

In his former life as an attorney, he spent a lot of time placing kids out of foster care into loving homes, permanent homes.

There is nothing more important I think than to do everything we can to encourage adoption in this country. One of the saddest things that we can possibly see is a child who is not loved, a child that does not have a home to go to or the security of its own room within that particular home; and I applaud the gentleman. I applaud the bipartisanism that we are getting on this bill.

I do want to, however, correct one statement that my friend from Maryland made because otherwise he was very practical and very straightforward. The reason that this and the previous bill, Holocaust tax relief, the reason these two pieces of legislation as well as the entire tax bill that they were part of was sunsetted was because it was going over to the Senate on a budget reconciliation bill which required a straight up and down vote, and it was a question of the technicalities of the Byrd rule. The requirement was not put on permanent. It had nothing to do with the size of the entire bill.

So I do want to clarify that particular issue, but it is a rare moment and all too rare in matters pertaining to taxes that this House finds itself in total agreement.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT).

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great joy to stand here today to celebrate the thousands of moms, dads, and children who have become bigger and stronger families because of adoption.

I introduced the Hope for Children Act last year, along with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Hope Coalition, to ensure enactment of several important adoption provisions. The Hope for Children Act extended and doubled the adoption tax credit to \$10,000 for all adoptions. Additionally, the bill extended and doubled the tax exclusion allowed for employer-provided adoption benefits and included a \$10,000 flat credit for special-needs adoption, which has been mentioned.

The Hope for Children Act was included in the tax package signed into law by President Bush last year; but unfortunately, the Senate included a sunset provision in the new law to comply with the Senate procedural rules.

Without this bill today, H.R. 4800, the new adoption law will expire after December 31, 2010, and thousands of adoptive parents will see their taxes raised overnight. Mr. Speaker, that cannot happen; and that is why we must pass the legislation today.

One of the greatest titles in the world is that of parent, and one of the biggest blessings in life is to be called mom or dad. We hope this bill will help unite children with parents and build

strong, stable families in our country. This bill will guarantee tax relief for future generations of adoptive parents. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

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

I just want to explain that there is no question, I just want to underscore the points that my colleagues have been making, that the adoption credit, the expansion of the adoption credit and now making it permanent is a bipartisan effort. We think it is extremely important to encourage families to adopt children, particularly special-needs children. So this legislation is one that we look forward to the permanent enactment.

Going back though to the last year just one more time, I know my friend from Florida and I have talked about this frequently. There is no question that if the tax bill last year had not been \$1.35 trillion but more affordable to the fiscal condition of this country, and I think we have now seen with the large deficits that are being projected that our concerns expressed last year have become real, there is no question that if we had a more modest bill that was before us last year we would have made those provisions permanent last year, and we would have had the support of the other body. We would not have to worry about extraordinary votes in the other body, that we could have made all these provisions permanent, and we would not have been here this year piece by piece looking at specific provisions trying to remove the 10-year sunset.

When we work together as Democrats and Republicans, we usually come up with good policy. Today we are on the adoption credit. I regret that we did not do that in the past so we would not have to go through this exercise on a tax-provision-by-tax-provision basis.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for support of this bill and this issue. We are both on the Committee on Ways and Means, and I know he has been working on this for some time, clearly with the special-needs adoption area; and this is a bipartisan effort.

I would just finally urge support of this bill and say that all provisions in the tax bill in 2001 were sunset, and this is one area where I think that there is general agreement that should become permanent, and it was all sunset because of the Senate rules which would have required 60 votes otherwise. So, on that, I urge support of the bill.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of H.R. 4800, a bill that would extend the \$10,000 adoption tax credit and the \$10,000 employer adoption assistance exclusion so that they are not subject to the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

This bill is a significant step toward ensuring that every child has a loving family. I am

proud to come to the floor in support of families who wish to bring another child into their lives.

Like many of my colleagues, children's issues and legislation that increases adoption are very important to me. I am honored to represent a pro-adoption constituency. New York has traditionally adopted at one of the highest rates in the country. Unfortunately, 134,000 children across the Nation are still waiting for homes. All parents are familiar with the rising costs of raising children. Too many potential parents resist adopting because of this substantial economic burden. It is imperative that we take additional steps to relieve this financial weight on these families.

Every Member of Congress is accustomed to lobbyists continually seeking tax benefits for specific special interests. Children in need of adoption have no high-priced lobbyists and no political action committees, so their voices often fail to be heard in today's Washington. I am pleased that this House will hear their voices today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4800.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of H.R. 4800, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Agriculture:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity

Credit Corporation for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 4, 2002.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess for approximately 10 minutes.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 3 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.

BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2941) to facilitate the provision of assistance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the cleanup and economic redevelopment of brownfields, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2941

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 "Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) returning the Nation's brownfield sites to productive economic use could generate more than 550,000 additional jobs and up to \$2,400,000,000 in new tax revenues for cities and towns;

(2) redevelopment of brownfield sites and reuse of infrastructure at such sites will protect natural resources and open spaces;

(3) lack of funding for redevelopment is a primary obstacle impeding the reuse of brownfield sites;

(4) the Department of Housing and Urban Development is the agency of the Federal Government that is principally responsible for supporting community development and encouraging productive land use in urban areas of the United States;

(5) grants under the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development provide local governments with a flexible source of funding to pursue brownfields redevelopment through land acquisition, site preparation, economic development, and other activities;

(6) to be eligible for such grant funds, a community must be willing to pledge community development block grant funds as partial collateral for a loan guarantee under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, and this requirement is a barrier to many local communities that are unable or unwilling to pledge such block grant funds as collateral; and

(7) by de-linking grants for brownfields development from section 108 community development loan guarantees and the related pledge of community development block grant funds, more communities will have ac-

cess to funding for redevelopment of brownfield sites.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act is to provide cities and towns with more flexibility for brownfields development, increased accessibility to brownfields redevelopment funds, and greater capacity to coordinate and collaborate with other government agencies—

(1) by providing additional incentives to invest in the cleanup and development of brownfield sites; and

(2) by de-linking grants for brownfields development from community development loan guarantees and the related pledge of community development block grant funds.

SEC. 3. BROWNFIELDS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 123. BROWNFIELDS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants under this section, on a competitive basis as specified in section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545), only to eligible public entities (as such term is defined in section 108(o) of this title) and Indian tribes for carrying out projects and activities to assist the environmental cleanup and development of brownfield sites, which shall include mine-scarred lands.

"(b) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—Amounts from grants under this section shall—

"(1) be used, as provided in subsection (a) of this section, only for activities specified in section 108(a); and

"(2) be subject to the same requirements that, under section 101(c) and paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 104(b), apply to grants under section 106.

"(c) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall not require, for eligibility for a grant under this section, that such grant amounts be used only in connection or conjunction with projects and activities assisted with a loan guaranteed under section 108.

"(d) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for assistance under this section shall be in the form and in accordance with procedures as shall be established by the Secretary.

"(e) SELECTION CRITERIA AND LEVERAGING.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for awarding grants under this section, which may include the extent to which the applicant has obtained other Federal, State, local, or private funds for the projects and activities to be assisted with grant amounts and such other criteria as the Secretary considers appropriate. Such criteria shall include consideration of the appropriateness of the extent of financial leveraging involved in the projects and activities to be funded with the grant amounts.

"(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007."

SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT AS ELIGIBLE CDBG ACTIVITY.

(a) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—The penultimate proviso of the first undesignated paragraph of the item relating to "Community Development Block Grants Fund" in title II of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-204; 110 Stat. 2887) shall be treated as having amended section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)) to read

as such section was in effect on September 30, 1995.

(b) BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—Section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)), as in effect pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (24), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (25), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(26) environmental cleanup and economic development activities related to brownfield projects in conjunction with the appropriate environmental regulatory agencies."

SEC. 5. PILOT PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT OF BROWNFIELDS.

Section 108(q) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308(q)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) PILOT PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL REDEVELOPMENT OF BROWNFIELDS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Using any amounts made available under this subsection, the Secretary may establish a pilot program under which grants under this subsection are used to develop, maintain, and administer (including the payment of an entity or entities selected pursuant to subparagraph (B)) a common loan pool of development loans for brownfield redevelopment projects made on behalf of eligible public entities with the proceeds of obligations guaranteed under this section, including related security and a common loans loss reserve account, for the benefit of participants in the pilot program.

"(B) SELECTION OF PROGRAM MANAGERS AND CONTRACTORS.—The Secretary may select an entity or entities on a competitive or non-competitive basis to carry out any of the functions involved in the pilot program.

"(C) TERMS FOR PARTICIPATION.—Participation by eligible public entities in the pilot program shall be under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may require.

"(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary—

"(i) for grants under this subsection to be used only in conjunction with the pilot program under this paragraph; and

"(ii) for costs of carrying out the pilot program under this paragraph and ensuring that the program is carried out in an effective, efficient, and viable manner."

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW USE OF CDBG FUNDS TO ADMINISTER RENEWAL COMMUNITIES.

Section 105(a)(13) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(13)) is amended by inserting "and renewal communities" after "enterprise zones".

SEC. 7. APPLICABILITY.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply only with respect to amounts made available for fiscal year 2003 and fiscal years thereafter for use under the provisions of law amended by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank our chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), for setting this bill up and sending it to the floor, and I rise today in strong