Jones volunteers with the Fiesta of Five Flags, the Rotary Club, and the Whibbs Maritime Park Board of Trustees, advising the community on its signature downtown development project.

Dr. Jones' contributions to the pediatrics profession and his community service extend well outside official capacities. For many years, he made monthly trips from Pensacola to Panama City to see patients in the Children's Medical Services (CMS) clinic and in local pediatricians' offices, thereby saving families travel expenses. Today, despite his official retirement, Dr. Jones continues to serve as the Assistant Medical Director at Nemours, arriving daily to help the children of our community heal and live a better life. The Philip O. Lichtblau Award, given annually by The Florida Pediatric Society to a surgeon who has contributed significantly to the CMS program, is a testament to his life of service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Dr. Jimmy Jones on his success. My wife Vicki and I are proud to congratulate Dr. Jones, his wife Deana, and four children Susannah Frazier, Chuong Vu, Meredith Wolf, and Michael Jones on this truly special occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF WORLD STROKE DAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of World Stroke Day, which was observed on October 29, 2011.

Stroke is a global health crisis that kills six million people annually. While some stroke survivors gain full functionality back, 30–50% of survivors require the support of a caregiver or have difficulties returning to work. While these numbers are startling, they do not adequately address the emotional toll which stroke survivors and their families must deal with, let alone the associated financial hardships which accompany a stroke.

While there are numerous risk factors that increase an individual's risk of stroke, it can affect anyone at any age so we all must be prepared. Use the "FAST" method to remember the warning signs:

F (FACE): Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A (ARMS): Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S (SPEECH): Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is their speech slurred or strange?

T (TIME): If you observe any of these signs, call 9–1–1 immediately.

I am proud to pay tribute to the seven million stroke survivors, their families and care givers and hope that the global community will take part in the effort to reduce the impact of stroke in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE FERRILL DAVID MCRAE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an outstanding member of our community, former Mobile County Circuit Judge Ferrill David McRae, a longtime resident of Mobile, Alabama, who passed away October 20, 2011, at the age of 77.

Judge McRae was known for his fairness and steadfast dedication to the principles of justice for all. He sat on the bench during historic times and always dedicated himself to upholding the law.

Originally a native of Irvine, Kentucky, but reared in Mobile, Judge McRae graduated from Murphy High School in 1952. He later attended The University of Alabama, earning a B.S. in Accounting in 1959, and a Juris Doctorate from the University's law school in 1961. While at the University, Judge McRae earned part of his tuition money by tutoring football players during the tenure of legendary football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant.

For many, earning two college degrees would dominate their time. However, Judge McRae also found time during his scholarly pursuits to honorably serve his country. He was called to active duty in the United States Army from 1957–59 during which time he achieved the rank of sergeant. He continued to serve as a member of the reserves until 1962.

In 1961, with his studies and military service largely behind him, Judge McRae was admitted to practice law in the Trial and Appellate Courts of the state of Alabama, and was admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

After just four years of practicing law, Judge McRae had distinguished himself in the local bar such that he became a logical choice to be appointed to the Circuit Court bench by then-Governor George C. Wallace. Judge McRae served a total of five years as a Domestic Judge and seven terms as a Circuit Judge in the 13th Judicial Circuit. He returned to the classroom to teach Business Law at the University of South Alabama for many years. As an avid fan of his beloved Crimson Tide, Judge McRae was also a charter member of the Mobile Red Elephant Club.

Judge McRae's four decades on the bench not only advanced our system of justice, but also the quality of Alabama's court system. He will be sorely missed by all who served with him and by those who benefitted from his fairness on the bench.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to join me in extending our deepest condolences to his wife, Brenda, as well as their surviving children, Corinne, Leslie, Ferrill Jr., Liz, Michelle, their grandchildren, their family and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF WARREN EJIMA, TOM FUJIMOTO, ASA HANAMOTO, MAS HASHIMOTO, HIROSHI ITO, THOMAS SAKAMOTO, MARVIN IRATSU, AND WILLIAM H. OMOTO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Warren Ejima, Tom Fujimoto, Asa Hanamoto, Mas Hashimoto, Hiroshi Ito, Thomas Sakamoto, Marvin Iratsu, and William H. Omoto for their courageous service to our Nation during World War II as part of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Established on November 1, 1941, MIS graduated 6,000 service members during World War II to provide critical Japanese language capabilities to the American military. These brave servicemen and women provided translation, interpretation and code breaking services in the essential Pacific Theater, which contributed significantly to our Nation's victory.

Primarily comprised of Nisei, second-generation Japanese-Americans who faced crushing prejudice and discrimination in the United States at the same time many of their family members were serving their country, this exceptional group has received honors and commendations of the highest level. In 2000, the Military Intelligence Service received the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest possible honor for a military unit, and in 2010 the 6,000 graduates of the MIS were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given in this country. The Gold Medal ceremony conferring this honor was held this week in the U.S. Capitol and was attended by many of these courageous men. At the end of the war, General Charles Willoughby, Chief of Staff for Military Intelligence under General MacArthur, said that "The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives and saved probably billions of dollars" during the conflict.

Initially run out of an airplane hangar on Crissy Field in San Francisco, the Military Intelligence Service was forced to relocate to Camp Savage in Minnesota in 1942 after President Roosevelt ordered the relocation of Japanese on the West Coast into internment camps. The language school continued to grow rapidly from its base at Camp Savage, and by 1944 had moved again, to Fort Snelling in St. Paul, to accommodate its increasing enrollment. After the war ended the MIS moved to the Presidio in Monterey, California, where it continued to provide essential language services to the Department of Defense.

By the 1970s the Military Intelligence Service's name had been changed to the Defense Language Institute, and all of the Department of Defense language programs were consolidated to the Monterey location. From there the program grew into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, which celebrates its 70th anniversary on November 5, 2011 with a ball in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be paying tribute to this outstanding group of Japanese Americans who selflessly served our Nation during World War II. I know I speak for the entire House of Representatives in honoring these heroes.

IN HONOR OF MR. THOMAS A. WILSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Thomas A. Wilson, a cartoon artist whose character, Ziggy, brought joy to people's lives every day.

Mr. Wilson was born on August 1, 1931, in Grant Town, West Virginia and raised in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. He served in the U.S. Army before graduating from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in the mid 1950s. Mr. Wilson began a nearly forty-year career with Cleveland's American Greetings in 1955. He spent time writing romantic greeting cards and comedic greeting cards for the public. Throughout his stay with American Greetings he served in several different executive roles for the creative department.

In 1971, Mr. Wilson created the character Ziggy and launched a cartoon series featuring this average American character. Ziggy started off as part of a cartoon illustration collection that had no words. The Universal Press Syndicate worked with Mr. Wilson to put words into the animation and bring Ziggy to life. He worked with the Universal Press Syndicate until he formed Ziggy and Friends. In 1987, Mr. Wilson gave control of his comic strip, Ziggy and Friends, to his son and fellow cartoonist Tom M. Wilson. Ziggy cartoons continue to be published in more than 500 newspapers throughout the country and enjoyed by millions.

The Cleveland Museum of Art has honored Mr. Tom A. Wilson by exhibiting his artwork. Mr. Wilson has also had his artwork shown in the Society of Illustrations and the Butler Institute of Art.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Tom Albert Wilson. I offer my condolences to his wife, Carol; son, Tom; two daughters, Ava and Julianne; and five grandchildren.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES FLEMING DAVIDSON, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to James Fleming Davidson, Jr. who passed away peacefully on his 86th birthday. James was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California and he will be deeply missed.

Jim was born on October 26, 1925, the son of James F. Davidson, Sr. and Irene Reid. He attended Magnolia Elementary, Central Middle School, and Poly High School. At 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served on a destroyer escort during World War II.

After the war, Jim enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley where he received a Bachelor of Science degree and was a member of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity. Upon graduation he returned to his native Riverside and joined his father in the prominent local Civil Engineering firm of J.F. Davidson Associates. The firm later grew to include five offices and three hundred employees. He also oversaw the expansion of Riverside Blueprint and founded R.B. Graphics and Prefect Impressions, as well as many other successful business ventures including J.F. Davidson Investments. He faithfully went to the office until weeks before his passing.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, James was a citrus grower, avid gardener and sports fan. Jim loved the ocean and spent many happy hours deep sea fishing. He demonstrated his leadership in the community and served as President of the Riverside Rotary Club, Riverside Chamber of Commerce, and the Riverside Community College Foundation. In addition, he was Chair of the Cancer Society Great American Smoke Out and numerous other boards and organizations.

James is survived by his wife of 22 years, Gerri Bredemann Davidson, and her sons; Michael and William Bredemann. Jim's children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren include; Charlotte Davidson (Tony Adler) of Los Angeles, her children; Caroline Dehe (Dr. Saahil Mahta) and Jim's first great-granddaughter; Uma Elvetia Mehta, of London, England, and James Dehe (Karen DeSouza) of Bombay, India; Ian James Davidson, Liam Davidson of Riverside; Hannah Davidson of Portland, Oregon, and Sarah Davidson-Amici (Robert Amici), Dario and Caterina Amici of Riverside; his first wife, Gretchen Holstein Davidson, his sister Eileen Shamel, and many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister Charlotte Davidson Nickel.

On Saturday, November 5, 2011, a memorial service celebrating James' extraordinary life will be held at the first Congregational Church in Riverside. James will always be remembered for his incredible work ethic, generosity, and love of family. His dedication to his work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to James' family and friends; although James may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

HONORING GUY CROWDER

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of Guy Crowder, who passed away on October 30, 2011 at the age of 72 surrounded by his mother, his wife and his son.

Guy Crowder was a giant in the Los Angeles community—a great photographer, businessman, and mentor to many aspiring black photographers whom he hired at his studio, ''Guy's Photography.''

Guy's work is not only cherished by a grateful Nation, but by my family in particular. In addition to his greater-known works, Guy captured moments of deep personal significance to me. I will forever treasure the photos of my father, L.A. County Supervisor Kenny Hahn. His photographs chronicled my father's career and I will forever be grateful his beautiful work. Even after his health began failing and he was confined to a wheelchair, he made it a point to come pay his respects at my mother's funeral.

Born Aug. 9, 1939 in Beaumont, Texas, Guy R. Crowder moved with his parents—Guy Rufus Crowder and Ruby (Crowder) Jones—to Los Angeles in 1945. He attended Charton-Pollard Elementary, Enterprise Junior High and Centennial High schools. He graduated from Harbor College and completed photography courses at Trade-Technical College.

Beginning in the 1960s, Guy was present to record the trials and triumphs of black Angelenos for close to five decades. Taking pictures for the Los Angeles Sentinel, the various Wave newspapers, and Johnson Publications' Jet and Ebony magazines, he was there to capture the glory days of Muhammad Ali and the 1965 riots in Watts. Despite being shunned by the mainstream periodicals of the time, he won virtually every award and honor available to a photojournalist. Guy Crowder's work will forever be part of the American memory.

I extend my deepest condolences to his loving 93-year-old mother; his wife, Patricia, to whom he was married for 51 years; a son, Reginald, and four grandchildren: Reanna, Renise, Ryan and Reggina.

VOTER SUPPRESSION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to share the following remarks for the Special Order organized by Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE on voter suppression on the night of Tuesday, November 1, 2011:

Let me thank Congresswoman FUDGE for her leadership in protecting our democracy and the bedrock of our country: the right to vote.

We are here tonight to sound the alarm because make no mistake about it: the fundamental right to vote, which is at the heart of our democracy, is under attack.

Republican legislators and governors are proposing partisan laws that require voters to show a government-approved photo ID before voting.

I came to this floor after the stolen Presidential election in Florida and Ohio to protest the results of those two elections that were filled with voter suppression.

It worked for the Republicans before, and so legislators in 42 states in our map of shame have doubled-down on these strategies to make it harder for certain communities to vote.

These proposals would disenfranchise 21 million Americans, over one-in-ten eligible voters in America, who do not have adequate identifications.

It is no coincidence that a disproportionate number of these affected voters come from communities of color, as well as the poor, the elderly, and students.

Fully one in four otherwise qualified African Americans would be unable to vote under these voter-ID laws.

In my home state of California, a Voter ID bill was introduced to suppress voter participation. It would cost $26 just to get the required documents to qualify for a government issued ID.

This certainly looks like a poll tax to me, which those of us from the South know and remember is a way to prevent African Americans from voting.

These voter ID laws have a partisan agenda, seeking to disenfranchise and deny specific populations of voters before they have the opportunity to elect their representatives in government.

These partisan laws are shameful and a disgrace to our country.

If these Republican lawmakers were truly concerned with fighting voter fraud, they would take on actual, documented problems such as distributing fliers with false information meant to trick voters, improperly purging voters, or tampering with election equipment and forms.

Instead, they are pushing laws designed to change election outcomes by reducing voting, repressing turnout, and regressing us backwards in history.

We will continue to press the Justice Department for a vigilant and aggressive investigation to protect the civil rights and the voting rights of Americans.

We cannot and must not allow our democracy to be undermined.

We must unmask these shameful attempts to disenfranchise voters.

Let's stop these partisan efforts that strike at the core of our democracy.

Let's win this war against voters.

We are better than that!

I thank my colleagues for their calls to protect the right to vote for all citizens across this nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Kristin Donley, an outstanding educator at Monarch High School. She has pioneered innovative learning for the past 10 years teaching physical science, chemistry and biology. Ms. Donley is an inspiration and an exemplary educator, and I am honored to commend her for being named the 2012 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

Her multifaceted approach to teaching goes beyond the textbooks and the standardized tests to instill curiosity and inspiration in her students; it provides the building blocks for a well-rounded understanding of the sciences. She has provided many opportunities for her students outside the classroom that truly prepare them with the skills and knowledge necessary to compete and succeed. Her partnership with the University of Colorado Boulder allowed her students to spend a week at the CU Mountain Research Station in Nederland, Colorado, where they had the opportunity to do hands-on learning of cutting-edge research that directly led to their own research and the chance to compete competitively in the regional science fair.

She has expanded the number of opportunities for her students to become passionate learners by establishing and coordinating a district science research seminar to have a peer science mentorship program for elementary and middle school students. She works with her students to create interest in learning science and to provide them with the tools for success. Her faith in the public school system and her advocacy for innovative, cutting-edge learning is especially important now, at a time when improving our schools and expanding access to innovative science, technology, engineering and mathematics instruction is critical.

Ms. Donley was born in Boulder and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado. She is truly a dedicated community member and educator, and I am honored to recognize her as the 2012 Colorado Teacher of the Year.

IN HONOR OF EL CENTRO DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Communidad Hispana, a non-profit group that serves the Greater Cleveland community.

El Centro is a Hispanic-Latino non-profit advocacy organization whose mission is to enhance the socio-economic status of the greater Lorain County community by providing essential social, educational, cultural and community development services. Children in need are able to keep in contact with El Centro to individually seek solutions to their problems.

With the influx of Hispanic-Latino industrial workers to the Lorain County community during the 1970s, the need for social, cultural and educational needs increased. In 1974, El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Communidad Hispana was formed in order to address these problems by helping monolingual Spanish speakers transition in an English speaking environment. El Centro also works to prevent, treat and rehabilitate community members with mental and physical health ailments. It also had a few clinics to specifically treat community members afflicted with high blood pressure and diabetes.

Although El Centro began as a non-profit that helped only Latino members of the community, recently it has expanded its services to support all members of the community. Recent economic hardships in the State of Ohio have increased the need for community services and El Centro has met that need by serving about 2,000 people.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring El Centro de Servicios Sociales Para la Communidad Hispana.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SGT. ARI CULLERS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service and sacrifice of Army Sgt. Ari Cullers who lost his life serving in Afghanistan. Sgt. Cullers died October 30, 2011, in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered when an insurgent rocket-propelled grenade exploded near him.

Sgt. Cullers was born in New London, CT and later moved with his family to Waterford, CT, where he attended school, graduating in 2001. Cullers was known throughout the community for his kindness and his ability to make people smile. As my friend, Principal Don Macrino of Waterford High School said, ''He was a hard worker at school and he, I think, actually found himself when he got into the service. I think that was a place where he felt he could really make his mark.''

He joined the Army in October 2004, served in Korea and Oklahoma, and arrived at Fort Drum in December 2008, according to the military. Cullers had previously served in Afghanistan from December 2008 to December 2009 and returned there with his unit in March 2011. Cullers, who deployed earlier this year, was a member of the 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, based out of Fort Drum, N.Y. Among his many awards and decorations are the Army Commendation Medal, four Army Achievement Medals, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, three Afghanistan Campaign Medals, the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge.

Sadly, Cullers is the third graduate of Waterford High School who was killed in combat in the Middle East in recent years. His passing reminds all of us of the sacrifices that have been made, and continue to be made, by our military overseas—including Ari's brother, Jacob, who also served in Iraq. While our nation has lost another hero, Ari Cullers' family has lost a beloved son and brother. My thoughts and prayers, and those of my family and the entire eastern Connecticut region, are with them now as they mourn. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ari's life and his service to our nation.

KATE PUZEY PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of March 11, 2011, hundreds of people gathered on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol Building for a candlelight vigil honoring the memory of Peace Corps Volunteer Kate Puzey.

Two years earlier on that date, Kate was murdered while serving in Benin after she accused a local teacher of sexually abusing his students. Believing that Kate's experience could be used to prevent similar tragedies, her family and friends created ''Kate's Voice Advocacy Group'' and began a nationwide campaign to urge reforms.

Collaborating with First Response Action, a group representing Peace Corps Volunteers who were sexually or otherwise assaulted, ''Kate's Voice'' met with lawmakers and tirelessly advocated policies designed to support and protect all Peace Corps Volunteers, at home or in the field.

Tonight the House will consider S. 1280, the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, which will enhance existing procedures for victims of physical and sexual assault in the Peace Corps and establish clear protocols for handling and reporting confidential information within the agency.

Specifically, this legislation requires the Peace Corps to provide enhanced sexual assault risk reduction and response training to all volunteers and integrate that knowledge with safety and security protocols at every Peace Corps post. Volunteers in training will receive an in-depth analysis of the particular risks they face in a given country and be provided with clear, written guidelines regarding whom to contact and what steps to take in the event of a sexual assault.

S. 1280 creates an anonymous hotline for reporting sexual assaults and sets up response teams that will be deployed the moment an incident is reported. A certified victim's advocate who answers to the Director of the Peace Corps will be required on staff to oversee the initiative and manage data collection for further studies analyzing safety and security trends.

Mr. Speaker, the Peace Corps has sent over 200,000 Americans to live and work in 139 developing countries since it was established by an executive order from President John F. Kennedy on March 1, 1961. Now in its 50th year, the agency continues to fill the gaps left behind by conflict, strife, and environmental degradation around the globe. For 2 years they develop partnerships, gain valuable knowledge, and help their communities meet local development goals. In the process, they build lifelong bonds and gain a greater understanding of America's place in the world.

The world in which Peace Corps Volunteers work is the real world, Mr. Speaker. It can be dangerous and uncertain. Therefore, issues of health and safety are of critical concern, especially during those first few months it takes a volunteer to adjust to the realities of his or her new life.

The provisions of this legislation were developed with extensive input from affected individuals and their families, victims' rights groups, Peace Corps senior staff, and the Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community. Kate's memory, embodied in her family, friends, and supporters, moved the process forward.

Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams testified on May 11, 2011 at a hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and affirmed that he is committed to meeting the goals espoused by Kate's Voice and First Response Action.

"The Peace Corps has not always been sufficiently responsive or sensitive to victims of crime and their families," he admitted. He went on to offer a public apology and described how such attitudes are changing on his watch.

Indeed, much of the substance of S. 1280 is already being implemented within the agency. Director Williams created the Victim's Advocate position and signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, to collaborate and share resources on sexual assault prevention and response.

Mr. Speaker, based on the Peace Corps receptivity to these reforms and the bipartisan nature of this legislation, I am confident that S. 1280 is an enlightened response to the pressing concerns of Peace Corps Volunteers and their families.

As a committed friend of the Peace Corps and its mission, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and provide the resources necessary to implement it without threatening the operational capacity of the agency.

The remarkable collaboration that conceived the Kate Puzey Act was an unparalleled labor of love. It was an earnest push to strengthen the program and prepare it for the future. It was not meant to hurt or punish the agency.

One of the witnesses at the May 11th hearing put it bluntly: "I would be devastated if my testimony were used to stop Peace Corps funding, cut funding, or eliminate the Peace Corps."

I strongly encourage my colleagues to keep that thought in mind as we consider this bipartisan legislation, which is the legacy of many extraordinary Americans, some of whom never returned from their missions abroad.

To honor the memories of fallen Volunteers, respect the survivors who courageously shared their stories, and encourage the next generation which recognizes the power of service, I will vote for this legislation in its current form, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

WELCOMING AND HONORING THE VETERANS OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2011 QUAD CITIES, IOWA HONOR FLIGHT

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I have the great honor of welcoming to our Nation's capital eighty-nine Iowa veterans of the Greatest Generation. Accompanied by seventy volunteer guardians, these veterans have travelled to Washington, DC to visit the monument that was built in their honor.

For many if not all of these veterans, today will be the first time they have seen the National World War II Memorial. I can think of no greater honor than to be there when they see their memorial for the first time and to personally thank Iowa's—and our Nation's—heroes.

I proudly have in my office a piece of marble from the quarry that supplied the marble which was used to build the World War II Memorial. That piece of marble, just like the memorial that it built, reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation that, when our country was threatened, rose to defend not just our Nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that we hold so dear. They did so as one people and one country. Their sacrifices and determination in the face of great threats to our way of life are both humbling and inspiring.

The sheer magnitude of what they accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed has stood as an inspiration to every generation since. The Greatest Generation did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our Nation. Their patriotism, service, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our Nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome the Quad Cities Honor Flight and Iowa's veterans of the Second World War to our Nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

RECOGNIZING WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Whirlpool Corporation on the tremendous occasion of its 100th anniversary. Headquartered in Benton Harbor, Michigan, Whirlpool is the global leader in the home appliance industry: delivering products of unmatched quality to customers in virtually every corner of the world.

Since its founding in 1911, Whirlpool has continued to build upon its well-earned reputation as a socially and environmentally conscious company by improving the quality of life in countless communities, fostering strong private-public partnerships, and setting the industry standard for energy efficiency and conservation.

Much has changed for the company in the past 100 years, but through it all Whirlpool has remained true to its Midwest, hometown roots. Michigan has faced more than its fair share of challenges through the recent economic downturn, but companies like Whirlpool are helping lead the way for our State's recovery and to restore our Nation's economic competitiveness.

The company is currently undertaking the multimillion-dollar construction of a state-of-the-art headquarters office campus in Benton Harbor. Whirlpool has also played an integral role in the half-billion-dollar Harbor Shores development project, which is revitalizing the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor area.

Thank you to Whirlpool for a century of creating jobs and giving back—here's to the next 100 years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CLEVELAND JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans, a group which has been promoting Croatian arts and culture for more than fifty years.

Established in 1959, The Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans are a parent sponsored nonprofit group whose members range in age from 5 to 21 years old. The group performs songs and dances to traditional Croatian music in order to celebrate and honor their heritage. The group is currently comprised of more than 100 children who are under the direction of Katarina Lukacevic and Tom Salopek. The Tamburitzans have held concerts in Canada, Croatia, and throughout the

United States. The group's purpose is to preserve and celebrate the culture of Croatia.

Cleveland's Croatian community is among the most robust in North America. Croatians have played a pivotal role in developing the businesses and industries which helped make Cleveland great. Their presence provided additional diversity to our growing city and members of the Croatian community have made valuable contributions to the area's athletics, arts, and music. In 1949, Cleveland was the first city to bring traditional Croatian song and dance together with the founding of the American-Croatian Singing Association.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans, just one of the many bright spots of Cleveland's Croatian community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is $14,973,228,608,405.04.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $4,334,802,862,111.24 since then. This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as the eighth annual National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The National Cyber Security Alliance, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and other organizations developed the ''STOP. THINK. CONNECT.'' national awareness campaign to educate our citizens and help them stay safer online. It is vital that the public is engaged and aware of how to properly utilize security software in order to protect their social security numbers, financial information, health information, and other personal data. We must all work together and take responsibility for securing our own networks and computers to ensure that government systems, personal data and even critical infrastructure remain safe from attack.

Recently, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn noted to Foreign Affairs magazine that our Nation is shifting its priorities in cyberspace, recognizing that attacks online can be as threatening as bullets and bombs. Additionally, the importance of cyber to not just our national security, but also our economic competitiveness, cannot be overstated. The vulnerabilities our Nation faces in cyberspace come from potential attacks against critical infrastructure, as described by Lee Hamilton in his post 9/11 report, as well as from damage to our military readiness, as Secretary of Defense Panetta testified earlier this year. But our vulnerabilities also include the intellectual property that is a critical driver of our economy.

Cyber threats to our intellectual property are growing more numerous, sophisticated, and successful. As noted by a recent report from the National Counter Intelligence Executive, vital intellectual property is targeted and stolen in cyberspace every day as these threats become more damaging and extensive. While the cost of a data breach can run well into the millions, even that loss is dwarfed by the long term damage to America's ability to remain the world leader in innovation, especially in our high tech and defense sectors.

All of this should tell us that the status quo is not good enough. We need to redouble our efforts and tap into our creative and innovative spirit to address not just the threats of today, but the challenges of tomorrow as well. This will require better education and action from both industry and government, as we come together to strengthen our public-private- partnership. But if we fail to leverage our own abilities and work through these challenges, our personal privacy, national security and economic competitiveness will be irreparably harmed.

I applaud the Department of Homeland Security for sponsoring this month of outreach. As a Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the House Cybersecurity Caucus, I will continue to fight to deliver the latest tools and training to support both our national security infrastructure and the personal data of all Americans.

VOTER SUPPRESSION IN AMERICA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow colleagues to urge this Congress to protect our access to the ballot, which has come under assault in several states across America.

The strongest sound that exists in a democratic society is the one voiced during our elections. However, I am troubled that over 5 million Americans are at risk of having their votes suppressed by laws that have turned back the clock on significant freedoms and accessibility achieved in many states before the 2010 elections.

Today, I stand in strong opposition to legislative tools that aim to repress the most important right to civic engagement and empowerment, the right to vote.

The impact of recent voter suppression laws is spiraling out of control, as evidenced by recent current events. For example, a 96-year-old Tennessee woman was denied a voter ID under Tennessee's new law because she was unable to locate her marriage certificate—even though she produced everything from a copy of her lease, voter registration card, birth certificate and a rent receipt. After voting for over 70 years in all but two elections, this was the first time her right to vote was suppressed.

Even our Nation's soldiers and war heroes have been disenfranchised by some of these new laws. Recently, an 86-year-old World War II veteran had to pay for a voter photo ID, even though the state law required that the IDs be given free of charge. Another 91-year-old woman was reportedly unable to receive her ID because she was physically unable to stand in long and crowded lines at the DMV with her cane.

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison serve as a microcosm of college populations that now face extreme hurdles as their once-accepted student ID cards no longer qualify as acceptable forms of ID in several states. And news of a Florida teacher being unable to register several of her students—an act she customarily does every year as part of her educational curriculum on civic engagement highlights the civil penalties third party registrants face as they merely attempt to assist others become part of the political process.

This suppression is affecting all classes, races, and ages, and we owe it to the general public to join in their public outrage against these attacks, which threaten to move America backwards to a period in our history that was ugly, discriminatory and crippling.

At the core of all fundamental rights is the right to vote. As voting rights experts have noted, the recent stream of laws passed at the state level are a reversal of policies—both federal and state—that were intended to combat voter disenfranchisement and boost voter participation. That is why I sent a letter to the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee this week, asking that hearings be held to ensure that our federal laws in place to protect access to voting are being enforced.

Ensuring that every veteran, senior citizen, student—whether natural born or naturalized—has the right to vote should not be a partisan issue. It should be the very purpose of this Congress since it is a priority to our democracy. I urge every elected official who is a beneficiary of our electoral system, to support the protection of every American citizen's right to have access to voting.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2011.

Hon. LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: We write to request a hearing to address the wave of recent changes in state voting laws that make it more difficult for Americans to cast a ballot. A recent report released by the Brennan Center for Justice entitled ''Voting Law Changes in 2012'' has concluded that more than 5 million voters could be impacted by the recently enacted legislation. The provisions that present the most serious concerns include:

Provisions that limit voting by requiring the presentation of photo identification:

Laws that exclude the most common forms, of identification (e.g., student IDs and Social Security cards), yet offer no alternate identification procedures for eligible voters.

Changes requiring proof of citizenship as a condition for voter registration:

Limitations or outright elimination of early voting opportunities.

Barriers to first time voters such as the elimination of same day registration and limitations on voter mobilization efforts.

These changes in state voting laws raise serious constitutional concerns under both the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifteenth Amendment. For example, requiring citizens to expend significant funds to obtain a photo

ID to vote runs afoul of the prohibition on poll taxes set out by Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections. The Supreme Court in Crawford v. Marion Co. Election Board noted that elderly, persons born out of the state, persons with economic limitations, homeless people, and even people with religious objections to being photographed may be burdened by photo ID laws. We are also concerned that these prohibitions violate the spirit and the letter of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Help America Vote Act, and the National Voter Registration Act.

The Brennan Center Report found that these changes in state election regulations will have a particularly significant impact on minority voters. The report concluded that African American and Hispanic voters were more likely to take advantage of early voting opportunities and register to vote through the types of voter registration drives now curtailed or eliminated by the new laws.

Most critically, the Report noted that many of the new voter identification laws do not allow voters to present many forms of identification frequently used by minorities, the elderly, and the young. For example, the new Texas law allows for the use of a concealed carry gun permit to vote, but fails to recognize student IDs, Texas Veterans' Administration identification and even Congressional identification. Further, Texas citizens must also spend $22 to obtain a birth certificate or up to $145 to obtain a passport to present the documentation necessary to acquire a form of ID required to cast a ballot.

Numerous examples of the anti-democratic impact of these new laws have already come to our attention. A 96-year-old woman was denied a voter ID under Tennessee's new law even though she has voted in all but two elections over the last 70 years and produced a rent receipt, a copy of her lease, her voter registration card, and her birth certificate. Because her birth certificate had her maiden name, Dorothy Alexander, rather than her married name, officials demanded her marriage certificate which she did not have. Another 91-year-old woman in Tennessee was unable to receive her ID because she was physically unable to stand in the long and crowded lines at the DMV with her cane. Two days ago, we learned of an 80-year-old United States veteran and retired print shop worker who had to pay for a voter photo ID. A young voting age citizen seeking a free ID in Wisconsin was questioned by a Wisconsin DMV employee about how much money he had in his bank account and how much activity his bank account experienced. It has also been reported that in Wisconsin, the state's DMVs have been charging citizens improperly for an ID because employees were instructed not to clarify for citizens that the ID's were free.

Assertions that these broad restrictions are needed to counter pervasive voter fraud do not appear to be supported by the evidence. For example, studies have found that only 24 people were convicted of, or pled guilty to, illegal voting at the federal level between the two Presidential and Congressional elections leading up to the 2008 elections. Moreover, only 19 instances of ineligible voting were determined at the state level.

The right to vote is the foundation of all our other rights. In view of the gravity of this situation, we urge you to schedule hearings soon to address an issue so critical to our democracy. As voting rights experts have noted, the recent stream of laws passed at the state level are a reversal of policies—both federal and state—that were intended to combat voter disenfranchisement and boost voter participation. Ensuring the right to vote should not be a partisan issue; rather it is the very linchpin of our democracy.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary.
JERROLD NADLER,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on the Constitution.

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL LAW

OVERVIEW: VOTING LAW CHANGES IN 2012

A shift that could change the electoral landscape is underway—the tightening of restrictions on who can vote and how Americans can vote. Going into the 2012 elections, there will be millions of Americans who will find that since 2008, there are new barriers that could prevent them from voting.

SUMMARY

In the first three quarters of 2011, state governments across the country have suddenly enacted an array of new laws and policies making it harder to vote. Some states require voters to show government-issued photo identification, often of a type that as many as one in ten voters do not have. Other states have cut back on early voting, a hugely popular innovation used by millions of Americans. Two states reversed earlier reforms and once again disenfranchised millions who have past criminal convictions but who are now taxpaying members of the community. Still others made it much more difficult for citizens to register to vote, a prerequisite for voting.

These new restrictions fall most heavily on young, minority, and low-income voters, as well as on voters with disabilities. This wave of changes may sharply tilt the political terrain for the 2012 election. Already 19 new laws and two new executive actions are in place. At least 42 bills are still pending, and at least 68 more were introduced but failed. Already, it is clear that:

These new laws could make it significantly harder for more than five million eligible voters to cast ballots in 2012.

The states that have already cut back on voting rights will provide 171 electoral votes in 2012—63 percent of the 270 needed to win the presidency.

Of the 12 likely battleground states, as assessed by an August Los Angeles Times analysis of Gallup polling, five have already cut back on voting rights (and may pass additional restrictive legislation), and two more are currently considering new restrictions.

States have changed their laws so rapidly that no single analysis has assessed the overall impact. It is too early to exactly quantify how the changes will impact voter turnout, but we know they will be a hindrance to many voters at a time when the United States continues to turn out less than two thirds of its eligible citizens in presidential elections and less than half in midterm elections.

Read the full report, Voting Law Changes in 2012, by the Brennan Center's Wendy R. Weiser and Lawrence Norden.

MORE THAN 5 MILLION VOTERS IMPACTED?

We estimate more than 5 million voters could be affected by the new laws, based on six key numbers.

1. 3.2 million voters affected by new photo ID laws. New photo ID laws for voting will be in effect for the 2012 election in five states (Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin), which have a combined citizen voting age population of just under 29 million. 3.2 million (11 percent) of those potential voters do not have state-issued photo ID Rhode Island voters are excluded from this count, because Rhode Island's new law's requirements are significantly less onerous than those in the other states.

2. 240,000 additional citizens and potential voters affected by new proof of citizenship laws. New proof of citizenship laws will be in effect in three states (Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee), two of which will also have new photo ID laws. Assuming conservatively that those without proof of citizenship overlap substantially with those without state-issued photo ID, we excluded those two states. The citizen voting age population in the remaining state (Alabama) is 3.43 million; 240,000 (7 percent) of those potential voters do not have documentary proof of citizenship.

3. 202,000 voters registered in 2008 through voter registration drives that have now been made extremely difficult or impossible under new laws. Two states (Florida and Texas) passed laws restricting voter registration drives, causing all or most of those drives to stop. In 2008, 2.13 million voters registered in Florida and, very conservatively, at least 8.24 percent or 176,000 of them did so through drives. At least 501,000 voters registered in Texas, and at least 5.13 percent or 26,000 of them did so via drives.

4. 60,000 voters registered in 2008 through Election Day voter registration where it has now been repealed. Maine abolished Election Day registration. In 2008, 60,000 Maine citizens registered and voted on Election Day.

5. One to two million voters who voted in 2008 on days eliminated under new laws rolling back early voting. The early voting period was cut by half or more in three states (Florida, Georgia and Ohio). In 2008, nearly 8 million Americans voted early in these states. An estimated 1 to 2 million voted on days eliminated by these new laws.

6. At least 100,000 disenfranchised citizens who might have regained voting rights by 2012. Two states (Florida and Iowa) made it substantially more difficult or impossible for people with past felony convictions to get their voting rights restored. Up to one million people in Florida could have benefited from the prior practice based on the rates of restoration in Florida under the prior policy, 100,000 citizens likely would have gotten their rights restored by 2012. Other voting restrictions passed this year that are not included in this estimate.

THE WAVE OF NEW LAWS

Photo ID laws. At least thirty-four states introduced legislation that would require voters to show photo identification in order to vote. Photo ID bills were signed into law in seven states: Alabama, Kansas, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. By contrast, before the 2011 legislative session, only two states had ever imposed strict photo ID requirements. The number of states with laws requiring voters to show government-issued photo identification has quadrupled in 2011. To put this into context, 11 percent of American citizens do not possess a government-issued photo ID; that is over 21 million citizens.

Proof of citizenship laws. At least twelve states introduced legislation that would require proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, to register or vote. Proof of citizenship laws passed in Alabama, Kansas, and Tennessee. Previously, only two states had passed proof of citizenship laws, and only one had put such a requirement in effect. The number of states with such a requirement has more than doubled.

Making voter registration harder. At least thirteen states introduced bills to end highly popular Election Day and same-day voter registration, limit voter registration mobilization efforts, and reduce other registration opportunities: Maine passed a law eliminating Election Day registration, and Ohio

ended its weeklong period of same-day voter registration. Florida, Illinois and Texas passed laws restricting voter registration drives, and Florida and Wisconsin passed laws making it more difficult for people who move to stay registered and vote.

Reducing early and absentee days. At least nine states introduced bills to reduce their early voting periods, and four tried to reduce absentee voting opportunities. Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia succeeded in enacting bills reducing early voting.

Making it harder to restore voting rights. Two states—Florida and Iowa—reversed prior executive actions that made it easier for citizens with past felony convictions to restore their voting rights, affecting hundreds of thousands of voters. In effect, both states now permanently disenfranchise most citizens with past felony convictions.

IN HONOR OF MRS. GAI HOA RYAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Gia Hoa Ryan as she celebrates her 40th anniversary since coming to America from Vietnam in 1971.

Born in Vietnam, Mrs. Ryan worked as a secretary and interpreter for the United States during the Vietnam War. She immigrated to the United States in 1971. Since immigrating, Mrs. Ryan has been an active community leader in the Greater Cleveland area. She is a teacher and lecturer of Asian culture, food, and society. She has been active with the Lorain International Festival, and hosted the 1995 Festival which honored Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. Mrs. Ryan also served as the coordinator for the Asian Community Project at Bridgeway from 1997 to 2003. This Project provided mental health care to hundreds of Asian, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian families.

Mrs. Ryan has truly been a leader to Cleveland's Asian community. She started the Asian Women's Support Group in early 1980s. In 1993, she created the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. The organization has provided humanitarian services to the people of Vietnam by furnishing scholarships, building houses and schools, providing medical services, educational materials, food and clothing, and raising funds for the poor. She has also founded the Asian Community Mental Health Services as part of the West Side Community Health Center to provide mental health services for Asian families, senior citizens, and young people. Furthermore, in 2005, Mrs. Ryan established the Sai Gon Plaza. The Plaza serves as a community center in Northern Ohio for Asians, immigrants and various community groups. Mrs. Ryan has sponsored forty members of her family who have come from Vietnam and helped them establish homes and businesses.

Mrs. Ryan has also served on many community boards including the Lorain County Community Alcoholism Board, various boards in the Detroit-Shoreway area, and the Mayor's Community Relations Board of the City of Cleveland. Most importantly she has raised her two children, Lynda Mia Ryan Shea and Thomas Joseph Ryan.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Ryan as she celebrates her 40th anniversary since coming to America. Her advocacy work continues to improve countless lives both in Cleveland and Vietnam.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, November 3rd, I missed rollcall vote 823, for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 823, ''no'' (Velázquez of New York Part A Amendment No. 4).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, 2011, I was unavoidably absent for votes in the House chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall votes 816 and 817.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FERNDALE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its 75th anniversary.

Beginning in 1934 as a small, localized Chamber, the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce has grown over the last 75 years to become one of the most innovative business organizations in Oakland County with nearly 300 members, ranging from sole proprietorships to the local offices of Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to the incorporation of the City of Ferndale, the first acknowledgement of a ''Board of Commerce'' was made in the minutes of a Village of Ferndale commission meeting in 1918. Comprised of local businessman, known as the Ferndale Boosters, the group worked to promote programs for the betterment of the business community.

On May 14, 1936 the ''Ferndale Board of Commerce'' was officially incorporated as a non-profit in the State of Michigan. The organization became the ''Ferndale Chamber of Commerce'' sometime between 1951 and 1965. In 2009, to reflect the growing geographic diversity of its membership, the Board of Directors of the Ferndale Chamber of Commerce voted to change the name to the ''Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce.'' This name change became official in 2010 and is more reflective of the Chamber's current membership, which includes 40 percent non-Ferndale businesses, a large number coming from surrounding communities such as the Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge.

As the Chamber notes, many of its goals and ambitions following its creation in 1936 after the Great Depression have been revived as the State of Michigan recovers from its deep recession. As a testament to the Chamber's ability to evolve and strengthen with time, they have partnered with a number of neighboring Chambers to form collaborative relationships that capitalize on the strengths of each Chamber. Today, as in 1936, they are a strong advocate for the betterment of the businesses, communities and residents they serve.

The Chamber's mission over the last 75 years has been simple: to support the interests of businesses and the community through dynamic member-driven partnerships and activities.

I have witnessed firsthand the success the Chamber has with accomplishing this goal. From morning coffee hours and after hour events for member networking, to educational workshops and large, community-wide events such as the Hilton Fall Festival, the Chamber remains a vital part of the community it serves. As we have all worked together to move Oakland County forward, the Chamber has been on the forefront working with multiple partners across the community toward common goals, such as rapid transit along the Woodward Avenue corridor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its 75th anniversary and wishing them many more years of effective service to the Oakland County business community.

IN HONOR OF MR. CHUCK COLLIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and memory of radio D.J. Chuck Collier, a man who entertained Cleveland's country music fans with tunes and colored commentary for decades.

Mr. Collier was born on May 6, 1946 in Greenfield and raised in New Vienna, Ohio. He attended New Kenton High School, where he was his class president. During his time at the University of Cincinnati, he began his career in radio with a job at WSRW in Hillsboro, Ohio in 1963. His graduation brought new opportunities, and he began working at WMWN in Wilmington, WONE in Dayton, WSAI in Cincinnati and WCBS in New York. The dedication it took to handle all of these jobs led to Mr. Collier landing a career at WGAR. For forty years Mr. Collier was WGAR's premiere radio personality for country music, adult contemporary music and AM programming. While WGAR has changed its programming over the years, Chuck kept listeners tuning in throughout the changes.

In 2005, the Ohio Radio-TV Broadcasters inducted Mr. Collier into their Hall of Fame. His fame over the radio brought him the National Association of Broadcasters' Marconi Award as Large Market Radio Personality of the Year in 2007. In 2009, an especially rewarding year for Mr. Collier, he was inducted into the Country Music Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honoring the life and achievements of Mr. Chuck Collier. I offer my condolences to his wife, Joni; daughter, Melanie; son, Jason; and sister, Carolyn Taubenheim.

IN HONOR OF U.S. MARINE LANCE CORPORAL JASON NICHOLAS BARFIELD

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a fallen American hero. U.S. Marine Lance Corporal (LCpl.) Jason Nicholas Barfield was killed on October 24, 2011, while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Reports indicate that LCpl. Barfield died as the result of traumatic injuries received when his patrol was struck by an Improvised Explosive Devise in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was only 22 years old.

LCpl. Barfield, from Ashford, Alabama, was assigned to the 3d Combat Engineer Battalion, 3d Marine Division, Twenty Nine Palms, California. He is survived by his parents, Raymond and Kelli Barfield, and seven siblings.

LCpl. Barfield delivered the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. Undoubtedly, his loss will be most felt by his loved ones and friends. Today, and each day following, my family and I extend our most heartfelt condolences to those close to him.

I recently had an opportunity to speak to LCpl. Barfield's father, Raymond. It was a moving conversation that I will forever remember. Mr. Barfield was gracious in spite of his grief, immensely proud despite his pain. During our conversation, I learned that, LCpl. Barfield recently proposed to his girlfriend, Joyanna Champlin. So, today, I stand here not only to pay tribute to Jason's sacrifice, but also to recognize the memorable people who held prominent positions in this patriot's life. The family and friends of our heroes are indeed heroes themselves.

We are blessed that our nation is protected—day after day, year after year—by courageous American service men and women. Those in uniform standing on the front lines risk everything in order to defend and serve. Their commitment to our country is demonstrated through their selfless sacrifices and unwavering courage. We owe them, and their families, our most eternal gratitude.

We will forever honor LCpl. Barfield for his selfless actions. His legacy will be memorialized in American history so every generation will know of his selfless acts.

America remains a free nation because of the men and women in our Armed Forces who serve and protect us each and every day—just as LCpl. Jason Nicholas Barfield so bravely did. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to go out to his parents and loved ones during this difficult time.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. BURKE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael J. Burke, a former law enforcement officer, instructor and director of training in the State of Iowa, and express my appreciation for his dedication and commitment to the great people of Iowa.

For the past 22 years, Mike has contributed his time to the safety of the citizens and first responders in the state of Iowa since beginning his career as a detective with the Webster County Sheriff's Department in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Mike's law enforcement career had many highlights, most notably being recognized for outstanding service and meritorious acts by the United States Attorney's Office for his efforts behind the investigation and prosecution of a methamphetamine trafficking organization.

Upon leaving law enforcement, Mike initiated and coordinated the criminal justice program at Iowa Central Community College. During his time with ICCC, Mike grew the program to new levels by initiating ''hands-on training'' for future criminal justice professionals. As coordinator and instructor of the program, Mike was recognized on two separate occasions for being a ''Master Presenter'' by the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development.

In 2003, I had the privilege of being involved in the creation of Homeland Security Training Center at Iowa Central Community College of which Mike was appointed Director. Until his retirement from the training center in August of 2011, over 35,000 responders in Iowa received critical homeland security training through this program including thousands of law enforcement officers training to keep Iowa's streets safer.

Mike has truly made a significant impact on the quality of life for citizens in the State of Iowa with the qualified training he ensured Iowa's responders would receive. His leadership and dedication will be missed, but the blueprint he leaves behind will be a model for the program's continued success far into the future.

I consider it an honor to represent Mike and all of ICCC in the United States Congress. I wish Mike, his wife Cindy and their two children, Megan and Robby, the best of luck as they enter this new chapter of their lives together. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mike for his stellar career.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELAINE SCHUSTER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elaine Schuster, as she is honored with the Believe in Girls Award from the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on November 12, 2011.

Elaine was—and is—never afraid to speak her mind, and that trait has proven invaluable to the various causes and constituencies for which she has fought. Through her important work with Big Sisters—one of the oldest and most established youth mentoring programs in the country—Elaine has advised, coached, and helped numerous girls and young women make healthy choices in their lives.

Elaine has been a role model to many, exhibiting these qualities on a daily basis through her good deeds, passion for helping others, and generous nature. Never one for holding back, she has dedicated herself to helping young girls, including her grandchildren, believe there is nothing they cannot do, become or achieve. To reflect on her work for our community is to reflect on a life of selflessness, devotion, drive and, above all, care for her fellow neighbor.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Elaine Schuster as she is honored for her generosity, drive and initiative, and I urge others to learn from her leadership and guidance.

NATIONAL UNDERSERVED VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, in Congress we have an obligation to care for our veterans in return for their financial challenges face them long after their conclusion of active service and while we have service and dedication to our Nation. For many veterans lifelong physical, psychological and made important strides towards improving care for veterans, there is still much to do. The most recent study from the Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that in 2009, approximately 76,000 veterans were homeless on any one particular day and 136,000 veterans were homeless at some point during the year.

The stark reality is that veterans are more likely than their civilian counterparts to suffer from homelessness. In fact male veterans are 1.4 times as likely to be homeless than non-veterans and female veterans are two to four times as likely to be homeless. Col. Darryl C. Hunter, M.D., founder and director of the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance has stated that ''by conservative estimates, up to 30 percent of the homeless population is comprised of those who have worn the uniform of our Nation's military.'' In addition to homelessness, research has found that troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are at an increased risk of developing mental health problems, with over 15 percent already diagnosed with depression, anxiety, or PTSD. Many of these veterans are not aware of the available Department of Veterans Affairs health programs and services that can be a critical component of reintegration into the community.

It is important that we work together to reduce the incidence of homelessness among veterans and repay, in what small measure we can, their service to this great country.

As part of this effort, I along with Representative DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California are proud to cosponsor the resolution supporting the designation of the week of November 6–12 as National Underserved Veterans Awareness Week. The week will have a particular

focus on disseminating information on health services available to veterans, as well as the various health benefits provided in private insurance plans.

A model of such outreach to veterans is operated by the Sacramento Community Veterans Alliance. Every year, the Alliance hosts an all-day health fair and free clinic to provide health screenings and eye exams to underserved and homeless veterans at no cost, as well as advising them on their service benefits and connecting them to resources on healthcare, mental health, and homelessness.

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY TO WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the 150th birthday of Weld County, Colorado. Weld is the sunny, rolling home to 31 towns filled with Coloradans of all backgrounds and aspirations. In 1821, Major Stephen H. Long made an expedition to the area now known as Weld County and declared the land was not fit for human prosperity. Almost two centuries later it is without question that Major Long did not have the vision or the admiration for this great place as those of Weld County have today.

Located in the north central part of Colorado, Weld County provides an impressive supply of opportunity and industrial support being the State's leader in production of cattle, grain, and sugar beets and the second leader in production of oil and gas. It is ranked as the third leading agricultural area in the United States.

But it is not the natural resources or the environmental make up of Weld County that make it what it is today, on its 150th birthday. It is the people of this county that have taken it from a prairie region first settled by railroad workers, to a vibrant and growing home to thousands of Colorado families. Beyond its industrial value, one of the State's strongest public universities, the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, is located within Weld County and provides thousands of students the opportunity for higher education and a more fertile future every year.

I congratulate the people of Weld County on 150 years of progress and prosperity and eagerly anticipate what the future holds for this forward-looking Colorado County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LLOYD DOGGETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 822 on H.R. 2112, I mistakenly recorded my vote as ''no'' when I should have voted ''yes.''

IN RECOGNITION OF BIG SISTER ASSOCIATION OF GREATER BOSTON

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston on their 60th anniversary. Big Sister is the largest mentoring program in the region that specifically serves women and girls. Volunteers enthusiastically dedicate their time and service to the communities in the Greater Boston area. Their actions are deserving of this body's recognition.

The Big Sister Association was founded in 1951 by three Cambridge residents: The Reverend Harold Taylor, Assistant Rector at Christ Church in Cambridge; Edith Taylor, a Cambridge police officer; and Frances Marley, an administrative assistant and legal consultant for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Believing that girls in their community could benefit from the guidance and support of an older female friend, they created a one-to-one mentoring program where girls, Little Sisters, were individually matched with caring and committed volunteers, Big Sisters.

They continue to welcome new women and girls to the Big Sister program. In their first year, they matched six girls—in 2009, Big Sister served more than 2,700 girls throughout 69 Massachusetts cities and towns. What keeps them growing is the steadfast belief that by focusing on the healthy development of girls, they are preparing the next generation of mothers, teachers, doctors and business leaders. By continuing to implement new mentoring programs this has led to the creation of a vibrant community where girls know that there is no limit to what they can achieve. Their humble actions and service to the community are commendable.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in leading this body in acknowledging the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston, as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. The Big Sister Association of Greater Boston community is tremendously valued in my district and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LT. COL. LUKE JOSEPH WEATHERS JR.

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers Jr., a Tuskegee Airman in the 332nd Fighter Group. He was born to Luke Joseph Weathers, Sr. and Jessie Rita Hawkins on December 16, 1920 in Grenada, MS. In 1925, he and his mother moved to Memphis, Tennessee to reunite with his father who had moved to Memphis earlier with his brother, William ''Bill'' Weathers.

Luke Weathers was baptized at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Memphis and later attended St. Anthony Catholic School. Weathers transferred and completed his high school education at Booker T. Washington where he excelled academically and athletically. Upon completion, he was accepted into Xavier University and studied from 1939–1942. He returned to Memphis in 1942 and read an article in a newspaper about an experimental training program for African-American pilots and aviation in Tuskegee, Alabama. After speaking to his parents about the program, Weathers met with Mayor E.H. Crump who made a call to President Roosevelt informing him that he would be sending Luke to the program. On July 27, 1942, Luke Weathers arrived in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and trained for nine months and one day. On April 29, 1943 he began his active duty as a Fighter Pilot Single Engine in the 302N Fighter Squadron flying P–51 bombers. The 302N Fighter Squadron was later merged into the 332nd Fighter Group, also known as the ''Red Tails.'' Weathers named his plane the ''Spirit of Beale Street.''

Lt. Col. Weathers departed for Italy January 3, 1944 to begin his tour in WWII, traveling to North Africa, Italy, France, Europe, and Germany. For his courage and service, he earned an Air Medal with 7 clusters, a Distinguished Flying Cross medal and an American Theater Ribbon Victory Medal WWI. Weathers was credited with shooting down two German fighter aircrafts while on a mission to protect U.S. Army Air Corps bombers in Europe. During this tour, the Tuskegee Airmen never lost one of their bombers. Lt. Col. Weathers returned to Memphis on March 13, 1945 and became the first African-American to receive the key to the City of Memphis. He was also honored with a parade down Beale Street and the day was declared ''Capitan Luke Weathers Day.''

Luke Weathers met LaVerne Nalling while in Memphis. Together, they owned and operated several businesses including the Weathers Jeffery vocational school in Jackson, Tennessee where Weathers was a flight instructor. He was also the Director of Boone-Higgins Trade School for Negro Veterans in Jackson. They also operated a beauty shop, Laundromat/dry cleaners and a carpet cleaning service. In 1959, Weathers founded The National Defense Cadet Corps, NDCC, for the Memphis City School System at Manassas High school. This program created an opportunity for African American males who had a desire for military training but did not have access to a ROTC program. For a brief time afterwards, Weathers moved his family to Anchorage, Alaska where he had accepted a position with the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA. He moved his family back to Memphis and became the first African-American Air Traffic Controller in Memphis. During his tenure with the FAA, he accepted tours of duties in Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, DC.

In 1985, Lt. Col. Weathers retired from the FAA in Washington, DC and the Air Force Reserves. In his retirement he stayed active with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. and continued to promote African Americans in the military including women. Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers Jr. died on October 15, 2011 at 90 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline Moore Weathers; two sons, Luke Joseph Weathers III and Andre M. Weathers; daughters Wanda Weathers Smith, Renee Weathers Powell, and Trina Weathers Boyce; and 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Mister Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Tuskegee Airman, Lt. Col. Luke Joseph Weathers, Jr. His was a life well-lived.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 7, 2011.

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 33 public bills, H.R. 3364–3396; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 84; H. Con. Res. 86; and H. Res. 458–460 were introduced. **Pages H7397–99**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7399–H7400**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 915, to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from trans-national crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–268);

H.R. 1447, to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to establish an Aviation Security Advisory Committee, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 112–269);

H.R. 1165, to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman Office within the Transportation Security Administration for the purpose of enhancing transportation security by providing confidential, informal, and neutral assistance to address work-place related problems of Transportation Security Administration employees, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–270);

H.R. 1801, to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for expedited security screenings for members of the Armed Forces, with an amendment (H. Rept. 112–271); and

H. Res. 255, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that effective sharing of passenger information from inbound international flight manifests is a crucial component of our national security and that the Department of Homeland Security must maintain the information sharing standards required under the 2007 Passenger Name Record Agreement between the United States and the European Union (H. Rept. 112–272). **Pages H7396–97**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m. **Page H7340**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

America's Cup Act of 2011: H.R. 3321, to facilitate the hosting in the United States of the 34th America's Cup by authorizing certain eligible vessels to participate in activities related to the competition, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 387 yeas to 2 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 831. **Pages H7342–44**

Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2011: The House began consideration of H.R. 2838, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015. Further proceedings were postponed. **Pages H7337–42, H7344–80**

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the Rules Committee Print dated October 28, 2011 shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. **Page H7352**

Agreed to:

LoBiondo en bloc amendment that consists of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 112–267: LoBiondo amendment (No. 1) that adds a new section providing the Secretary authority to extend the duration of medical certificates issued to merchant mariners, requires the Coast Guard to study the efficacy of requiring the carriage of certain survival craft, makes several technical and clarifying changes, and adds a new title providing new authorities to suppress the threat of piracy and protect U.S. vessels and mariners transiting high risk waters; Shuler amendment (No. 2) that requires the Coast Guard to give priority to persons that manufacture materials, parts, and components in the United States when entering into contracts and placing orders under Sec. 208(a); McIntyre amendment (No. 11) that adds to the purpose section of the establishment of the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (Section 401) that it coordinate with local businesses to promote an efficient marine transportation system; Cummings amendment (No. 12) that expands the information the Maritime Administration is required to include in the determinations it makes of the availability of qualified United States flag capacity to carry cargo between two points in the United States when a waiver of Jones Act requirements pertaining to such carriage is sought; McCaul amendment (No. 14) that prohibits the U.S. Coast Guard from delegating vessel inspections from organizations that also provide these services on behalf of any State Sponsor of Terrorism—such as Iran, Sudan and Syria; Murphy (CT) amendment (No. 16) that gives manufacturers the opportunity to provide information to contracting officers regarding how their bid for a contract will affect domestic employment; Brown (FL) amendment (No. 17) that prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from applying any additional peer review studies to the Jacksonville Port dredging project; and Ribble amendment (No. 18) that changes the legislative description of a commercial vessel to include all Federally owned and operated vessels, exempting military, Department of Defense, and Coast Guard vessels; **Pages H7363–65**

Huizenga amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that freezes the Environmental Protection Agency's current vessel discharge regulatory framework for certain vessels of historic significance; and **Pages H7376–77**

Napolitano amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that gives distant water tuna vessels in the Western Pacific Ocean the option of using Guam as their required port of call in order to meet U.S. maritime regulations (by a recorded vote of 364 ayes to 37 noes, Roll No. 834). **Pages H7368–71, H7378–79**

Rejected:

Cummings amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that sought to strike a provision that would eliminate an existing statutory requirement that the Coast Guard appoint an ombudsman in each Coast Guard District (by a recorded vote of 174 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 832); **Pages H7365–66, H7377–78**

Thompson (MS) amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that sought to add a new section to the end of title II of to open admissions to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to eligible candidates nominated by Congress. Specifically, the amendment would require the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure that, beginning in academic year 2014, half of the incoming class is composed of eligible candidates nominated by the Vice President or, if there is no Vice President, by the President pro tempore of the Senate; Senators; Representatives; and Delegates to the House of Representatives (by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 218 noes, Roll No. 833); **Pages H7366–67, H7378**

Bishop (NY) amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that sought to provide states the authority to impose more protective operational requirements on the discharge of ballast water within state resource waters (by a recorded vote of 174 ayes to 225 noes, Roll No. 835); and **Pages H7371–76, H7379–80**

Slaughter amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that sought to strike Title VII (by a recorded vote of 161 ayes to 237 noes , Roll No. 836). **Pages H7339–40, H7374–76, H7380**

Withdrawn:

Palazzo amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have struck section 303 of the bill which places unneeded and harmful restrictions on the future contracting and construction of the United States Coast Guard National Security Cutter and **Pages H7367–68**

Olson amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 112–267) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have required the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with appropriate representatives of industry, to conduct a feasibility study to determine the capability, cost, and benefits of requiring the owner or operator of a manned facility, installation, unit, or vessel to locate a standby vessel nearby. **Page H7377**

H. Res. 455, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 166 nays, Roll No. 830, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 234 yeas to 177 nays, Roll No. 829. **Pages H7377, H7340–41**

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2061: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 86, to direct the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2061. Page H7381

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011: The House passed S. 1487, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to establish a program to issue Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards. Page H7381

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 7th; when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10th; and when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 14th. Page H7382

National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community: Representative Conaway. Page H7382

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H7340–41, H7341, H7343–44, H7377–78, H7378, H7379, H7379–80 and H7380. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing on H.R. 3035, the "Mobile Informational Call Act of 2011." Testimony was heard from Greg Zoeller, Attorney General, Indiana; and public witnesses.

21ST CENTURY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled "21st Century Law Enforcement: How Smart Policing Targets Criminal Behavior." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled "Jobs at Risk: Waste and Mismanagement by the Obama Administration in Rewriting the Stream Buffer Zone Rule." Testimony was heard from Joseph G. Pizarchik, Director, Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement.

IDENTITY THEFT AND TAX FRAUD

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency and Financial Management held a hearing entitled "Identity Theft and Tax Fraud: Growing Problems for the Internal Revenue Service." Testimony was heard from J. Russell George, Inspector General, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; Steven T. Miller, Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement, Internal Revenue Service; and Ronald Cimino, Deputy Assistant, Attorney General for Criminal Tax Matters, Department of Justice, Tax Division.

CALIFORNIA FEDERAL COURT HOUSE PROJECT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled "A Review and Analysis of the Proposed $400 Million Los Angeles, California Federal Courthouse Project." Testimony was heard from Margaret M. Morrow, District Judge, U.S. District Court, Central District of California; Robert Peck, Comissioner, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration; and Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the employment situation for October 2011, after receiving testimony from Keith Hall, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, November 7

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Monday, November 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 674, 3% Withholding Repeal and Job Creation Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 10 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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