

The senior Democrat on this side of the aisle to the Committee on International Relations deeply regrets not being here because of a conflict of schedule. I am certain that the sentiments expressed earlier by the gentleman from New York is very much in order to the fact that this has been a very productive year for the Committee on International Relations.

I will say to the gentleman from New York that we have had our differences in principle, but it has never been on differences in personalities. I appreciate the leadership and certainly the fairness that he has given in this stewardship as chairman of this committee. I want the gentleman to know that.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express the gratitude and appreciation of the Nation also to the two gentlemen from this side of the aisle on the committee, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI], also the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON], who will also not be here next year due to retirement and other choices that they have made in their political careers. I certainly would like to commend them for their services that they have rendered as members, outstanding members of this committee.

I also want to recognize with appreciation the gentleman from Wisconsin whom I have had the privilege of working with closely on matters of international trade and some of the foreign policies that we have dealt with on this committee and certainly would like to wish him well because of his retirement. I want to express that on behalf of the members of this side of the committee.

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Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California, given his profound statement and understanding of the seriousness of the problem here in the Baltic States, I think the provisions of this resolution are well in order, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

I want to thank the delegate from American Samoa, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for his kind remarks and for his willingness to take an active role continually throughout the consideration of the measures before our Committee on International Relations. We thank him for his involvement.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 51, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress concerning economic development, environmental improvement, and stability in the Baltic region."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the measure just considered.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2579) to establish the National Tourism Board and the National Tourism Organization to promote international travel and tourism in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2579

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 "United States National Tourism Organization Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) The travel and tourism industry is the second largest service and retail industry in the United States, and travel and tourism services ranked as the largest United States export in 1995, generating an \$18.6 billion surplus for the United States.

(2) Domestic and international travel and tourism expenditures totaled \$433 billion in 1995, \$415 billion spent directly within the United States and an additional \$18 billion spent by international travelers on United States carriers traveling to the United States.

(3) Direct travel and tourism receipts make up 6 percent of the United States gross domestic product.

(4) In 1994, the travel and tourism industry was the nation's second largest employer, directly responsible for 6.3 million jobs and indirectly responsible for another 8 million jobs.

(5) Employment in major sectors of the travel and tourism industry is expected to increase 35 percent by the year 2005.

(6) 99.7 percent of travel businesses are defined by the Federal government as small businesses.

(7) The White House Conference on Travel and Tourism in 1995 recommended the establishment of a new national tourism organization to represent and promote international travel and tourism to the United States.

(8) Recent Federal tourism promotion efforts have failed to stem the rapid erosion of our country's international tourism market share.

(9) In fact, the United States' share of worldwide travel receipts dropped from a

peak of 19.3 percent in 1992 down to 15.7 percent by the end of 1994.

(10) The United States has now fallen to only the third leading international destination.

(11) Because the United States Travel and Tourism Administration had insufficient resources and effectiveness to reverse the recent decline in the United States' share of international travel and tourism, Congress discontinued USTTA's funding.

(12) Promotion of the United States' international travel and tourism interests can be more effectively managed by a private organization at less cost to the taxpayers.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to create a privately managed, federally sanctioned United States National Tourism Organization to represent and promote United States international travel and tourism.

SEC. 3. UNITED STATES NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the United States National Tourism Organization which shall be a private not-for-profit organization.

(b) ORGANIZATION NOT A FEDERAL AGENCY.—The Organization shall (1) not be considered a Federal agency, (2) have employees appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, and (3) not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act or any other Federal law governing the operation of Federal agencies.

(c) IRS STATUS.—The Organization shall be presumed to have the status of an organization described in section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 until such time as the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the Organization does not meet the requirements of such section.

(d) PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION.—The Organization shall—

(1) seek and work for an increase in the share of the United States in the global tourism market;

(2) work in conjunction with Federal, State, and local agencies to develop and implement a coordinated United States travel and tourism policy;

(3) advise the President, the Congress, and the domestic travel and tourism industry on the implementation of the national travel and tourism strategy and on other matters affecting travel and tourism;

(4) operate travel and tourism promotion programs outside the United States in partnership with the travel and tourism industry in the United States;

(5) establish a travel and tourism data bank to gather and disseminate travel and tourism market data;

(6) conduct market research necessary for effective promotion of the travel and tourism market; and

(7) promote United States travel and tourism, including international trade shows and conferences.

(e) POWERS OF THE ORGANIZATION.—The Organization—

(1) shall have perpetual succession;

(2) shall represent the United States travel and tourism industry in its relations with international tourism agencies;

(3) may sue and be sued, make contracts, and acquire, hold, and dispose of real and personal property, as may be necessary for its corporate purposes;

(4) may provide financial assistance to any organization or association in furtherance of the purpose of the corporation;

(5) may adopt and alter a corporate seal;

(6) may establish and maintain offices for the conduct of the affairs of the Organization; and

(7) may conduct any and all acts necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(f) FUNDING.—

(1) FURTHERANCE OF ACT.—The Organization may accept gifts, legacies, devises, contributions, and payments in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

(2) EXPENSES.—The Organization may also accept such gifts, legacies, devises, contributions, and payments on behalf of the National Tourism Organization Board to cover the expenses of the Board.

(g) POLITICAL ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED.—The Organization shall not engage in any activities designed in part or in whole to promote a political party or the candidacy of any person seeking or holding political office.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the United States National Tourism Organization Board for the purposes of governing and supervising the activities of the Organization.

(b) MEMBERS.—The Board shall be self-perpetuating and the initial members of the Board shall be appointed or elected as follows:

(1) The Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade of the Department of Commerce, who will serve as a member ex officio;

(2) 5 State Travel Directors elected by the National Council of State Travel Directors;

(3) 5 members elected by the International Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus;

(4) 3 members elected by the Air Transport Association;

(5) 1 member elected by the National Association of Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds, 1 member elected by the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association;

(6) 2 members elected by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions;

(7) 3 members of the travel payments industry appointed by the Travel Industry Association of America;

(8) 5 members elected by the American Hotel and Motel Association;

(9) 2 members elected by the American Car Rental Association; 1 member elected by the American Automobile Association, 1 member elected by the American Bus Association, 1 member elected by Amtrak;

(10) 1 member elected by the American Society of Travel Agents, and 1 member elected by the Association of Retail Travel Agents;

(11) 1 member elected by the National Tour Association, 1 member elected by the United States Tour Operators Association;

(12) 1 member elected by the Cruise Lines International Association, 1 member elected by the National Restaurant Association, 1 member elected by the National Park Hospitality Association, 1 member elected by the Airports Council International, 1 member elected by the Meeting Professionals International, 1 member elected by the American Sightseeing International, 4 members elected by the Travel Industry Association of America;

(13) 1 member elected by the Rural Tourism Foundation;

(14) 1 member elected by the American Association of Museums; and

(15) 1 member elected by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

(c) CHAIR.—The Board shall elect a Chair for an initial term of 2 years. After such initial term, the Chair shall be elected for such term as the Board may designate.

(d) PRESIDENT.—The Board shall appoint and establish the compensation and duties of

a President of the Organization who shall assist the Chair in organizing and carrying out the necessary functions of the Board. The duties of the President shall include serving as a non-voting member of the Tourism Policy Council established under section 301 of the International Travel Act of 1961.

(e) POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD.—

(1) The Board shall adopt for itself and the Organization such bylaws and delegation of authority as it deems necessary and proper, which shall—

(A) require at least a three-fifths majority vote for amendment;

(B) set forth the process for the number, terms, and appointment or election of future Board members;

(C) provide the authority for the hiring and compensation of staff; and

(D) establish the procedures for calling meetings and providing appropriate notice, including procedures for closing meetings where confidential information or strategy will be discussed.

(2) The Board shall designate a place of business for the receipt of process for the Organization, subject to the laws of the State or district so designated, where such laws do not conflict with the provisions of this Act.

(3) The Board shall present testimony and make available reports on its findings and recommendations to the Congress and to legislatures of the States on at least a biannual basis.

(4) Within one year of the date of its first meeting, the Board shall report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Commerce on a plan for long-term financing for the Organization, with a focus on contributions from the private sector and State and local entities, and, if necessary, make recommendations to the Congress and the President for further legislation.

(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—The Chair and members of the Board shall serve without compensation but may be compensated for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the Board.

(g) IMMUNITY.—Members of the Board shall not be personally liable for any action taken by the Board.

(h) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair, but not less frequently than semiannually. The Board shall meet within 2 months of appointment of all members, but in any case no later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. SYMBOLS, EMBLEMS, TRADEMARKS, AND NAMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Organization shall provide for the design of such symbols, emblems, trademarks, and names as may be appropriate and shall take all action necessary to protect and regulate the use of such symbols, emblems, trademarks, and names under law.

(b) EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF THE ORGANIZATION.—The Organization shall have exclusive right to use the name "United States National Tourism Organization" and the acronym "USNTO", the symbol described in subsection (c)(1)(A), the emblem described in subsection (c)(1)(B), and the words "United States National Tourism Organization", or any combination thereof, subject to the use reserved by subsection (c)(2).

(c) UNAUTHORIZED USE; CIVIL ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who, without the consent of the Organization, uses—

(A) the symbol of the Organization;

(B) the emblem of the Organization;

(C) any trademark, trade name, sign, symbol, or insignia falsely representing association with, or authorization by, the Organization; or

(D) the words "United States National Tourism Organization" or the acronym

"USNTO" or any combination or simulation thereof tending to cause confusion, to cause mistake, to deceive, or to falsely suggest a connection with the Organization or any Organization activity;

for the purpose of trade, to induce the sale of any goods or services, or to promote any exhibition, shall be subject to suit in a civil action brought in the appropriate court by the Organization for the remedies provided in the Act of July 5, 1946 (60 Stat. 427; 15 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.) (popularly known as the Trademark Act of 1946).

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)(D) shall not be construed to prohibit any person who, before the date of the enactment of this Act, actually used the words "United States National Tourism Organization" or the acronym "USNTO" for any lawful purpose from continuing such lawful use for the same purpose and for the same goods and services.

(d) CONTRIBUTORS AND SUPPLIERS.—The Organization may authorize contributors and suppliers of goods and services to use the trade name of the Organization as well as any trademark, symbol, insignia, or emblem of the Organization in advertising that the contributions, goods, or services were donated, supplied, or furnished to or for the use of, approved, selected, or used by the Organization.

(e) LIMITATION.—The Organization may not adopt or use any existing symbol, emblem, trademark, or name that is protected under law (including any treaty to which the United States is a party).

SEC. 6. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COOPERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of State, the United States Trade Representative, Director of the United States Information Agency, and the Trade and Development Agency shall—

(1) give priority consideration to recommendations of the Organization; and

(2) cooperate with the Organization in carrying out its duties.

(b) REPORT.—The Under Secretary for International Trade, the Assistant Secretary for Trade Development, the Assistant Secretary and Director General for the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, the Director of the United States Information Agency, the United States Trade Representative, and the Trade and Development Agency shall report within 2 years of the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Commerce on any travel and tourism activities carried out with the participation of the United States Federal Government.

SEC. 7. SUNSET.

(a) TWO YEAR DEADLINE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM FINANCING PLAN.—If within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board has not developed and implemented a comprehensive plan for the long-term financing of the Organization, then sections 3 through 6 of this Act are repealed.

(b) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF OPERATIONS FOR INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—The Board may suspend or terminate the Organization if sufficient private sector and State or local government funds are not identified or made available to continue the Organization's operations.

SEC. 8. TRADE PROMOTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Section 2312 of the Export Enhancement Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4727) is amended in subsection (c) as follows:

(1) By striking "and" at the end of paragraph (4).

(2) By striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting "; and".

(3) By adding after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) reflect the recommendations of the United States National Tourism Organization to the degree considered appropriate by the TPCC."

SEC. 9. REPEAL OF UNITED STATES TRAVEL AND TOURISM ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 301, 303, 304, 305, 306, and 307 of the International Travel Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2123, 2123a–2123d, 2124, 2124b, and 2126–2129) are repealed.

(b) TOURISM POLICY AND EXPORT PROMOTION ACT OF 1992.—Section 4 of the Tourism Policy and Export Promotion Act of 1992 is amended in subsection (c)(1)(B)(i) and subsection (c)(2) by striking "Under Secretary of Commerce for Travel and Tourism" and inserting "Secretary of Commerce".

SEC. 10. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

Section 201 of the International Travel Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2122) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 201. In order to carry out the national tourism policy established in section 101(b) and by the United States National Tourism Organization Act of 1996, the Secretary of Commerce (hereafter in this Act referred to as the 'Secretary') shall develop and implement a comprehensive plan to perform critical tourism functions which, in the determination of the Secretary, are not being carried out by the United States National Tourism Organization or other private sector entities or State governments. Such plan may include programs to—

"(1) collect and publish comprehensive international travel and tourism statistics and other marketing information;

"(2) design, implement, and publish international travel and tourism forecasting models;

"(3) facilitate the reduction or elimination of barriers to international travel and tourism; and

"(4) work with the United States National Tourism Organization, the Tourism Policy Council, State tourism agencies, and Federal agencies in—

"(A) coordinating the Federal implementation of a national travel and tourism policy;

"(B) representing the United States' international travel and tourism interests to foreign governments; and

"(C) maintaining United States participation in international travel and tourism trade shows and fairs until such activities can be transferred to such Organization and other private sector entities."

SEC. 11. TOURISM POLICY COUNCIL.

Section 302 of the International Travel Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2124a) is repealed and the following is inserted:

"SEC. 301. (a) In order to ensure that the United States' national interest in tourism is fully considered in Federal decision making, there is established a coordinating council to be known as the Tourism Policy Council (hereafter in this Act referred to as the 'Council').

"(b) The Council shall consist of the following individuals:

"(1) The Secretary of Commerce, who shall serve as the Chairman of the Council.

"(2) The Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade.

"(3) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"(4) The Secretary of State.

"(5) The Secretary of Interior.

"(6) The Secretary of Labor.

"(7) The Secretary of Transportation.

"(8) The Commissioner of the United States Customs Service.

"(9) The President of the United States National Tourism Organization.

"(10) The Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"(11) Representatives of other Federal agencies which have affected interests at each meeting as deemed appropriate and invited by the Chairman.

"(c) Members of the Council shall serve without additional compensation.

"(d) The Council shall conduct its first meeting not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of the United States National Tourism Organization Act of 1996. Thereafter the Council shall meet not less than 2 times each year.

"(e)(1) The Council shall coordinate national policies and programs relating to international travel and tourism, recreation, and national heritage resources, which involve Federal agencies;

"(2) The Council may request directly from any Federal department or agency such personnel, information, services, or facilities as deemed necessary by the Chairman and to the extent permitted by law and within the limits of available funds.

"(3) Federal departments and agencies may, in their discretion, detail to temporary duty with the Council such personnel as the Chairman may request for carrying out the functions of the Council. Each such detail of personnel shall be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status.

"(f) Where necessary to prevent the public disclosure of non-public information which may be presented by a Council member, the Council may hold, at the discretion of the Chairman, a closed meeting which may exclude any individual who is not an officer or employee of the United States.

"(g) The Council shall submit an annual report for the preceding fiscal year to the President for transmittal to the Congress on or before December 31 of each year. The report shall include—

"(1) a comprehensive and detailed report of the activities and accomplishments of the Council;

"(2) the results of Council efforts to coordinate the policies and programs of member's agencies that have a significant effect on international travel and tourism, recreation, and national heritage resources, including progress towards resolving interagency conflicts and development of cooperative program activity;

"(3) an analysis of problems referred to the Council by State and local governments, the tourism industry, the United States National Tourism Organization, the Secretary of Commerce, along with a detailed summary of any action taken or anticipated to resolve such problems; and

"(4) any recommendation as deemed appropriate by the Council.

"(h) The membership of the President of the United States National Tourism Organization on the Council shall not in itself make the Federal Advisory Committee Act applicable to the Council."

SEC. 12. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Organization" means the United States National Tourism Organization established under section 3; and

(2) the term "Board" means the United States National Tourism Organization Board established under section 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY].

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2579 establishes a new, privately funded, and privately managed tourism organization to represent and promote international travel and tourism to the United States. I would note that in 1993, Ohio benefited from \$443 million in travel and tourism receipts, ranking 18th among the States.

This bill is about less government and better government—by the people and for the people. It repeals the statutory language authorizing the largely ineffective U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration, and privatizes its tourism functions as much as possible into a nationwide private organization—the U.S. National Tourism Organization, or USNTO.

My first concern when I first reviewed this legislation, is why the Federal Government needed to be involved at all in establishing a private tourism organization.

This legislation is important because it allows the Government to play the role of honest broker in establishing a balanced and unbiased organization. Operating in a highly competitive marketplace, there is currently just not enough trust among individual travel and tourism interests to allow any single group to initiate an industry-wide tourism promotion association. Companies are still too dubious about each others' motives to be willing to participate and fund this new startup.

Thus, the Federal Government is acting, at no cost to the taxpayers, just to bypass the normal negotiation, paperwork, and antitrust concerns among industries—creating an incorporated, nonprofit organization, and allowing them full use of a reserved trademark and emblem without processing fees, in order to raise funds and carry out their business. This is the model successfully used when Congress created the U.S. Olympic Committee many years ago.

This legislation is also necessary to provide the USNTO a special role in formulating a coordinated national travel and tourism strategy for our country. One of the reasons the USTTA was disbanded is because the travel and tourism industries believed that their concerns were not being sufficiently addressed by the current and previous administrations—that they were butting up against a brick wall of beltway bureaucracy.

H.R. 2579 directs the various Federal agencies which affect the travel and tourism industry to give priority consideration to the USNTO's recommendations, and to report to Congress on their travel and tourism related activities. While the agencies are not necessarily required to follow all of the USNTO's recommendations, the bill signals the intent of Congress that the USNTO is the federally sanctioned and primary spokesman for the travel and tourism industry, and that current and future administrations must pay attention to their concerns.

Furthermore, the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, a Federal

committee tasked with coordinating trade policy across Federal agencies, is now required to make their reports reflect, to the degree considered appropriate, the recommendations of the USNTO. The Tourism Policy Council, a similar body dedicated solely to the promotion of travel and tourism, is slimmed down by the bill, with fewer regulations, more flexibility, and with the former role of the now disbanded USTTA privatized and transferred to the USNTO.

This bill thus gives the Federal Government an important and valuable role in jump-starting this USNTO private tourism promotion organization, giving it a federally sanctioned role as a priority spokesman for the industries. It involves no Federal expenditures, but does tell the Executive branch to wake up and listen to the newly coordinated private sector.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend and ranking member, the gentleman from Queens, NY, Mr. MANTON, as well as my good friend from Wisconsin, Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on International Relations. I would say that TOBY ROTH's middle initial ought to be "I"; it ought to be TOBY "I" ROTH, and the "I" is for "indefatigable". He has worked so hard and so well on crafting this legislation. Certainly their hard work, the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH], has gone a long way towards bringing this important bill forward.

I urge my colleagues' support for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. MANTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act of 1996. This bill enjoys strong bipartisan support in the House and, if adopted, promises to positively impact the future of travel and tourism in this country.

I would like to commend Chairman OXLEY and Chairman ROTH for their leadership in promoting this legislation, and for working cooperatively with the minority to incorporate changes that we feel have improved the bill. H.R. 2579 takes a reasonable approach to ensure the promotion of U.S. travel and tourism with particular emphasis on incorporating private sector funding and expertise.

Mr. Speaker, the travel and tourism industry contributes significantly to job creation and revenue generation nationwide. As a representative from the great State of New York, I am particularly aware of the important role that travel and tourism play in creating jobs and producing revenues for the private sector and essential tax dollars for all levels of government. The significance of the travel and tourism in-

dustry to our local, State, and national economies compels us to do what we can to maintain and enhance its capacity both at home and in the international marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 2579 because it draws upon identified strengths in the promotion of U.S. travel and tourism. Both the government and the private sector have a stake in seeing to the success of this approach. The House may well revisit this issue to assess the progress and re-evaluate the resources necessary for such a task, but for today, we are moving forward with a plan that holds much promise. H.R. 2579 is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to support the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the aforementioned gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH].

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY], very much for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great day for America's travel and tourist industry, the second largest industry in America and the most dynamic industry in America. It is also a great day for the 307 members of the Travel and Tourist Caucus, the largest caucus in Congress, and as chairman of the caucus and as a lead sponsor of the bill, I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their help in making this day possible.

First I want to thank, of course, the chairman of the full Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY]; I only had to ask him once in the gym to bring this bill up; and I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY], my neighbor, for all of his help and his leadership in refining this bill and bringing this bill to the floor today. MIKE, I want to say, Thanks for your help; this is very important to the people who work in the travel and tourist industry, and 1 out of every 10 people in America works in the travel and tourist industry. And I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON], the ranking member, for all the help and all the advice he has given me with this legislation.

So I want to thank them for their help, and let me thank the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the Gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], for expediting the consideration of this measure. And also, of course, I want to thank the ranking member of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], for his cooperation in bringing up this bill.

Finally, let me thank the 262 Members of the House who cosponsored this bill, a solid and bipartisan majority of the House. Today we are successfully completing an initiative that began a

year ago when the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism took place. We had more than 1,700 CEO's and other people in the travel and tourism industry come to Washington and help craft this legislation.

We do have a problem in travel and tourism, and that is how are we going to reverse the decline in America's share of the \$300 billion global market, the market that will double in size in the next decade. To show my colleagues how important travel and tourism is, when the futurists come here to Capitol Hill, for example, before my committee, they said there are three pillars in the 21st century that jobs will come from: telecommunications, information technology, and travel and tourism. So today we are working on one of the three great pillars for jobs in the 21st century.

This bill was the No. 1 recommendation of the White House conference on Travel and Tourism.

The core of the bill, as the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] pointed out, is to harness the marketing expertise and the resources of the private sector and devise new and more effective ways to promote the United States as a travel destination for the international traveler. Why is this so important?

Well, the reason this is so important is not only because 1 out of every 10 jobs in America is in the travel and tourist industry, and worldwide travel and tourism is the largest industry in the world, but we are losing ground, America, in a growing market. Two years ago we had 18 percent of the world's travel market; now we are down to 16 percent, 2 million fewer visitors this year than we had 2 years ago. Two million, that is a huge decline. We lost some \$3 billion in revenue, and 177,000 jobs could have gone to the Americans but instead today are going to other countries.

What is worse, under current projections our market share will keep declining to less than 14 percent by the year 2000. That is only 4 years from now. We clearly need a new initiative to turn the situation around.

In the travel business, marketing is key. In the travel business, promotion today translates into increased visitor volume. Our major competitors understand this, which is why they are pouring money into tourist promotion. Today the U.S. is outclassed and outgunned in the global market. In fact, we rank 33d in the world in resources devoted to national tourism marketing. Other countries are outspending us 10 to 1.

Now this bill will help redress the imbalance. But as has been pointed out, instead of more government, we provide a new entity for the private sector to take more of an initiative and more emphasis in this role. The U.S. National Travel and Tourism Organization and the National Tourism Board will devise a national strategy to recapture the global market. Congress, the President and the key Federal

trade-related agencies will receive recommendations from the best experts in the national tourism industry. As a result, we will strengthen the future of the Nation's travel and tourism industry and the 13 million Americans who work in this great industry.

The future growth of American travel and tourism is vitally dependent on international visitors. Already one-fifth or \$80 billion of our \$400 billion national industry comes from overseas visitors. The money spent here by international visitors contributes to 11 percent of our total export volume.

This bill will help our industry grow. It will create new jobs and it will strengthen our trade balance. That is why some of us in Congress are dedicated to helping our travel and tourist industry. It is why we have worked closely with the leaders of this industry to build support for this bill.

Today everyone involved in this effort can be proud of what we have accomplished. In this bill Congress takes a big step toward a brighter future for the millions of Americans who have made the travel and tourist industry the most dynamic in America and, quite frankly, around the world.

Let me close by saying again that in the 21st century the three great areas of jobs, according to the futurists, are telecommunication, information technology, travel and tourism.

So I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BLILEY] and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL]. Mr. DINGELL has given me some good advice in my 18 years in Congress, and I want to thank him for his advice on this piece of legislation because he made it possible. Of course I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] for their advice and their good work. The people whoring in the 21st century are going to thank them for this legislation, as are the people that are working the travel and tourist industry here in America today and around the world.

□ 1315

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGLELL], the ranking member of the committee.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH], my friend, the author of this bill. We are going to miss him. He is a fine Member of this body.

I wish, however, that he were leaving behind him a greater legacy than this piece of legislation which happens to be a bill in search of a reason to exist. The interesting question that we must ask is what does this bill to. It really does not do much. I think that can probably comfort us. But in point of fact, it sets up a nonprofit corporation.

It gives it no money. It assigns it no responsibilities. We are curious; what is this nonprofit corporation that is being set up by my dear friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin, for whom I have so much respect and affection?

The bill is clearly, then, unnecessary. It promises more than it delivers. Very frankly, were it anybody other than the distinguished and gentleman from Wisconsin, the author, it would probably be charged with being a cynical approach to addressing legitimate issues concerning the U.S. travel and tourism industry.

No one disputes the importance of travel and tourism. The industry generates billions of dollars and employs thousands of Americans. It is an important part of the economy of every State, including my own State of Michigan. Indeed, the travel director of our State, working on behalf of our good Republican Governor, Mr. Engler, asked me to support full funding for the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration early in this Congress.

I wish very much that he had communicated that thought to my Republican colleagues, because it was not very long before they abolished the bill or, rather, they abolished the legislation.

I have been a strong critic of USTTA in the past. If felt that the agency never proved it brought more into the United States than it cost American taxpayers to fund it. In 1985, I tried to abolish the agency. The effort was rejected by a bipartisan majority of the Committee on Commerce. The vote was 20 to 22.

Seven years later, in a serious effort to address the problem, the Congress passed bipartisan legislation to reform and to reinvent USTTA. Under Secretary Brown's leadership the agency made improvements and it significantly increased its effectiveness. Last fall, the President convened a successful conference on tourism. Ironically, shortly thereafter, the Republican Congress passed legislation eliminating USTTA's appropriation. After that, this bill was introduced.

Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned, the bill is in search of reason to exist. Why do we need Federal legislation to create a private organization? Either there is a compelling interest in justifying government involvement in the promotion of U.S. tourism interests, or there is not. If there is such an interest, then the decision to eliminate the U.S. Travel and Tourism Office funding should be reconsidered. If there is no such compelling interest, then we should leave it to the industry to take up and to care for its own interests.

My Republican colleagues are very fond of preaching that we should get the Federal Government out of the way and turn the matters over to the States, but their bill creates a Federal mandate to establish a nonprofit corporation. Laws already exist in the District of Columbia and in every one of the States governing establishment of nonprofit corporations.

Supporters of the bill refer to this as a groundbreaking piece of legislation that is needed more than ever in view of the demise of USTTA. But anyone who takes a close look at the bill knows that it is really only feel-good, do-nothing legislation. It does nothing that the private sector cannot fully and as well do on its own.

However, I am certain that the private sector will be back soon, and the private sector will then say, now it is time for the Congress to shower money and special benefits on this new congressionally mandated corporation.

I do not know how anyone in this body can in good conscience support this bill. It is an apology to the travel and tourism industry, and I guess it is what politicians could refer to as cover. It is designed to make it look like the Congress is doing something good while trying to hide what the Republicans have already done.

I am going to watch with great curiosity and with great interest in the coming months to see how this wonderful newly formed U.S. National Tourism Organization measures up to the splendid promises that are made in support of this legislation.

In truth, when we look at this bill next year and when we go through the budget process, we are going to find it has not done anything. In truth, we are going to find that very shortly people are going to be down here in this well or over there at the hopper, introducing legislation or talking for a bill, saying now it is time we have to spend money on this organization which we set up.

I am not sure who is going to be in this organization. I am not sure what it is going to do. But no one has established that there is any reason to put any money in it. As a matter of fact, I suspect that even the sponsors of this legislation were too embarrassed to suggest that it should be funded.

So we are passing a bill with neither funding nor responsibilities. It is going to do nothing, it probably is going to cost the taxpayers a lot of money, but we can comfortably say it is not going to pass them now. The really sensible thing to do with this legislation is simply reject it, vote it down, and be done with it. I would urge that even more strongly, were it not for the great respect and affection that I have for the wonderful gentleman from Wisconsin who is the author of the legislation.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I would say, with friends like the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], who needs enemies? But I know Don Quixote from Detroit will put himself down as undecided, and move on. We appreciate his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, let me just point out, before recognizing the minority side, that this legislation was carefully crafted to be a bill that tracked the creation of the U.S. Olympic Committee. I do not think anybody can really make an argument that creation of the

U.S. Olympic Committee was not a huge success, both commercially and as a way of getting our best athletes on the field. So we were very careful, and I credit the gentleman from Wisconsin for doing exactly that, understanding how effective that legislation creating the U.S. Olympic Committee was. I know my friend, the gentleman from Detroit, has some problems with it, but I have to say that 270, now, cosponsors of the bill think otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that we all value our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. DINGELL's advice; however, those who support this bill will hope to prove that he is in error in his judgment that this bill was not such a good one. We appreciate his advice, but I think we will all work hard to make this a good success.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR].

Mr. FARR. of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in support of this bill as an original cosponsor. I think Members have heard in the debate between the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], and others that there is a lot of controversy regarding how we ought to form a national policy regarding tourism.

It is a difficult issue. In an era when people think, well, tourism is a very lucrative industry and they ask themselves why does the industry need Government help. On the other hand, if we look at where tourists go, to the buildings, to the parks, to the communities, we will see that almost every community in America and certainly every State has a State-sponsored tourism office supported by taxpayers' money. Why is that? Why do we need to put taxpayer money into State tourism offices? Because it is the selling of a market. The market is the United States. There are other places in the world to visit.

In fact, there are a lot of Americans who go to the other places, and many of those Americans could go and spend time in their own State and in their own country. So, we need to give them, the tourists, American and foreign, the option of understanding what is available. We only do that through tourist promotions acts which are generic and essentially do not advertise a particular place to go. The successful places, Disneyland and so on, are able to do this on their own.

I have long been a supporter of a partnership between the private sector and public sector for the promotion of tourism. This act does not put public sector money in, but this act does create a public sector awareness and a public sector partnership along with the private sector in developing two things.

What it does is create a National Tourism Board, made up of people appointed by the President of the United States, and that board does four things. It utilizes the private sector and the public sector to create policy, a national policy, a generic policy, about travel and tourism. It also suggests to the President and Congress how we can increase market share.

Why do we need to do that? Because when the tourists come here they spend tax dollars. They spend sales tax dollars. They spend room tax or TOT tax dollars. They spend transportation dollars on gasoline and airline tickets. Those expenditures benefit the local governments, the State governments, and the Federal Government to help promote things like tourism.

The board will also advise the President and Congress, and it will guide the National Tourism Organization which is also created in this bill. So I take issue with the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], in the fact that it does nothing. I think it does something.

What he points out is that it does not deliver any Federal money. This is a conservative Congress. We are cutting and squeezing the Federal Government. This was a decision that was made, that we are not at this point in time going to give Federal tax dollars to the National Tourism Organization.

I expect, as the gentleman said, that there will be an opportunity in the future for us to come back here with a plan that will be well thought out, well supported at the local level, well supported by the private sector, indeed asking Congress to appropriate funding.

We need to do this, frankly, because as Congressman MANTON said, this is the largest growing industry in America. It is an industry, if we think about it, that has a lot of vertical access. There is no glass ceiling for women in this industry. There are no limitations on minorities. There are no limitations on people with handicaps. There are no limitations because of educational degrees. It is an industry you can get into and move up as fast as your own ability allows you to do that. It is a fast-growing industry, one of the fastest in the world.

America is a beautiful place. Part of our democracy is coming to places like this. Although this is the seat of the Federal Government, this is also a tourist attraction. As the people are wandering around the Halls of this great building today, they are being tourists more than they are being civic-minded people.

Let us realize that part of the selling of what this country is all about is in its tourism. That is why it is so important for us to be in partnership with those in the private sector who are taking and risking venture capital to make a living by promoting tourism. I am strongly in support of whatever we can do to try to create a Federal partnership, along with the States, along

with local communities, so indeed, together, we can promote this great country, our great States, and our communities. So I urge my colleagues to join in support of this important measure.

I just want to point out that I represent, as one of 435 Members here, a district like everyone else. I would hope that Members would take a careful look at their own districts. I happen to be looking at mine.

I live in an area many know about, the Central Coast of California: the beautiful Monterey Peninsula, the Big Sur coastline, the Santa Cruz boardwalk, the Santa Cruz redwoods and mountains—an area that tells us that we have to manage our resources well. And frankly, the expression out there is, "Green is green." The more environmental protection you have, the more money you will make.

It is an area that produces \$1.5 billion in agriculture without Federal subsidies. It is a region that draws \$1.5 billion in tourism. So those two leading industries are both dependent upon good environmental stewardship.

So the promotion of tourism is more than just selling hotel rooms and selling travel opportunities. It is also a way that we incorporate the quality of life issues, the local zoning matters, the local business practices, the way we promote our communities.

We need to be in a partnership with the local, State, and Federal Government, because Government sets those laws and sets those patterns. I believe we cannot have an attractive community, we cannot improve our quality of life, we cannot develop the cultural aspects of our country without such a partnership.

That is why I think we ought to have a partnership with the arts for the NEA, why we ought to have a partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Indeed, if tourism is going to come back here and ask for money, we ought to be as supportive of that as we have historically been for the National Endowment of the Arts and National Endowment for Humanities.

I would hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle when they get in this cut, squeeze, and trim mode will realize that this is all part and parcel of what is basic about America.

□ 1330

It is about our people, it is about the things that our people have built, and it is about the land we have preserved. And in combination, we can indeed build an America in the future that is accessible and attractive and will provide a living for people for many generations to come. This bill is a good start in that direction. It is not the answer, but it is a good start. I ask my colleagues to support it.

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

I would only correct the previous speaker, my good friend from California, in one respect. He said he represented a district like everybody

else's. The Monterrey Peninsula is a lot different from some of the other districts, and a wonderful place that the gentleman should be quite proud of and one that I am sure attracts tourists from all over the world, a great place in the world to be from, and his remarks were right on point.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OXLEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I really believe that in every community we have certainly wonderful natural beauty. I did not even mention the 27 golf courses. But I think every community in America has something historically beautiful about it, and certainly people went there originally, they ventured their risk capital, saying, "We're going to settle here." I think we have to reach into that because if we find that same spirit, every town in America can be a tourist attraction.

Mr. OXLEY. I thank the gentleman for his contribution.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act. Travel and tourism is vitally important to the U.S. economy. The travel and tourism industry employs nearly 13 million Americans, and contributes approximately \$400 billion to the U.S. economy. Also, travel and tourism will be the single largest job-creator for Americans in the 21st century.

With all the promising statistics about the benefits of the travel and tourism industry, the United States is faced with a potentially devastating problem. The U.S. share of the fast-growing international travel and tourism market is decreasing. In 1995, the United States had 2 million fewer international visitors than in 1993. This decline in international visitors cost 177,000 Americans travel-related jobs.

Many questions have arisen concerning the sudden decline in international visitors to the United States. What prompted this decline? How should we address this decline to benefit the U.S. travel and tourism industry? Mr. Speaker, the answers lie in H.R. 2579. This legislation is a bold new approach to marketing the United States as a travel destination. Rather than relying on the Federal Government, H.R. 2579 creates a partnership between the tourism industry and the public sector to devise and carry out a more efficient and effective marketing plan.

This is a job-creating bill. International travel to the United States adds \$70 billion a year to our economy. Recapturing our lost market share and putting us back on a growth track will generate jobs through every district in America.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Congressman TOBY ROTH, the chairman of the Travel and Tourism Congressional Member Caucus. TOBY has been in the forefront in this effort, laboring tirelessly to advance this legislation and initiatives that will benefit the travel and tourism industry in all States. My State of Nevada, well known as a popular tourist destination, has benefited greatly over the years from his efforts, and I know that his leadership regarding the travel and tourism industry will be sorely missed

when he retires. It has been an honor and a privilege serving with him as the Secretary of the Travel and Tourism Congressional Caucus.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, today we are debating a bill that affects one of the three largest industries in Arkansas. The travel and tourism industry has a tremendous impact on my home State's economy and on our Nation's economy. It is America's largest services export, second largest employer, and third largest retail sales industry. However, the national focus on this industry has been minimal and changes are necessary in order to utilize the benefits this industry brings to America. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act of 1995. I believe that this public/private partnership will provide the tourism industry with the proper organizational structure to increase our competitiveness in the global market.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to share some facts that help illustrate the impact of tourism on Arkansas. Nearly 18,000 people visited Arkansas in 1994 which created over 46,000 travel related jobs. State travel expenditures neared the \$3 million mark in 1994 which is a \$1 million increase since 1986. The Natural State is a fitting nickname for a State with 600,000 acres of lakes, 9,700 miles of streams, and nearly 10,000 campsites. Fishing, hunting, camping, biking, and hiking are very popular in Arkansas' 47 State parks. Whether you are enjoying the natural springs of Hot Springs National Park or digging for diamonds at the only diamond mine in the United States, it is not hard to realize the impact tourism has on Arkansas.

The First Congressional District has also felt the positive impact of the tourism industry. The natural resources and outdoor activities of the area have attracted an increasing number of travelers visiting the first district. The district is home to such attractions as Greers Ferry Lake, Blanchard Springs Caverns, the Buffalo National River, the White River, and numerous hunting areas and wildlife refuges. The recent government shutdowns reminded us all of the impact these recreational facilities have on revenues generated in this State. Because of the shutdown, our hunting lands and refuges were not available to potential visitors, thus meaning lost revenues for the first district.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is falling behind the rest of the world in the travel and tourism industry. Changes must be made or we will continue to encounter lost opportunities, but more importantly, lost jobs and lost revenue. That is why I believe it is vital that we pass this bill. The National Tourism Board and National Tourism Organization would give us a structured organization to develop a clear and concise vision for the future.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of the tourism industry is becoming more evident. This bill, which reflects the findings of last October's White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, provides for an appropriate commitment to this Nation's tourism industry. This issue is extremely important to me because of its economic impact on the people of Arkansas and the first district, and I urge my colleagues to support this needed piece of legislation.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2579, the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act, and commend the work of the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] who in the final days of his congressional career is

bringing this bipartisan legislation to our attention.

Travel and tourism are vital components to our growing service and leisure oriented economy and I think it is appropriate that Congress, like many other countries, recognize the benefits and implications of travel and tourism from a national and international perspective. H.R. 2579 tries to reverse the decline in the number of tourists visiting the United States by establishing a federally chartered private tourism organization.

Travel and tourism efforts are not just for warmer, tropical climate far south of here. I think we would be missing the boat—or plane, train, and automobile—if we stopped right there. Many of our own districts have places that people flock to for relaxation and enjoyment of their precious free-time. In my own district, which encompasses significant portions of Lake Erie, we have several areas that rely on travel and tourism to bolster their economies. In particular, I would point to both Put-In-Bay and Cedar Point, OH, whose popular restaurants, amusement parks, and taverns serve as an oasis to the rigors of the workweek. These places are the under-recognized stories of this industry.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reminds the world, and ourselves, about the numerous sojourns our country offers. H.R. 2579 offers opportunities, tempered with the current budget realities and ongoing government downsizing, that many would argue are necessary to move the United States up from 33d in tourism promotion and increase the number of travel-related jobs now held in our country. While this bill is not a panacea, it is a good first step for an industry that employs nearly 14 million Americans, contributes \$400 billion dollars to the economy, and generates a \$19 billion trade surplus.

I urge all my colleagues to support passage of this bill. It should not be forgotten that many small businesses are the beneficiaries of a vibrant travel economy. Travel and tourism are as much about creating and maintaining jobs as they are about rest and relaxation.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. EWING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2579, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 2579.

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