

the underlying international land use agreements potentially have several significant adverse effects on the American system of government. The policymaking authority is farther centralized at the Federal/executive branch level, and the role that the ordinary citizen has in the making of this policy through their elected representatives is diminished. The executive branch may also invoke these agreements in an attempt to administratively achieve an action within the jurisdiction of Congress, but without consulting Congress.

The legislation introduced today will compel the Congress to consider the implications of an international land designation and protect the rights vested in non-Federal property before a designation is made.

KNOXVILLE RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and to the readers of the RECORD a resolution passed by the Knoxville City Council. This resolution, R-384-96, endorses a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. R-384-96 was sponsored by City Councilman Gary Underwood and forwarded to my attention by the mayor of Knoxville, Victor Ashe.

This resolution is yet another example of the widespread support for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The reasons and clearly thought out practical examples expressed in R-384-96 are held by hundreds of thousands of Americans across our Nation.

For many years our national Government was dominated by those with a very liberal mindset, and there was little serious interest in attempting to balance our budget. In fact, we have not balanced it since 1969, and huge annual deficits have resulted in a \$5 trillion national debt today. If we do not put a stop to this madness, we will absolutely destroy the standard of living of our children and grandchildren.

While I wish we did not need a balanced budget amendment, I agree with the Knoxville city council that if one is not enacted, we may never balance the budget. Historically, we simply have not done a good job in limiting Federal programs and reducing waste. There are 435 Members in the House who have their own funding priorities, another 100 Senators who have their own, and of course, the President also has his funding preferences. It becomes very difficult to reach an agreement on the budget if we do not set absolute caps which place funding limitations on Federal spending.

This issue is once again being debated in the 105th Congress, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 1, which would provide an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced budget.

Our Federal deficit is one of the most serious concerns facing our Nation. If we bring Government spending under control and de-regulate our economy, it could boom for many years to come. Times are good now for some people, but they could and should be good for almost everyone. We could really reduce the gap between the rich and the poor if we could

decrease the power and cost of our government at all levels, but especially at the Federal level.

I request that a copy of the attached resolution passed by the Knoxville city council be placed in the RECORD at this point. I hope that my colleagues will join the Knoxville city council and me in supporting House Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment.

RESOLUTION

A resolution of the Council of the City of Knoxville urging the U.S. Congress to pass a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution.

Whereas, the City of Knoxville, Knox County, and the State of Tennessee balance their budgets annually; and

Whereas, Knoxville families must balance their budgets; and

Whereas, a balanced federal budget would reduce interest rates, thereby helping home owners and buyers; and

Whereas, Congress should set an example for the citizens who elect them by being fiscally responsible; and

Whereas, last year the Balanced Budget Constitutional Amendment failed by only one vote in the United States Senate; and

Whereas, Congress appears incapable of balancing our national budget without a constitutional requirement; and

Whereas, this proposed constitutional amendment is supported by Congressman John Duncan, Congressman Zack Wamp, Congressman Van Hilleary, and by Senator Bill Frist and Senator Fred Thompson.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Council of the City of Knoxville:

Section 1: The City Council of the City of Knoxville urges in the strongest possible terms that Congress pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

Section 2: The City Recorder for the City of Knoxville is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Tennessee members of the U.S. Congress.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND TAX REINSTATEMENT ACT OF 1997 (H.R. 668)

HON. LINDA SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my support of H.R. 668, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund Tax Reinstatement Act. This legislation was approved by the House yesterday with my full support and I want to make clear my reasons for supporting this much-needed legislation.

This legislation was requested by the White House in order to resolve a funding shortfall in the airport and airway trust fund. The legislation extends a 10-percent excise tax on airline tickets. This surcharge on airline tickets and the other excise taxes on airline travel expired at the end of last December and have been critical to the airport trust fund.

Without the extension of these aviation excise taxes, the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] will have trouble maintaining construction and safety improvements of our Nation's aviation system. In fact, the FAA has warned that if this funding shortfall is not corrected,

within 5 days they would have to begin sending out notices canceling or suspending contracts which involve safety expenditures and airport improvements. Air traffic safety is not something that we can jeopardize.

H.R. 668 maintains the aviation excise taxes that have been a regular feature of airline travel since 1970 and extends them through September 30, 1997. I do not believe that extension of the 10-percent ticket tax imposes new taxes on Americans. It simply maintains the same financing structure we have had for over 20 years to take care of our air traffic facilities.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHIPPING AND FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the San Francisco Bay Shipping and Fisheries Enhancement Act. This legislation will protect both the economy and the environment of the San Francisco Bay area by taking preventive action to reduce the chances of a catastrophic oil spill in this irreplaceable bay.

On October 28, 1996, diesel fuel was accidentally released from a maritime administration ship in dry dock in San Francisco. Only about 8,000 gallons of oil entered the water but, due to weather and other factors, even this small spill got out from under the control of the Federal and State officials charged with containing and cleaning up oil spills. As bay area residents watched, the oil spread outside the Golden Gate and north of the San Rafael Bridge.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the cost of cleanup has exceeded \$10 million, rivaling the \$14 million cleanup of the much larger spill at Shell's Martinez refinery in 1988. The October spill was only about one-tenth of 1 percent of the size of the *Exxon Valdez* spill, yet *Valdez*-sized tankers laden with millions of gallons of crude oil make dozens of trips into the bay each year. In fact, the *Valdez* was bound for San Francisco when it ran aground in 1989. If a small spill like the one that occurred in October could cause this much damage, a *Valdez*-size spill would surely devastate the bay area, both economically and environmentally, for decades.

We got lucky in October. We got a wake up call the caused only modest damage. Next time we may not be so lucky. After a spill, we can send in all the king's horses and all the king's men, but they still can't put Humpty Dumpty back together. When dealing with oil spills, we need to heed the old adage—an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The San Francisco Bay Shipping and Fisheries Enhancement Act—Bay SAFE—will provide that ounce of prevention by authorizing the removal of underwater rocks in San Francisco Bay that pose a danger to deep draft vessels, like oil tankers. Near Alcatraz, there are number of rock reefs lying less than 40 feet below the surface. The Coast Guard considers these rocks to be hazards to navigation and recommends their removal. In 1992, the San Francisco Bay Harbor Safety Committee, in its harbor safety plan, recommended that

the rocks be removed to a depth of 55 feet below the low tide line. The main hazard that these rocks present is to tankers, which increasingly have drafts in excess of 45 feet. Bay SAFE directs the Army Corps of Engineers to lower these so that even the deepest draft tankers will not be endangered.

After rock hazards are removed, Bay SAFE directs the Coast Guard to reroute vessel traffic to minimize the risk of an oil spill. At a minimum, the Bay SAFE navigation project will give the Coast Guard a much wider area through which to move deep draft vessels, thereby decreasing vessel traffic congestion and the risk of head on collisions. I am confident that the Coast Guard, working the local community, can come up with a traffic separation scheme that expedites shipping and enhances environmental protection.

I am aware that there are environmental concerns about removing these rocks. That is why Bay SAFE directs the Army Corps to design this project to minimize the impact on the environment and fisheries. The bill also provides for mitigation of any unavoidable damage. But in weighing the merits of this project, we must measure the long-term benefits against the short-term costs.

According to the maritime exchange, which tracks shipping traffic in San Francisco Bay, over 800 tankers entered the bay last year, carrying hundreds of millions—if not billions—of gallons of oil and other hazardous substances. Nearly one-quarter of these tankers are large enough to strike the submerged rocks near Alcatraz. If one small oil spill caused \$10 million in damage, how many billions of dollars in damage to fisheries and wildlife would be caused by a major spill? If this project avoids even one modest oil spill, I believe it will have been worth the minor disruption to the marine environment caused by its construction.

San Francisco Bay is an invaluable natural and economic resource to the bay area and to the entire Nation. In the coming months, I will be taking every opportunity to increase protection of the bay area from oil or hazardous substance spills. As stated in a February 25 editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle, Bay SAFE is "a prudent move forward". It is the least we can do to protect our bay. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

THE SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 1997

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Self-Employed Health Fairness Act of 1997, legislation which will raise to 100 percent the deductibility of health insurance costs for the self-employed. This common sense legislation will restore equity and fairness in the tax treatment of many of this Nation's small business entrepreneurs. I introduced identical legislation in the 104th Congress, and received the support of over 50 bipartisan cosponsors.

Our current tax code is fundamentally unfair to the smallest of our Nation's business own-

ers: the self-employed. Larger corporations enjoy a permanent, 100 percent deduction of health insurance costs, while in 1997 a self-employed individual is only allowed to deduct 40 percent of these same costs. We must ask ourselves a very basic and fundamental question: Why should the self-employed small business person be treated differently than a large corporation?

The 104th Congress did begin to address this problem, and I do not mean to take lightly the progress that it made. Two pieces of legislation were enacted that provided relief to the self-employed. First, legislation was enacted which restored and made permanent the deductibility that had expired during the 103d Congress, and raised the level of deductibility from 25 to 30 percent. Second, legislation which incrementally raised the deductibility to 80 percent by the year 2006 was also enacted. These were important steps, and I was proud to have supported them. However, as a matter of fairness and equity, we can and should do better.

By raising the deductibility to 100 percent, we are helping to achieve two important goals. We are strengthening the most important sector of our economy by relieving a significant tax burden that self-employed small businessmen and women must now shoulder. We are also helping to ensure that more Americans have access health care, because without full deductibility, these costs are sometimes more than a small business owner can afford.

Let's send a message to America's self-employed that they are just as important as big business. Let's restore fairness and equity to the tax code's treatment of the health care expenses of self-employed individuals. I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF GRACE CHURCH VAN VORST'S 8TH ANNUAL CATHEDRAL ARTS FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Grace Church Van Vorst in Jersey City for its exceptional efforts to strengthen the arts community and to promote an appreciation for Hudson County's cultural background. Grace Church Van Vorst will hold its 8th Annual Cathedral Arts Festival Gala and Preview Sale on March 1, 1997.

The annual festival has become an important vehicle for young artists to make their work known to the public. It serves not only as a tremendous opportunity for local artists to showcase their talent, but also to enrich the surrounding community by exposing Hudson County residents to the variety of artistic styles that exist in the area.

This year's celebration will have artwork from various genres, including live performances. The 8th Annual Cathedral Arts Festival will be an evening filled with artistic discussion, fine food, and lively music. Individual artists will be on hand to discuss and sell their work. All donations will go to the physical needs of the historic Grace Church Van Vorst.

Grace Church Van Vorst is also celebrating its 150th anniversary. Since its founding in 1847, Grace Church Van Vorst has diligently worked to improve the downtown area of Jersey City. In addition to providing low-income housing for the impoverished residents of Hudson County, it funds "Let's Celebrate," an organization that assists the homeless residents of Hudson County.

I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring the Grace Church Van Vorst for its outstanding civic contributions. I commend its accomplishments as well as its efforts to assist the local arts community. I hope it will continue to serve the community for another 150 years.

TRIBUTE TO YOUNG KEON HOOKS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I advise my colleagues in the House of the death of a young 7-year-old boy named Keon Hooks of Clearwater, FL. Keon died on Friday, February 21, 1997, of a plastic anemia, a form of leukemia.

Keon was in need of a bone marrow transplant, and as you know, I have championed the National Bone Marrow Registry for years. Whenever I learn of a case like Keon I cannot help but ask myself, as well as my colleagues, what more can we do to encourage people to join the National Bone Marrow Registry in an effort to be a potential match and donor.

Despite repeated drives for Keon, a match for him was not found. As a last resort his mother Stacy donated her bone marrow in October, even though it was only a partial match. Two other transplants were needed for Keon as his body was rejecting his mother's bone marrow and succumbed to several infections.

Still, Keon fought valiantly for his life and always kept a smile on his face. He was known as a practical joker, and I recall how he would attend bone marrow drives in the African-American communities of the Tampa Bay area to thank those who were signing up for the registry and to join in trying to get others to participate.

On Saturday, 1 week short of his 8th birthday, Keon will be buried. His funeral service will be the birthday party he wanted to celebrate. Today, in Keon's memory, let us pledge ourselves to redouble our efforts in our local communities to recruit our constituents to join the National Bone Marrow Registry so that "the gift of life"—a bone marrow transplant—can be passed to those who like Keon are in need of this lifesaving procedure.

Finally, let us set a moment aside to remember Keon. The inspiration he has left in my district and in the entire Tampa Bay area is hard to describe, but I know that this young man, a fighter whose disease still could not take away his admiration of his mother and sisters and his love of life, will be cherished by all who had come to know him.