

move consistently with a purpose to re-order our immigration policies by means of restructuring the INS with an assistant attorney general for immigration affairs so that we can share data and information. Intelligence is clearly a key element of what we need to reform our immigration policies and to fight terrorism, two dual issues which I think we can do.

Immigration does not equate to terrorism. I hope we have an opportunity to debate those legislative initiatives, get them passed, and begin on a pathway of formulating a very comprehensive immigration policy for the United States of America. I offer my support for this legislation.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, today I support and applaud the House's final passage of the "Family Immigration Sponsor Act." And, I thank my colleague, Mr. CALVERT, for his work on this issue.

A family in my district, with a tragic story, has become a well-known example of why this bill's passage is necessary. Mrs. Zhenfu Ge, a 73-year-old Chinese national, came to the United States in 1998 to help care for her dying daughter and her daughter's children. Her daughter—my constituent Yanyu Wong—requested that her mother be allowed to stay in America to take care of her grandchildren. Following the rules of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), my constituent immediately submitted the appropriate paperwork to sponsor her mother's petition for a green card so she could stay in the United States.

Sadly, on April 15, 2001, Yanyu Wong lost her fight against cancer. This was only 11 days before the INS was scheduled to grant Mrs. Ge's permanent resident status. In a desperate attempt to keep his mother-in-law in the country, my constituent's husband petitioned to be Mrs. Ge's new sponsor. However, INS law mandates the sponsor be another adult blood relative. Without an adult blood relative left alive to sponsor her, Mrs. Ge was told that she must go back to China and restart the visa process.

Realizing the devastating results of these circumstances, I introduced H.R. 2011, a private bill to allow Mrs. Ge to remain legally in the United States while she completed the process to attain legal status. Forcing Mrs. Ge to abandon her family during this time would only add to the family tragedy. Enabling Mrs. Ge to stay in the country could give the children a living link to their mother, and her culture, something they would be denied forever if Mrs. Ge is deported.

With the passage of Representative CALVERT's Family Immigration Sponsor Act, Mrs. Ge will be able to stay in America and take care of her grandchildren, while she completes the immigration process. With the passage of this bill, Mrs. Ge can keep her promise to her daughter.

There's no doubt that the Family Immigration Sponsor Act will be able to assist other families in situations similar to Mrs. Ge's. Passing H.R. 1892 is the smart way for this country to help encourage families to stay intact.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1892, the Family Sponsor Immigration Act, introduced by my colleague Representative KEN CALVERT.

Our government plays a key role in shaping the lives of thousands of immigrants. It is our duty to ensure that our system is fair to aspiring residents.

Under our current law, someone applying to become a permanent U.S. resident must be sponsored by a family member who assumes financial responsibility for that person. However, if the sponsor dies before U.S. permanent residency is granted, the applicant must find another sponsor and start the process all over again. This process can take as long as 7 years.

This must change.

As an immigrant, I understand the difficulties of the immigration process. One should not have to wait another 7 years if the sponsor dies. H.R. 1892 addresses this issue. It would allow for substitute sponsors. More importantly, it will help unite families that have been separated.

I applaud Representative CALVERT for introducing this important legislation, and I urge my fellow colleagues to join in support of this bill which will ensure a fair process for those seeking U.S. residency.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1892.

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. SENSENBRENNER. Madam 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.

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2002

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1206) to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1206

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 "Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2002".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

(a) THIS ACT.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) to ensure that the people and businesses of the Appalachian region have the knowledge, skills, and access to telecommunication and technology services necessary to compete in the knowledge-based economy of the United States.

(b) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1965.—Section 2 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting after the third sentence the following: "Consistent with the goal described in the preceding sentence, the Appalachian region should be able to take advantage of eco-industrial development, which promotes both employment and economic growth and the preservation of natural resources."; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2)(B)(ii), by inserting "including eco-industrial development technologies" before the semicolon.

SEC. 3. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

Section 102(a) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting "and support," after "formation of";

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" at the end;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(9) encourage the use of eco-industrial development technologies and approaches; and
"(10) seek to coordinate the economic development activities of, and the use of economic development resources by, Federal agencies in the region."

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON APPALACHIA.

Section 104 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by striking "The President" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—The President"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON APPALACHIA.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out subsection (a), the President shall establish an interagency council to be known as the 'Interagency Coordinating Council on Appalachia'.

"(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall be composed of—

"(A) the Federal Cochairman, who shall serve as Chairperson of the Council; and

"(B) representatives of Federal agencies that carry out economic development programs in the region."

SEC. 5. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.

Title II of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after section 202 the following:

"SEC. 203. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide funds to persons or entities in the region for projects—

"(1) to increase affordable access to advanced telecommunications, entrepreneurship, and management technologies or applications in the region;

"(2) to provide education and training in the use of telecommunications and technology;

"(3) to develop programs to increase the readiness of industry groups and businesses in the region to engage in electronic commerce; or

“(4) to support entrepreneurial opportunities for businesses in the information technology sector.

“(b) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under this section may be provided—

“(A) exclusively from amounts made available to carry out this section; or

“(B) from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available under any other Federal program or from any other source.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may be used to increase that Federal share, as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

“(c) COST SHARING FOR GRANTS.—Not more than 50 percent (or 80 percent in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 226) of the costs of any activity eligible for a grant under this section may be provided from funds appropriated to carry out this section.”.

SEC. 6. ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE.

Title II of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after section 203 (as added by section 5) the following:

“SEC. 204. ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE.

“(a) DEFINITION OF BUSINESS INCUBATOR SERVICE.—In this section, the term ‘business incubator service’ means a professional or technical service necessary for the initiation and initial sustainment of the operations of a newly established business, including a service such as—

“(1) a legal service, including aid in preparing a corporate charter, partnership agreement, or basic contract;

“(2) a service in support of the protection of intellectual property through a patent, a trademark, or any other means;

“(3) a service in support of the acquisition and use of advanced technology, including the use of Internet services and Web-based services; and

“(4) consultation on strategic planning, marketing, or advertising.

“(b) PROJECTS TO BE ASSISTED.—The Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide funds to persons or entities in the region for projects—

“(1) to support the advancement of, and provide, entrepreneurial training and education for youths, students, and businesspersons;

“(2) to improve access to debt and equity capital by such means as facilitating the establishment of development venture capital funds;

“(3) to aid communities in identifying, developing, and implementing development strategies for various sectors of the economy; and

“(4)(A) to develop a working network of business incubators; and

“(B) to support entities that provide business incubator services.

“(c) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under this section may be provided—

“(A) exclusively from amounts made available to carry out this section; or

“(B) from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available under any other Federal program or from any other source.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may

be used to increase that Federal share, as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

“(d) COST SHARING FOR GRANTS.—Not more than 50 percent (or 80 percent in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 226) of the costs of any activity eligible for a grant under this section may be provided from funds appropriated to carry out this section.”.

SEC. 7. REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS.

Title II of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after section 204 (as added by section 6) the following:

“SEC. 205. REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS.

“(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a consortium that—

“(1) is established to serve 1 or more industries in a specified geographic area; and

“(2) consists of representatives of—

“(A) businesses (or a nonprofit organization that represents businesses);

“(B) labor organizations;

“(C) State and local governments; or

“(D) educational institutions.

“(b) PROJECTS TO BE ASSISTED.—The Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide funds to eligible entities in the region for projects to improve the job skills of workers for a specified industry, including projects for—

“(1) the assessment of training and job skill needs for the industry;

“(2) the development of curricula and training methods, including, in appropriate cases, electronic learning or technology-based training;

“(3)(A) the identification of training providers; and

“(B) the development of partnerships between the industry and educational institutions, including community colleges;

“(4) the development of apprenticeship programs;

“(5) the development of training programs for workers, including dislocated workers; and

“(6) the development of training plans for businesses.

“(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible entity may use not more than 10 percent of the funds made available to the eligible entity under subsection (b) to pay administrative costs associated with the projects described in subsection (b).

“(d) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Assistance under this section may be provided—

“(A) exclusively from amounts made available to carry out this section; or

“(B) from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available under any other Federal program or from any other source.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN OTHER LAWS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may be used to increase that Federal share, as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

“(e) COST SHARING FOR GRANTS.—Not more than 50 percent (or 80 percent in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 226) of the costs of any activity eligible for a grant under this section may be provided from funds appropriated to carry out this section.”.

SEC. 8. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA.

(a) ELIMINATION OF GROWTH CENTER CRITERIA.—Section 224(a)(1) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking “in an area de-

termined by the State have a significant potential for growth or”.

(b) ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED COUNTIES AND AREAS.—Section 224 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ASSISTANCE TO DISTRESSED COUNTIES AND AREAS.—For fiscal year 2003 and each fiscal year thereafter, not less than 50 percent of the amount of grant expenditures approved by the Commission shall support activities or projects that benefit severely and persistently distressed counties and areas.”.

SEC. 9. GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.

Section 302(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting “(or, at the discretion of the Commission, 75 percent of such expenses in the case of a local development district that has a charter or authority that includes the economic development of a county or part of a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 226)” after “such expenses”.

SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 401 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts authorized by section 201 and other amounts made available for the Appalachian development highway system program, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission to carry out this Act—

“(1) \$88,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2004;

“(2) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

“(3) \$92,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

“(b) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a), the following amounts may be made available to carry out section 203:

“(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

“(2) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

“(3) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2006.

“(c) AVAILABILITY.—Sums made available under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.”.

SEC. 11. ADDITION OF COUNTIES TO APPALACHIAN REGION.

Section 403 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in the third undesignated paragraph (relating to Kentucky)—

(A) by inserting “Edmonson,” after “Cumberland,”;

(B) by inserting “Hart,” after “Harlan,”; and

(C) by striking “Montgomery,” and inserting “Montgomery,”; and

(2) in the fifth undesignated paragraph (relating to Mississippi)—

(A) by inserting “Montgomery,” after “Monroe,”; and

(B) by inserting “Panola,” after “Oktibbeha,”.

SEC. 12. TERMINATION.

Section 405 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking “2001” and inserting “2006”.

SEC. 13. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) Section 101(b) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the third sentence by striking “implementing investment program” and inserting “strategy statement”.

(b) Section 106(7) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C.

App.) is amended by striking "expiring no later than September 30, 2001".

(c) Sections 202, 214, and 302(a)(1)(C) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) are amended by striking "grant-in-aid programs" each place it appears and inserting "grant programs".

(d) Section 202(a) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the second sentence by striking "title VI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291-291o), the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963 (77 Stat. 282)," and inserting "title VI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.)."

(e) Section 207(a) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking "section 221 of the National Housing Act, section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949," and inserting "section 221 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715f), section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485)."

(f) Section 214 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "GRANT-IN-AID" and inserting "GRANT";

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "grant-in-aid Act" each place it appears and inserting "Act";

(B) in the first sentence, by striking "grant-in-aid Acts" and inserting "Acts";

(C) by striking "grant-in-aid program" each place it appears and inserting "grant program"; and

(D) by striking the third sentence;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) DEFINITION OF FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'Federal grant program' means any Federal grant program authorized by this Act or any other Act that provides assistance for—

"(A) the acquisition or development of land;

"(B) the construction or equipment of facilities; or

"(C) any other community or economic development or economic adjustment activity.

"(2) INCLUSIONS.—In this section, the term 'Federal grant program' includes a Federal grant program such as a Federal grant program authorized by—

"(A) the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.);

"(B) the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.);

"(C) the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);

"(D) the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

"(E) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

"(F) title VI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.);

"(G) sections 201 and 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141, 3149);

"(H) title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.); or

"(I) part IV of title III of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 390 et seq.).

"(3) EXCLUSIONS.—In this section, the term 'Federal grant program' does not include—

"(A) the program for construction of the Appalachian development highway system authorized by section 201;

"(B) any program relating to highway or road construction authorized by title 23, United States Code; or

"(C) any other program under this Act or any other Act to the extent that a form of financial assistance other than a grant is authorized."; and

(4) by striking subsection (d).

(g) Section 224(a)(2) of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking "relative per capita income" and inserting "per capita market income".

(h) Section 225 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.)—

(1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking "development program" and inserting "development strategies"; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "development programs" and inserting "development strategies".

(i) Section 303 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "INVESTMENT PROGRAMS" and inserting "STRATEGY STATEMENTS";

(2) in the first sentence, by striking "implementing investments programs" and inserting "strategy statements"; and

(3) by striking "implementing investment program" each place it appears and inserting "strategy statement".

(j) Section 403 of the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (40 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the next-to-last undesignated paragraph by striking "Committee on Public Works and Transportation" and inserting "Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

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

Madam Speaker, we are back here today to consider legislation that reauthorizes the Appalachian Regional Commission. On August 2 of last year, the House unanimously passed H.R. 2501, the Appalachian Regional Development Reauthorization Act of 2001. The legislation we are considering today, S. 1206, is very similar to the previously passed House bill with a few minor exceptions.

Both the House and the Senate legislation recognize the diligent efforts of the Appalachian Regional Commission to implement reforms required by the 1998 reauthorization that authorized the commission for 5 years.

The Appalachian Regional Commission includes 406 counties in 13 States; 117 of those counties are considered to be distressed under ARC's definition of economic conditions. This means the 117 counties have a 3-year unemployment rate of at least 150 percent of the national average, a per capita market income of no more than two-thirds the national average, and a poverty rate of at least 150 percent of the national rate.

Historically, the Appalachian region has faced high levels of poverty and economic distress resulting from geo-

graphic isolation and inadequate infrastructure. Since 1965, through its unique Federal, State, local and private partnerships, the ARC has worked to improve economic and living conditions through area-development programs. ARC funds are directed to locally developed projects that address basic water and sewer infrastructure needs, business and entrepreneurial development, education and workforce training, and improved health.

These programs provide technical assistance and capacity-building as well as improving telecommunications and information technology to foster sustainable economic development.

ARC's assistance continues to be a crucial part of the region's economy and has enabled it to adjust to the elimination of major industries by identifying alternatives to provide jobs and attract outside investment.

Like the previously passed House bill, S. 1206 assists ARC in completing its important mission by requiring 50 percent of ARC project funds go to distressed counties and areas by creating a council to coordinate Federal economic development assistance in the region by assisting affordable access to technology and telecommunications through a new program initiative and by lowering the administrative costs for local development districts that include a distressed county.

The committee has worked very closely with the administration and the other body to produce a bipartisan and widely supported bill.

On that note, Madam Speaker, I want to extend personal thanks to Senator VOINOVICH of Ohio and his staff in the other body for working with us as we attempted to resolve the differences between the House-passed bill and the Senate bill that we are considering today.

I am happy to say that the passage of S. 1206 today will clear the measure to be sent to the President for his signature. I support the bill. I do want to commend and thank the leadership of our full committee, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG); and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member; also the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), who is not with us today but an outstanding ranking member of our subcommittee. We are honored to have our friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) with us today.

On the majority side, there are two Members who really contributed mightily to the effort as this bill moved through the House and now as we consider the Senate bill: first, a new member of our committee and our subcommittee, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), who came to me very early in her term and early in this session of Congress and indicated that the reauthorization of the Appalachian Regional Commission was one of her top, if not her top, legislative priority in this Congress. She has

been instrumental in making sure that this bill has gotten to where it is today. I want to publicly thank her.

Also to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS), who had additional counties that he sought to have represented by ARC, and he was like the proverbial tick on a dog making sure that that language withstood the discussions between the House and the Senate, and today S. 1206 bears the fruit of the gentleman's endeavors, and we are appreciative of his work as well.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would first like to commend my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for his diligence in moving this legislation through the House. I would also like to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO), the ranking Democrat on the subcommittee, who provided invaluable help and assistance in advancing the bill through the legislative process.

Madam Speaker, S. 1206, the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2002, authorizes appropriations for the Appalachian Regional Commission for 5 years.

The commission works to ensure the people and businesses of the Appalachian region have the knowledge, skills, and access to telecommunications and technology services necessary to compete in the knowledge-based economy of the United States.

The bill authorizes the President to establish an interagency coordinating council on Appalachia. Further, it establishes a telecommunications and technology initiative and an entrepreneurship initiative. These two initiatives are geared toward increasing access to not only telecommunications and technology, but also to providing access to business incubator services and to initiate sustainable businesses.

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The bill also promotes regional skills partnerships.

In June, 2000, the Appalachian Regional Commission issued a report that documented the return the American taxpayer gets for its investment in the Appalachian region. \$32.4 million in ARC funding for infrastructure produced 23,777 direct jobs and an estimated 20,954 indirect jobs. This same investment produced \$576.9 million in wages and \$14.3 million in State income taxes.

In my congressional district, the ARC approved a grant totaling \$350,000 to the Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation for improvements to the Schuylkill Highbridge Business

Park that is expected to result in the creating of 600 new jobs and the generation of over \$40 million in private sector investment.

Just as it has done since its inception, the ARC has proven it provides a fair return, both socially and economically, for the Federal Government's investment.

Madam Speaker, the Appalachian Regional Commission works. It has built a successful business strategy on a regional approach and serves as a model for other Federal, State and regional development partnerships.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill and urge my colleagues to join me in passing S. 1206.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield as much time as she might consume to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), who was instrumental in crafting this legislation.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1206, and I would like to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), for their whole-hearted support not only of my efforts in seeing this come to the floor today but in bringing it to the floor.

As a native of West Virginia, the only State that falls entirely within the bounds of the Appalachian Regional Commission's borders, I stand here today to recognize and applaud the tremendous work this economic development body performs to enhance Appalachia's economic landscape and to foster job growth.

America's investment in the ARC has accomplished great things in my home State of West Virginia to improve infrastructure and diversify local economies. These efforts will continue to foster better health care, workforce training, telecommunications and job creation.

Additionally, it has been shown that completed ARC projects generate higher than expected tax revenues for local and State economies. And with ARC reauthorization, these programs will have the added stability and long-term financial security that will bring about expanded economic development for our future.

Recent reports have indicated that every dollar of Federal funding for ARC leverages about \$58 more in private investment and traditional financing through local, State and Federal partnerships. But my support for the ARC is not only based on documented statistics. It is also based on my own personal experience working with the various regional development groups.

Just last year, the town of Wardensville, West Virginia, contacted me regarding the need for immediate assistance with the damaged sewer system. I contacted the ARC and was able to secure the necessary emergency funding which allowed the town to re-

pair the damage almost immediately. This is merely one example that typifies the numerous and diverse ways in which the ARC assists local communities.

As a side note, I would like to say 11 of the 20 counties that I represent in West Virginia are considered distressed economies in ARC's terminologies.

Whether it is building new roads, providing employee training or assisting local communities with flood damage, the ARC has proven itself to be a tremendous asset for West Virginia and the rest of the region.

I am especially grateful to the ARC for its commitment to improving the lives of my fellow West Virginians. As Congress seeks ways to enhance the livelihoods of not only West Virginians but also of all people of Appalachia, we must recognize the contributions of the ARC and immediately reauthorize it.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1206, the measure that we are considering at present.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation.

I know that the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS) wanted to be here to speak on this bill. I again, for the purposes of the RECORD, one of the county's names that escapes me, but I know that every time I saw the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS) he wanted Edmondson County, Edmondson County, Edmondson County included in this piece of legislation. It is included in this legislation thanks to his efforts, and the folks in Edmondson County should be thankful for his endeavors.

With that, I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased that the House will pass S. 1206, the "Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2002" today. This bill is nearly identical to HR 2501, a bill to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) that we passed in the House on August 2, 2001. The ARC gives grants to build highways, water and sewer systems, industrial parks and to develop health care programs and educational workforce training in distressed areas.

I am pleased that HR 2501 originated in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, of which I am a Member. I am also pleased that my constituent, Mike Whitt, the Executive Director of the Mingo County, West Virginia, Redevelopment Authority, testified on June 20, 2001, before the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management.

Mr. Whitt gave case studies of how ARC programs make a positive difference in the

lives of the people of West Virginia. When Mike Whitt testified, he told of how the ARC gave financial help to create the James H. Buck Harless Wood Products Industrial Park that was developed on a reclaimed strip mine site. This created 90 new jobs for my constituents to manufacture value added wood products.

In addition, the ARC gave Mingo County a big boost by helping its people get in to the aquaculture industry.

In the mid-90s, ARC funded a study conducted by the Freshwater Institute of abandoned mine waters in West Virginia. Mingo County and neighboring Logan County were identified as having water with enough volume and quality to generate 25–30 million pounds of arctic char—a fish belonging to the salmon family.

Mingo County has begun hatching fish in these mine waters. Then they ship the minnows to a grow-out farm in Logan County. This project has created nine new jobs so far for local residents, and Mr. Whitt projects about 40 additional new jobs will be created in the aquaculture industry for local residents.

Best of all, Mingo and Logan Counties are the only counties in West Virginia that will ship fresh arctic char to Boston's seafood market—and the ARC study of abandoned mine waters gave them their start.

Finally, regarding tourism, Mike Whitt was able to help to develop the Hatfield-McCoy Trails Recreation Project with the help of a \$100,000 grant from the ARC.

The Hatfield-McCoy Trail has become really popular with hikers. It has boosted travel and tourism in Mingo County. Motels that never had guests over the weekend are now filling up on weekends. Again, the ARC seed money for the project gave the Hatfield-McCoy Trail help with its development.

So we have an industrial park, aquaculture and tourism coming to Mingo County, thanks to ARC's helping hand, when previously Mingo County's residents relied almost solely on the coal mines for a job.

Mingo County is still on the ARC's list of distressed counties. The ARC is helping Mingo County to diversify, with funds to back up projects, and working hand-in-hand with good people like Mike Whitt, whose goal is to take Mingo County off the ARC distressed counties list.

The entire state of West Virginia is included in the ARC jurisdiction, along with parts of 12 other states ranging from the far North of the Deep South: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Today's bill will authorize \$446 million for ARC programs from fiscal years 2002–2006. Because two of my goals in Congress are to bridge the digital divide and to create jobs, I am pleased that the bill includes a Telecommunications and Information Technology Initiative and an emphasis on boosting job skills.

First of all, the Telecommunications and Information Technology initiative is authorized for \$33 million from fiscal years 2002–2006 in order to develop the telecommunications infrastructure in Appalachia, so that rural and small towns will not be left behind in the Information Age.

This means that students in West Virginia, and all of Appalachia, will have remote access to course materials that previously were only available in more affluent, urban areas.

For job creation, S. 1206 provides that the ARC can enter into partnerships with educational institutions, not-for-profit organizations, state and local governments and unions to provide job training to boost the local economy in West Virginia and throughout Appalachia.

Finally, S. 1206 contains an "Entrepreneurship Regional Initiative" to help local entrepreneurs throughout Appalachia to start and expand local businesses. This will be done by providing local business persons with more capital and education and training.

Madam Speaker, the ARC is a true example of results and has been a model for developing other organizations to help citizens like the Delta Regional Authority which serves 236 counties in federal-state partnerships in eight states: Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri and Tennessee.

The reason the ARC has been used as a model is because, through its programs, the ARC has helped people to help themselves by giving them a start in health care, education, business development, and in building highways and water and sewer infrastructures, along with bridging the digital divide, which is so vital in today's world.

I could not be more pleased that the House will pass this bill today, and I look forward to the seeing the president sign the bill expeditiously.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1206.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO PEOPLE OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) expressing sympathy to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17, 2002, and supporting an increase in the amount of assistance provided by the United States to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 304

Whereas on January 17, 2002, the Nyiragongo volcano, which stands 11,380 feet high and is located 6 miles north of the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, began to erupt without warning;

Whereas 147 people lost their lives and 150,000 people have been displaced as a result of the recent Nyiragongo eruption;

Whereas the recent Nyiragongo eruption is the most destructive volcanic eruption to occur in Africa during the last 25 years;

Whereas the lava flow from the recent Nyiragongo eruption was a mile wide in

places and destroyed the cathedral and water plant of Goma and countless villages and buildings;

Whereas dangers from fires, toxic fumes, reoccurring tremors, and natural methane gas under Lake Kivu continue to plague the Goma region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas the recent Nyiragongo eruption destroyed crops and contaminated the main water supply of Goma;

Whereas the suddenness of the recent Nyiragongo eruption resulted in the separation of many children from their parents;

Whereas the United States has provided assistance valued at \$4,400,000 for food, water, sanitation, and town planning to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo affected by the recent Nyiragongo eruption;

Whereas the Office of United States Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has made available additional funds for assistance to the people affected by the recent Nyiragongo eruption; and

Whereas the Governments of the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Belgium have also offered assistance to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress expresses its deepest sympathies and condolences to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo who were tragically affected by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano on January 17, 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

This resolution is sponsored by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), two Members of the House Subcommittee on Africa which I chair, and this expression of support deserves the support of the House.

On January 17, the Nyiragongo volcano erupted and spewed white-hot lava on Goma, a city on the shores of Lake Kivu in eastern Congo; and that eruption disrupted the lives of one-half million people. Over 100 people lost their lives in the initial stage, 150,000 were displaced by the lava flow, and that lava flow was a mile wide in some places. Then the eruption destroyed the water plant, the homes, part of the airport, the crops and an important part of the business district. This natural catastrophe increased the already dire humanitarian situation of a people