

AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF
MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ
RESOLUTION OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, every so often, a people is forced to choose between fighting oppression and hoping to survive at the whim of evil.

Against all odds, facing down the world's only superpower, our forefathers fought and died to establish a nation conceived in liberty and freedom. Some years later, our nation turned upon itself so that all could bask in the glow of those freedoms. The "greatest" generation chose to go to war, and their sons and daughters endured a frosty confrontation so that people around the world would have the same opportunity to enjoy those freedoms.

Today, we are asked that very same question.

Do we have the same commitment, as did our ancestors, to beat down the forces of evil and give future generations the opportunity to live in freedom?

Over the years, Saddam Hussein has ruled Iraq as an absolute dictator. He has shackled the Iraqi people to an existence of oppression and poverty. Free speech has been banished, elections held as a sham, opposition terrorized and ethnic and religious minorities brutally and mercilessly oppressed. Hussein's tools of governance include torture, murder, rape, and poison gas.

Saddam Hussein has acted as a destabilizing force in the Middle East, often with violent and tragic results. He has used violence to repress the Kurdish minority, invaded Iran and Kuwait, and attacked Saudi Arabia and Israel. He has even attempted to assassinate current and former Heads of State including former President George Bush. In his mad blood lust, Hussein has used chemical weapons, biological weapons and ballistic missiles. By his own admission, Hussein has funded weapons programs to develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Over the years, in violation of numerous United Nations Security Council Resolutions it had agreed to abide by, Saddam Hussein has continued to develop weapons of mass destruction, refused to account for and return prisoners captured during the Persian Gulf war, refused to return property stolen during the Persian Gulf war and continued to repress its people and harbor terrorists.

Unfortunately, Saddam Hussein has intensified his efforts to develop nuclear weapons. Iraq has also sought to build and enhance delivery systems that can be used to deliver chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. The development of these weapons and systems will not only affect the Middle East, but it will give Saddam Hussein the ability to extend his influence around the world. Because the United Nations abdicated its role to enforce the various Security Council resolutions, we do not know the status of these weapons programs or how close they may be to completion and no one has been able to act as a restraint against the wishes of this dictator.

Over the past century, only two world leaders have used poison gas against their own

people and launched ballistic missiles to attack other nations. When confronted with the choice of stopping Adolf Hitler or appeasing him, the civilized world chose appeasement. Tens of millions of people paid a terrible price for that inaction.

We face a similar choice today. If we choose not to stop Saddam Hussein, history will consign on us a price for our appeasement, the cost of which will only be known with the passage of time. That price will not only be borne by us, but others as well, and we have no idea when that bill will become due. If nothing else, the tragic events of September 11, 2001, reinforced the lessons so painfully learned years ago.

If we can topple this madman through peaceful means, we shall. However, if military means are necessary, so be it. We must be open to all options to provide for the common defense of our nation and to ensure that future generations, here and abroad, have the same opportunities to live in freedom without the looming specter of fear and tyranny.

This resolution must be passed so that future generations can state—yes they were challenged, and they met the challenge—for the betterment of mankind.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I yield the balance of my time.

H.R. 5400

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that this important legislation was promptly brought to the floor and passed by unanimous consent. The North American Development Bank, NADBank, is the only development bank specifically dedicated to the infrastructure challenges of the U.S./Mexico border. This bill provides the Department of Treasury requested authorization to complete negotiations with the Mexican government by providing authorization for a new low interest loan facility and expanding the grant-making capacity of the bank. In addition it requires the Department of Treasury to annually report to the House Committee on Financial Services on efforts to improve the effectiveness of this important institution.

Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed in Treasury's initial lack of willingness to fully discuss with Congress on how best to improve NADBank. The public finance needs of the U.S./Mexico border are complex and are growing at an exponential rate. Treasury and Congress must communicate in a regular and frank basis on how best to improve this institution. I view this legislation as offering a tremendous opportunity for Treasury to work in concert with Congress on addressing the public finance challenges of the U.S./Mexico border. This is the intent of the annual reporting provisions of this bill and I thank Congressman DOUG BEREUTER for his assistance in inserting this provision.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5400 is one step out of many that will have to be taken to ensure that NADBank achieves its intended goal of providing a flexible, competitive option for infrastructure financing for struggling U.S./Mexico

border communities. I look forward to working with my fellow Members on the Financial Services Committee on ensuring that NADBank lives up to its full potential and encourage the Senate to quickly consider this important legislation.

H.R. 5400

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his support for H.R. 5400, legislation which makes necessary changes to the charter agreement of the North American Development Bank (NADBank). The bill, which this Member introduced on September 18, 2002, is being considered under unanimous consent. This important legislation contains the legislative changes requested by the Administration.

First, this Member would like to thank both the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the Majority Leader of the House, for initiating this unanimous consent request for H.R. 5400, and to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for supporting this request. Furthermore, this Member would also like to thank both the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, and the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the Ranking Member of this Committee, for their support to this Member in my effort to bring this measure to the House Floor.

As the Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade, this Member would also like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Ranking Member of this Subcommittee, for his support of H.R. 5400. This Member especially would also like to thank the following three original cosponsors of this legislation, who are all Members of the Financial Services Committee: Mr. OSE (R-CA), Mr. GONZALEZ (D-TX), and Mr. HINOJOSA (D-TX). All three of these Members provided valuable input into the initial drafting of H.R. 5400. Subsequently, the House Financial Services Committee passed H.R. 5400 by voice vote.

With regard to H.R. 5400, this Member would like to discuss the following three items: Background on the NADBank; administration's request on the NADBank; and contents of H.R. 5400.

BACKGROUND ON THE NADBANK

During the 1993 debate of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), environmental issues emerged. A particular concern was that NAFTA could result in the industrialization and population growth in the U.S.-Mexico border region, which could further exacerbate pollution problems in this area. In addition, during the NAFTA debate, some Members of Congress were concerned that the perceived lax enforcement of environmental laws by Mexico could create a competitive advantage and give U.S. businesses incentives to relocate to Mexico. In fact, for some Members of Congress support for NAFTA was partially contingent on the identification of a structure to finance border environmental projects.

As a result of these factors, which were raised in the NAFTA debate, the United States and Mexico agreed to the creation of a new institutional structure to promote the environmental health of the border region. As such, the Border Environment Cooperation Agreement established the NADBank and the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC). These institutions currently work together to assist communities within 100 kilometers (km) on either side of the U.S.-Mexico border by financing environmental infrastructure projects that address the need for wastewater treatment, drinking water, and disposal of municipal solid waste. Spanning 2100 miles from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean, the NADBank border region includes territory in the four U.S. states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

Under the Border Environment Cooperation Agreement, the BECC is to certify the validity of environmental infrastructure projects. Alternatively, the NADBank determines the feasibility of BECC certified projects, and subsequently provides the appropriate financing. Since its inception, the BECC has certified 57 projects with a total construction cost of \$1.2 billion. The NADBank has committed Environmental Protection Agency grant funds to 37 of these projects.

However, as the Administration has testified, NADBank's overall performance has been inadequate and unsatisfactory. NADBank has approved only \$23.5 million and disbursed only \$11 million in loans to projects, despite having \$450 million in authorized paid-in capital and a total lending capacity of \$2.7 billion.

ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST ON THE NADBANK

Second, with regard to the Administration's request, in order to address the inadequacies of the NADBank, U.S. President George Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox formed a bi-national working group that held a series of discussions with states, communities, and other stakeholders in the border region with the purpose of generating plans for reform to strengthen the performance of the NADBank and the BECC. As a result of this working group, President Bush and President Fox came forth with a joint agreement, which was announced in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002. Two of the provisions in this joint agreement require U.S. congressional approval as they are amendments to the Border Environment Cooperation Agreement which established the NADBank.

As a result, on July 19, 2002, the Administration made an official request for congressional action to make the following two changes:

1. The NADBank would be able to make grants and non-market rate loans out of its paid-in capital resources with the approval of its Board of Directors. (Currently, NADBank can only finance market rate loans.)

2. The region that the NADBank serves would be expanded on only the Mexican side from 100 km of the international boundary line to within 300 km of the international boundary line.

With respect to the first requested legislative change, the Administration's rationale is that NADBank's current financial framework is having a limited impact in regions with high poverty rates. Communities in the border regions in many instances have been unable to afford market-rate financing for environmental infrastructure projects. The NADBank will have

greater flexibility to address the environmental needs of the border region if they are also able to use non-market rate loans and grants.

With regard to the second requested legislative change, the Administration's rationale is that the geographic expansion on the Mexican side of the international boundary will give the NADBank more opportunities to address a greater scope of environmental issues that affect communities along the United States and Mexican border. For example, with this change, the NADBank will be better able to undertake projects that improve water use over a broader geographic area, which would increase water supply in its shared rivers. It is important to note that, according to the Administration, this reform will be linked with a system that concentrates grants and low interest loans in the poorest communities within 100 km of the border.

CONTENTS OF H.R. 5400

Third, as this Member mentioned earlier, on September 18, 2002, this Member introduced H.R. 5400 which makes necessary changes to the charter agreement of the NADBank. Before introducing H.R. 5400, this Member's Subcommittee conducted two hearings which, in part, addressed the subject of the NADBank.

On May 2, 2002, the Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade conducted a hearing that included testimony from private sector panelists on the subject of the NADBank. At this hearing, the Subcommittee heard testimony from the Mayor of Eagle Pass, Texas, and the City Manager of Mercedes, Texas—communities along the U.S./Mexico international boundary. Testimony was also given by the former Chief Executive Officer of the NADBank and an investment banker who has worked with the NADBank.

Furthermore, on July 25, 2002, the Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade conducted a hearing where Undersecretary of the Department of Treasury for International Affairs, Dr. John Taylor, provided testimony, which included his opinion as to the importance of the Administration's request on the NADBank.

This legislation being considered under unanimous consent, includes the two previously discussed changes which the Administration requested. As such, H.R. 5400 would allow the NADBank to offer grant and non-market-rate financing and would expand the service area of the NADBank on the Mexican side to within 300 km of the U.S./Mexican international boundary line.

Furthermore, H.R. 5400 would enhance congressional oversight through an annual reporting requirement on the subject of the NADBank by the Secretary of the Treasury to both the House Committee on Financial Services and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Currently, there is no such reporting requirement.

This bill also includes different sense of the Congress resolutions. There is a sense of Congress, which was in the bill as introduced, that water conservation projects are eligible for funding from the NADBank and that the Board of the NADBank should support such qualified water conservation projects which assist Texas irrigators and agricultural producers in the lower Rio Grande River Valley.

Furthermore, a sense of Congress was successfully offered by the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) during the

full Committee markup. The provision expresses the sense of Congress that the Board of the NADBank should take into consideration the needs of all the border states before approving funding for water conservation projects, and strive to fund water conservation projects in each of the border states.

A different sense of Congress was successfully offered by the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) during the full Committee markup. This provision states the sense of Congress that the Board of the NADBank should support the development of qualified water conservation projects in southern California and the other eligible areas in the four U.S. border states for the desalination of ocean saltwater and other enumerated uses listed in the bill.

Lastly, a sense of Congress amendment was successfully offered by the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. OSE) during the full Committee markup. As such, the resolution would express the sense of Congress that the Board of the NADBank should support the financing of projects which address coastal issues and the problem of pollution in both the U.S. and Mexico having an environmental impact along the shores of the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the resolution states that it is a sense of Congress that the NADBank should support the financing of projects which address air pollution.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, for the reasons stated and many others, it is very important that the House pass H.R. 5400 by unanimous consent. Furthermore, this Member is hopeful that the President can sign this legislation into law this year. Thank you.

EDUCATION SCIENCES REFORM ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5598, the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, which will provide for the improvement of Federal education research.

We all know that educational research in all disciplines is critical to the education of America's youth. By requiring that research be based on valid scientific findings, H.R. 5598 will greatly improve the quality of federal scientific research in education.

As has been talked about today, the Education Sciences Reform Act will streamline and strengthen education research by replacing the current Office of Educational Research and Improvement with a new, more independent Institute of Education Science. The institute will provide the infrastructure necessary to undertake coordinated, high quality education research and statistical and program evaluation activities within the Department of Education.

Furthermore, H.R. 5598 establishes quality standards that will put an end to trends in education that masquerade as sensible science, requiring all federally funded activities to meet these new standards of quality, including scientifically based research. H.R. 5598 also makes certain that research priorities focus on solving key problems and are informed by the