

for fiscal year 1997. I want to commend subcommittee chairman SKEEN and ranking member Mr. DURBIN for their leadership and fine work in crafting this difficult bill. I also would like to thank the subcommittee staff for their diligence and for the long hours they spent putting together this bill.

This bill provides \$53.3 billion for Agricultural appropriations. This represents a reduction of \$10.3 billion from last year's level. Discretionary spending in our bill has been reduced by \$350 million, forcing our subcommittee to make some difficult choices. We have had to consolidate and reduce spending on a number of rural development and rural housing programs and spending in this bill is still woefully inadequate to meet the needs of those rural communities seeking water and sewer loans.

Fortunately, there are many positive areas in this bill that deserve special recognition. For one, we were finally successful in reforming the section 515 low-income housing program. This multifamily rural rental housing program assists elderly, disabled and low-income working families in securing affordable housing. In this bill we have extended the section 515 program for another year and have permitted funding to be used for construction of new affordable housing units. This program has been in need of reform for years and I am hopeful that these overdue changes will enable us to operate this program more efficiently so that we will be able to provide increased funding to the program in future years.

In this bill we have also significantly increased spending on nutrition and feeding programs. We have provided \$8.7 billion for child nutrition programs such as the school lunch and school breakfast programs and \$27.6 billion for food stamps. The important WIC program is funded at last year's level of \$3.73 billion. With the large carryover balances in the WIC account, we are within reach of full funding for WIC, a goal that I believe is shared by all Members of Congress.

We have also provided the administration's full request of \$574 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service. Ensuring the safety of our Nation's food supply is one of the highest priorities in this bill. We are committed to providing the Food Safety and Inspection Service with the needed funding required to maintain the current inspection system while providing the needed investments required to implement the new hazard analysis and critical control point [HACCP] meat and poultry inspection system.

This bill also provides critical resources to the Natural Resources Conservation Service that will enable them to provide planning and technical assistance for watershed projects and to help farmers implement conservation compliance plans on highly erodible lands. We need to do a better job in controlling soil erosion and protecting environmentally sensitive crop lands. We do that in our bill by providing strong funding levels for conservation operations, the conservation reserve program, the wetlands reserve program and the newly created environmental quality incentives program [EQUIP].

One of my major regrets in this bill is the failure to include the Northern Forest Stewardship Act in the agriculture appropriations conference report. The Northern Forest Stewardship Act is bipartisan legislation that positively balances the environmental and economic fu-

ture of resource-dependent communities in northern New England and New York. This bill represents a carefully, crafted compromise based on the recommendations of the northern forest land council. Foresters, conservationists, and recreationists have worked together to develop a plan of action that protects the scenic and wildlife resources of the region while preserving the economic timber base of the region and without infringing on the rights of landowners. We must protect and enhance the forest health, forest economies and community development of these northern forests for current and future generations. I strongly support this consensus approach to preserving our treasured natural resources.

The decision by the Agriculture Appropriation Subcommittee conferees to not include riders, or potentially controversial authorization language on our bill, led our subcommittee to reluctantly drop the Northern Forest Stewardship Act from the conference report. Nevertheless, I plan on continuing to work closely with my northeastern colleagues to find a way that expedites passage of the Northern Forest Stewardship Act in this Congress.

In spite of my reservations on a few specific provisions in the bill I believe that the bill overall is a good one. We have done the best we can with the resources available to us and I urge Members to support this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation for the remarks that were made by the ranking member and say that he set a good example for me and we followed through on exactly that kind of demeanor. I, too, want to say to him that he has been a delight to work with and is certainly a great gentleman in this body and we will see what happens after the election.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on the conference report will be postponed until after the vote on the legislative branch appropriations conference report.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3754, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of agreeing to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3754.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to the provisions of clause 7 of rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for the next electronic vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 397, nays 22, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 386]

YEAS—397

Abercrombie	Diaz-Balart	Inglis
Ackerman	Dickey	Jackson (IL)
Allard	Dicks	Jackson-Lee
Andrews	Dingell	(TX)
Archer	Dixon	Jefferson
Armey	Doggett	Johnson (CT)
Bachus	Dooley	Johnson (SD)
Baesler	Doolittle	Johnson, E. B.
Baker (CA)	Dornan	Johnson, Sam
Baker (LA)	Doyle	Jones
Baldacci	Dreier	Kanjorski
Ballenger	Duncan	Kaptur
Barcia	Dunn	Kasich
Barr	Durbin	Kelly
Barrett (NE)	Edwards	Kennedy (MA)
Barrett (WI)	Ehlers	Kennedy (RI)
Bartlett	Ehrlich	Kennelly
Barton	English	Kildee
Bass	Ensign	Kim
Bateman	Evans	King
Becerra	Everett	Kingston
Beilenson	Ewing	Klecza
Bentsen	Farr	Klink
Bereuter	Fattah	Klug
Berman	Fawell	Knollenberg
Bevill	Fazio	Kolbe
Bilbray	Fields (LA)	LaFalce
Bilirakis	Fields (TX)	LaHood
Bishop	Flake	Lantos
Bliley	Flanagan	Largent
Blumenauer	Foglietta	Latham
Blute	Foley	LaTourrette
Boehler	Forbes	Laughlin
Boehner	Fowler	Lazio
Bonilla	Fox	Leach
Bonior	Frank (MA)	Levin
Bono	Franks (CT)	Lewis (CA)
Borski	Franks (NJ)	Lewis (GA)
Boucher	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Brewster	Frisa	Lightfoot
Browder	Frost	Lincoln
Brown (CA)	Funderburk	Linder
Brown (FL)	Furse	Lipinski
Brown (OH)	Gallegly	Livingston
Bryant (TN)	Gejdenson	Loftgren
Bryant (TX)	Gekas	Longley
Bunn	Gephardt	Lowe
Bunning	Geren	Lucas
Burr	Gibbons	Luther
Burton	Gilchrest	Maloney
Buyer	Gillmor	Manton
Callahan	Gilman	Manzullo
Calvert	Gonzalez	Markey
Camp	Goodlatte	Martinez
Campbell	Gooding	Martini
Canady	Gordon	Mascara
Cardin	Goss	Matsui
Castle	Graham	McCarthy
Chabot	Greene (UT)	McCollum
Chambliss	Greenwood	McCrary
Christensen	Gunderson	McDermott
Chrysler	Gutierrez	McHale
Clay	Gutknecht	McHugh
Clayton	Hall (OH)	McInnis
Clement	Hall (TX)	McIntosh
Clinger	Hamilton	McKeon
Clyburn	Hancock	McKinney
Coburn	Hansen	McNulty
Collins (GA)	Harman	Meehan
Collins (IL)	Hastert	Meek
Collins (MI)	Hastings (FL)	Menendez
Combust	Hastings (WA)	Metcalf
Condit	Hayes	Meyers
Costello	Hayworth	Mica
Cox	Hefley	Millender-
Coyne	Hefner	McDonald
Cramer	Heineman	Miller (FL)
Crane	Herger	Minge
Crapo	Hilleary	Mink
Cremeans	Hilliard	Moakley
Cubin	Hinchey	Molinari
Cummings	Hobson	Mollohan
Cunningham	Hoekstra	Montgomery
Danner	Hoke	Moorhead
Davis	Holden	Moran
de la Garza	Horn	Morella
Deal	Hostettler	Myers
DeFazio	Houghton	Myrick
DeLauro	Hoyer	Neal
DeLay	Hunter	Nethercutt
Dellums	Hutchinson	Neumann
Deutsch	Hyde	Ney

Norwood	Roth	Tauzin
Nussle	Roukema	Taylor (MS)
Oberstar	Roybal-Allard	Taylor (NC)
Obey	Royce	Tejeda
Olver	Rush	Thomas
Ortiz	Sabo	Thompson
Orton	Salmon	Thornberry
Owens	Sanders	Thornton
Oxley	Sawyer	Thurman
Packard	Saxton	Tiahrt
Pallone	Schaefer	Torkildsen
Parker	Schiff	Torres
Pastor	Schumer	Torricelli
Paxon	Scott	Trafficant
Payne (NJ)	Seastrand	Upton
Payne (VA)	Serrano	Velazquez
Pelosi	Shadeegg	Vento
Peterson (MN)	Shaw	Visclosky
Petri	Shays	Volkmer
Pickett	Shuster	Vucanovich
Pombo	Sisisky	Walker
Pomeroy	Skaggs	Walsh
Porter	Skeen	Wamp
Portman	Skelton	Ward
Poshard	Slaughter	Watt (NC)
Pryce	Smith (MI)	Watts (OK)
Quillen	Smith (NJ)	Waxman
Quinn	Smith (TX)	Weldon (FL)
Radanovich	Smith (WA)	Weldon (PA)
Rahall	Solomon	Weller
Ramstad	Souder	White
Rangel	Spence	Whitfield
Reed	Spratt	Wicker
Regula	Stark	Williams
Richardson	Stenholm	Wise
Rivers	Stokes	Wolf
Roberts	Studds	Woolsey
Rogers	Stupak	Wynn
Rohrabacher	Talent	Yates
Ros-Lehtinen	Tanner	Zeliff
Rose	Tate	Zimmer

NAYS—22

Chenoweth	Green (TX)	Scarborough
Coble	Jacobs	Schroeder
Coleman	Johnston	Sensenbrenner
Conyers	LoBiondo	Stearns
Cooley	Miller (CA)	Stockman
Eshoo	Nadler	Stump
Filner	Roemer	
Ganske	Sanford	

NOT VOTING—14

Brownback	McDade	Waters
Chapman	Murtha	Wilson
Engel	Peterson (FL)	Young (AK)
Ford	Riggs	Young (FL)
Istook	Towns	

□ 1102

Mrs. SCHROEDER, Ms. ESCHOO, and Messrs. SCARBOROUGH, GANSKE, and NADLER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. FURSE changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 387, I was unable to be present due to personal business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3603, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The pending business is the question of agreeing to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 3603.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 7, rule XV, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 42, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 387]

YEAS—379

Abercrombie	Cunningham	Herger
Ackerman	Danner	Hilleary
Allard	Davis	Hilliard
Archer	de la Garza	Hinchey
Armey	Deal	Hobson
Bachus	DeFazio	Hoekstra
Baesler	DeLauro	Holden
Baker (CA)	DeLay	Horn
Baker (LA)	Deutsch	Hostettler
Baldacci	Diaz-Balart	Houghton
Ballenger	Dickey	Hoyer
Barcia	Dicks	Hunter
Barr	Dingell	Hutchinson
Barrett (NE)	Dixon	Hyde
Barrett (WI)	Dooley	Inglis
Bartlett	Doolittle	Istook
Barton	Dornan	Jackson (IL)
Bateman	Doyle	Jackson-Lee
Becerra	Dreier	(TX)
Beilenson	Duncan	Jefferson
Bentsen	Dunn	Johnson (CT)
Bereuter	Durbin	Johnson (SD)
Berman	Edwards	Johnson, E.B.
Bevill	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Bilbray	Ehrlich	Jones
Bilirakis	English	Kanjorski
Bishop	Ensign	Kaptur
Billey	Evans	Kasich
Blumenauer	Everett	Kelly
Blute	Ewing	Kennedy (MA)
Boehkert	Farr	Kennedy (RI)
Boehner	Fawell	Kennelly
Bonilla	Fazio	Kildee
Bonior	Fields (LA)	Kim
Bono	Fields (TX)	King
Borski	Filner	Kingston
Boucher	Flake	Kleczka
Brewster	Flanagan	Klink
Browder	Foley	Klug
Brown (CA)	Forbes	Knollenberg
Brown (FL)	Fowler	Kolbe
Brown (OH)	Fox	LaFalce
Bryant (TN)	Franks (CT)	LaHood
Bryant (TX)	Frisa	Lantos
Bunn	Frost	Largent
Bunning	Funderburk	Latham
Burr	Furse	LaTourette
Burton	Gallagher	Laughlin
Buyer	Ganske	Lazio
Callahan	Gejdenson	Leach
Calvert	Gekas	Levin
Camp	Gephardt	Lewis (CA)
Campbell	Geren	Lewis (GA)
Canady	Gibbons	Lewis (KY)
Cardin	Gilchrest	Lightfoot
Castle	Gillmor	Lincoln
Chambliss	Gilman	Linder
Chenoweth	Gonzalez	Lipinski
Christensen	Goodlatte	Livingston
Chrysler	Goodling	Longley
Clay	Gordon	Lowey
Clayton	Goss	Lucas
Clement	Graham	Luther
Clinger	Green (TX)	Maloney
Clyburn	Greene (UT)	Manton
Coble	Greenwood	Manzullo
Coburn	Gunderson	Markey
Coleman	Gutierrez	Martinez
Collins (GA)	Gutknecht	Martini
Collins (IL)	Hall (OH)	Mascara
Collins (MI)	Hall (TX)	Matsui
Combest	Hamilton	McCarthy
Condit	Hancock	McCollum
Cooley	Hansen	McCrery
Costello	Harman	McDermott
Cox	Hastert	McHale
Coyne	Hastings (FL)	McHugh
Cramer	Hastings (WA)	McInnis
Crane	Hayes	McIntosh
Crapo	Hayworth	McKeon
Creameans	Hefley	McKinney
Cubin	Hefner	McNulty
Cummings	Heineman	Meek

Metcalf	Quillen	Stokes
Meyers	Quinn	Studds
Mica	Radanovich	Stump
Millender-	Rahall	Stupak
McDonald	Ramstad	Talent
Minge	Rangel	Tanner
Mink	Reed	Tate
Moakley	Regula	Tauzin
Molinari	Richardson	Taylor (MS)
Mollohan	Rivers	Taylor (NC)
Montgomery	Roberts	Tejeda
Moorhead	Roemer	Thomas
Moran	Rogers	Thompson
Morella	Ros-Lehtinen	Thornberry
Myers	Rose	Thornton
Myrick	Roth	Thurman
Neal	Sabo	Tiahrt
Nethercutt	Sanders	Torres
Neumann	Sawyer	Torricelli
Ney	Saxton	Trafficant
Norwood	Schaefer	Upton
Nussle	Schiff	Velazquez
Oberstar	Schroeder	Vento
Obey	Scott	Visclosky
Olver	Seastrand	Vucanovich
Ortiz	Serrano	Walker
Orton	Shadeegg	Walsh
Oxley	Shaw	Wamp
Packard	Shays	Ward
Pallone	Shuster	Watt (NC)
Parker	Sisisky	Watts (OK)
Pastor	Skaggs	Waxman
Paxon	Skeen	Weldon (FL)
Payne (VA)	Skelton	Weldon (PA)
Pelosi	Slaughter	Weller
Peterson (MN)	Smith (MI)	White
Petri	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Pickett	Smith (TX)	Wicker
Pombo	Smith (WA)	Wise
Pomeroy	Solomon	Wolf
Porter	Souder	Woolsey
Portman	Spence	Wynn
Poshard	Spratt	Young (AK)
Pryce	Stenholm	Zeliff

NAYS—42

Andrews	Johnston	Rush
Bass	LoBiondo	Salmon
Chabot	Lofgren	Sanford
Conyers	Meehan	Scarborough
Dellums	Menendez	Schumer
Doggett	Miller (CA)	Sensenbrenner
Eshoo	Miller (FL)	Stark
Fattah	Nadler	Stearns
Foglietta	Owens	Stockman
Frank (MA)	Payne (NJ)	Torkildsen
Franks (NJ)	Rohrabacher	Volkmer
Frelinghuysen	Roukema	Williams
Hoke	Roybal-Allard	Yates
Jacobs	Royce	Zimmer

NOT VOTING—12

Brownback	McDade	Towns
Chapman	Murtha	Waters
Engel	Peterson (FL)	Wilson
Ford	Riggs	Young (FL)

□ 1112

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

House Resolution 496 was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 386, I was unable to be present due to personal business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 123, ENGLISH LANGUAGE EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 499 and ask for its immediate consideration.