

offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 254.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN 5-CENT COIN DESIGN CONTINUITY ACT OF 2003

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 258) to ensure continuity for the design of the 5-cent coin, establish the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 258

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 "American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act of 2003".

TITLE I—U.S. 5-CENT COIN DESIGN CONTINUITY

SEC. 101. DESIGNS ON THE 5-CENT COIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b) and after consulting with the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and the Commission of Fine Arts, the Secretary of the Treasury may change the design on the obverse and the reverse of the 5-cent coin for coins issued in 2003, 2004, and 2005 in recognition of the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

(b) DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS.—

(1) OVERSE.—If the Secretary of the Treasury elects to change the obverse of 5-cent coins issued during 2003, 2004, and 2005, the design shall depict a likeness of President Thomas Jefferson, different from the likeness that appeared on the obverse of the 5-cent coins issued during 2002, in recognition of his role with respect to the Louisiana Purchase and the commissioning of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

(2) REVERSE.—If the Secretary of the Treasury elects to change the reverse of the 5-cent coins issued during 2003, 2004, and 2005, the design selected shall depict images that are emblematic of the Louisiana Purchase or the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

(3) OTHER INSCRIPTIONS.—5-cent coins issued during 2003, 2004, and 2005 shall continue to meet all other requirements for inscriptions and designations applicable to circulating coins under section 5112(d)(1) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 102. DESIGNS ON THE 5-CENT COIN SUBSEQUENT TO THE RECOGNITION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE AND THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5112(d)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the 4th sentence the following new sentence: "Subject to other provisions of this subsection, the obverse of any 5-cent coin issued after December 31, 2005, shall bear the likeness of Thomas Jefferson and the reverse of any such 5-cent coin shall bear an image of the home of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello."

(b) DESIGN CONSULTATION.—The 2d sentence of section 5112(d)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting ", after consulting with the Citizens Coinage Advi-

sory Committee and the Commission of Fine Arts," after "The Secretary may".

SEC. 103. CITIZENS COINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5135 of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 5135. Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee') to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on the selection of themes and designs for coins.

"(2) OVERSIGHT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The Advisory Committee shall be subject to the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Secretary').

"(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Advisory Committee shall consist of 11 members appointed by the Secretary as follows:

"(A) 7 persons appointed by the Secretary—

"(i) 1 of whom shall be appointed from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience as a nationally or internationally recognized curator in the United States of a numismatic collection;

"(ii) 1 of whom shall be appointed from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their experience in the medallic arts or sculpture;

"(iii) 1 of whom shall be appointed from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience in American history;

"(iv) 1 of whom shall be appointed from among individuals who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience in numismatics; and

"(v) 3 of whom shall be appointed from among individuals who can represent the interests of the general public in the coinage of the United States.

"(B) 4 persons appointed by the Secretary on the basis of the recommendations of the following officials who shall make the selection for such recommendation from among citizens who are specially qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of their education, training, or experience:

"(i) 1 person recommended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"(ii) 1 person recommended by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

"(iii) 1 person recommended by the majority leader of the Senate.

"(iv) 1 person recommended by the minority leader of the Senate.

"(2) TERMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 4 years.

"(B) TERMS OF INITIAL APPOINTEES.—As designated by the Secretary at the time of appointment, of the members first appointed—

"(i) 4 of the members appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall be appointed for a term of 4 years;

"(ii) the 4 members appointed under paragraph (1)(B) shall be appointed for a term of 3 years; and

"(iii) 3 of the members appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years.

"(3) PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ADVISORY STATUS.—No individual may be appointed to

the Advisory Committee while serving as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

"(4) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—Each appointed member may continue to serve for up to 6 months after the expiration of the term of office to which such member was appointed until a successor has been appointed.

"(5) VACANCY AND REMOVAL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

"(B) REMOVAL.—Advisory Committee members shall serve at the discretion of the Secretary and may be removed at any time for good cause.

"(6) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 1 year by the Secretary from among the members of the Advisory Committee.

"(7) PAY AND EXPENSES.—Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without pay for such service but each member of the Advisory Committee shall be reimbursed from the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund for travel, lodging, meals, and incidental expenses incurred in connection with attendance of such members at meetings of the Advisory Committee in the same amounts and under the same conditions as employees of the United States Mint who engage in official travel, as determined by the Secretary.

"(8) MEETINGS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary, the chairperson, or a majority of the members, but not less frequently than twice annually.

"(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—Each meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be open to the public.

"(C) PRIOR NOTICE OF MEETINGS.—Timely notice of each meeting of the Advisory Committee shall be published in the Federal Register, and timely notice of each meeting shall be made to trade publications and publications of general circulation.

"(9) QUORUM.—7 members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

"(c) DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The duties of the Advisory Committee are as follows:

"(1) Advising the Secretary of the Treasury on any theme or design proposals relating to circulating coinage, bullion coinage, congressional gold medals and national and other medals produced by the Secretary of the Treasury in accordance with section 5111 of title 31, United States Code.

"(2) Advising the Secretary of the Treasury with regard to—

"(A) the events, persons, or places that the Advisory Committee recommends be commemorated by the issuance of commemorative coins in each of the 5 calendar years succeeding the year in which a commemorative coin designation is made;

"(B) the mintage level for any commemorative coin recommended under subparagraph (A); and

"(C) the proposed designs for commemorative coins.

"(d) EXPENSES.—The expenses of the Advisory Committee that the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be reasonable and appropriate shall be paid by the Secretary from the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

"(e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND ADVICE.—Upon the request of the Advisory Committee, or as necessary for the Advisory Committee to carry out the responsibilities of the Advisory Committee under this section, the Director of the

United States Mint shall provide to the Advisory Committee the administrative support, technical services, and advice that the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be reasonable and appropriate.

“(f) CONSULTATION AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the duties of the Advisory Committee under this section, the Advisory Committee may consult with the Commission of Fine Arts.

“(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30 of each year, the Advisory Committee shall submit a report to the Secretary, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate. Should circumstances arise in which the Advisory Committee cannot meet the September 30 deadline in any year, the Secretary shall advise the Chairpersons of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate of the reasons for such delay and the date on which the submission of the report is anticipated.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall describe the activities of the Advisory Committee during the preceding year and the reports and recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(h) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT DOES NOT APPLY.—Subject to the requirements of subsection (b)(8), the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply with respect to the Committee.”

(b) ABOLISHMENT OF CITIZENS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee (established by section 5135 of title 31, United States Code, as in effect before the amendment made by subsection (a)) is hereby abolished.

(c) CONTINUITY OF MEMBERS OF CITIZENS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Subject to paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 5135(b) of title 31, United States Code, any person who is a member of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee on the date of the enactment of this Act, other than the member of such committee who is appointed from among the officers or employees of the United States Mint, may continue to serve the remainder of the term to which such member was appointed as a member of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee in one of the positions as determined by the Secretary.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 5112(l)(4)(A)(ii) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee” and inserting “Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee”.

(2) Section 5134(c) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (4); and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

TITLE II—TECHNICAL AND CLARIFYING PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING LAW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) PAYMENT OF SURCHARGES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amount derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of any numismatic item shall be paid from the fund to any designated recipient organization unless—

“(i) all numismatic operation and program costs allocable to the program under which

such numismatic item is produced and sold have been recovered; and

“(ii) the designated recipient organization submits an audited financial statement that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Secretary, that, with respect to all projects or purposes for which the proceeds of such surcharge may be used, the organization has raised funds from private sources for such projects and purposes in an amount that is equal to or greater than the total amount of the proceeds of such surcharge derived from the sale of such numismatic item.

“(B) UNPAID AMOUNTS.—If any amount derived from the proceeds of any surcharge imposed on the sale of any numismatic item that may otherwise be paid from the fund, under any provision of law relating to such numismatic item, to any designated recipient organization remains unpaid to such organization solely by reason of the matching fund requirement contained in subparagraph (A)(ii) after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the later of—

“(i) the last day any such numismatic item is issued by the Secretary; or

“(ii) the date of the enactment of the American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act of 2003,

such unpaid amount shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply as of the date of the enactment of Public Law 104-208.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 258.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act which is almost identical to H.R. 4903 that passed the House unanimously on July 22, 2002. This legislation will allow the U.S. Mint to remove Monticello from the nickel for the next 3 years to recognize the Louisiana Purchase and historic Lewis and Clark expedition, two great accomplishments of Jefferson's Presidency. After 3 years Monticello, the Virginia home of President Thomas Jefferson, will be returned to the reverse side of the nickel. Additionally, the bill would establish a Citizens Coin Design Advisory Committee that reports directly to the Secretary of the Treasury. The purpose of the committee would be to advise the Sec-

retary on the design or redesign of coins and medals, providing a broad range of input from professional and citizen representatives. I believe that the Treasury Secretary needs a second independent opinion on proposals to redesign circulating coinage and on other mint products, and this committee will provide that opinion.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill will clarify congressional intent regarding the disbursement of surcharges raised through the sale of Mint-produced commemorative coins. Mr. Speaker, this bill represents the bipartisan work of the entire Virginia delegation. I want to thank them because it will result in honoring the courageous Lewis and Clark expedition and its benefactor, Thomas Jefferson. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 258 today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act (H.R. 258), which is almost identical to H.R. 4903 that passed the House unanimously on July 22, 2002.

This legislation will allow the U.S. Mint to remove Monticello from the nickel for the next 3 years to recognize the Louisiana purchase and historic Lewis and Clark expedition, two great accomplishments of Jefferson's presidency. After 3 years Monticello, the Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson, will be returned to the reverse side of the nickel.

Additionally, H.R. 258 would establish a Citizens Coin Design Advisory Committee that reports directly to the Secretary of the Treasury. The purpose of the committee would be to advise the Secretary on the design or redesign of coins and medals, providing a broad range of input from professional and citizen representatives. I believe the Treasury Secretary needs a second, independent, opinion on proposals to redesign circulating coinage, and on other Mint products and this committee will provide that opinion.

Finally, H.R. 258 will clarify Congressional intent regarding the disbursement of surcharges raised through the sale of Mint-produced commemorative coins.

This correction will allow the University of Virginia and several other organizations access to funds from pre-existing commemorative coins at no cost to the American taxpayer.

I originally introduced this legislation after representatives from the mint came to my office last summer and informed me that the image of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello would be removed from the reverse of the nickel and would be replaced by a questionable image to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Although I fully support celebrating the great achievements of the Corps of Discovery, I was surprised by the way the Mint made its decision on this issue.

The Treasury Department has the authority to change the nickel once every 25 years, and this new design was presented as the replacement for Monticello. I learned from the Mint representatives that this new design was chosen internally without input from the American people or Congress. Even more disturbing, I also learned the Mint planned to announce its redesign shortly after our meeting.

I was concerned about the Mint's plan because Jefferson's beloved Monticello represents so much to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and to all Americans,

But, I also feared that the new design being proposed was reminiscent of the Sacagawea experience that has been extremely unpopular with the American public.

Monticello is the autobiographical masterpiece of Thomas Jefferson or as he called it, his "essay in architecture" and is recognized as an international treasure. It is the only home in America on the World Heritage List of sites that must be protected at all costs. At his beloved Monticello, Jefferson assumed his place in history as one of the greatest public servants of all time, shaping, debating, and honing his beliefs in liberty, democracy, and equality for all.

H.R. 258 authorized the Mint to implement a four-year plan that will change the design on the reverse side of the nickel for 2003, 2004, and 2005 in order to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 2006, Monticello will return to the reverse of the nickel and this coin will become the new circulating 5 cent piece.

Additionally, so that we don't experience another Sacagawea type failure, my bill provides a mechanism to ensure public input is considered during the redesign of our coinage.

The bill creates an independent Coin Design Advisory Committee which will make recommendations to the Secretary of the Treasury as to the appropriate designs for the Lewis and Clark series and all future coin redesigns.

I emphasize the word independent. Mr. Speaker, this panel is not intended to merely ratify proposals, but is intended to be able to speak with its own voice.

It will review all designs or redesigns of circulating and commemorative coins and of Congressional Gold Medals ideas that the Mint puts forward. This committee will be made up of a coin collector, an internationally recognized coin museum curator, an expert in American history, and either a sculptor or a medallist—all appointed by the Treasury Secretary—as well as four persons named by the leadership in the House and Senate. It will be able to provide the Secretary with a broad range of expertise and input to ensure that any redesign of circulating coinage, as well as the designs for commemorative coins and Congressional Gold Medals, be artistically appropriate and consistent with broad American themes and values.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, unlike a predecessor design review panel that reported to the Mint and considered only commemorative coin designs, this panel will meet in public.

Additionally, Title II of my legislation clarifies language in the Commemorative Coin Reform Act of 1995 regarding the distribution of surcharge money raised by this sale of commemorative coins. That legislation specified that no surcharges were to be paid out until taxpayers had been repaid for the cost of the program, reforming a commemorative coins program that had cost taxpayers tens of millions of dollars in the past.

After taxpayer costs were recovered, it specified that beneficiary organizations enumerated in the enabling legislation can benefit from these surcharges.

H.R. 258 clarifies the intent of the specified disbursement procedure. Two programs have not received any surcharge disbursement despite having raised substantial private funds: the Black Revolutionary War Patriots coin program and the Leif Ericson coin program.

The University of Virginia will benefit from this change and be able to fund a student exchange program with Iceland, that will help foster Jeffersonian ideals between these two long standing democracies.

Mr. Speaker, this bill represents the bipartisan work of the entire Virginia delegation and will result in honoring the courageous Lewis and Clark expedition and its benefactor, Thomas Jefferson. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 258 today.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of legislation that will preserve Monticello on the United States nickel. All Americans are familiar with the role Thomas Jefferson played in our Nation's founding. Jefferson was the third President of the United States, author of the Declaration of Independence, and the founder of the University of Virginia. Thomas Jefferson's beautiful home, Monticello, was where one of America's foremost thinkers produced many of his finest writings and great work. Monticello still stands outside of Charlottesville, Virginia, and it is appropriate that we preserve its place in our national heritage upon our national coinage.

This year marks the 200th year celebration of the Louisiana Purchase and the voyage of Lewis and Clark into the western frontier. In an effort to recognize this important journey, the United States Mint has proposed celebrating this anniversary by commemorating the voyage and discoveries of Lewis and Clark on the nickel. The intent of the legislation we are considering today is to allow this anniversary to be celebrated while mandating that Monticello will return to the nickel after the celebration of Lewis and Clark.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), whose district contains Monticello, has put forth a plan to allow the U.S. Mint to commemorate the journey of Lewis and Clark on the nickel for 3 years, after which the nickel will revert to the Monticello portrait in 2006.

The likeness of Thomas Jefferson and Monticello is a fixture on our national coinage. This legislation ensures that the memory and importance we hold for the author of our Declaration of Independence will be preserved while we celebrate the achievements of Lewis and Clark. Additionally, title II of this legislation makes technical changes to the Commemorative Coin Reform Act enacted in 1995. These changes are intended to make coin programs operate more smoothly.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) for his leadership on this bill. I know he has worked with the Mint and Treasury to resolve the issues that were raised, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE).

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I too want to salute the Congressman from Vir-

ginia's Seventh District for crafting this bipartisan measure covering in a fine way the interest of all the stakeholders. The original Mint proposal was to remove both the current Thomas Jefferson and Monticello from the nickel. Needless to say, that proposal created an uproar in central Virginia, which is home to Thomas Jefferson and Monticello, the dwelling of our Nation's third President.

Under this proposal the nickel will feature scenes from the discovery of Lewis and Clark and the Louisiana Purchase. That journey of Lewis and Clark which left St. Louis in 1804 had its beginnings in Charlottesville on January 18, 1803, when Jefferson requested funding from Congress for the Lewis and Clark expedition. In 2006 the nickel will return to its original front of Thomas Jefferson and the reverse of Monticello in a design similar to that which has been in place since 1938. I hope it will be the pleasure of this body to overwhelmingly pass this measure and lay the foundation for its enactment this year.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Washington (Mr. BAIRD) where Lewis and Clark reached their final destination.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I thank my good friend from the State of Virginia. It is appropriate that I follow him because, whereas the journey of Lewis and Clark began in his great district, it ended in mine, at least the first half of it. They went back home afterwards. But it is a great privilege and honor to represent the great State of Washington where Lewis and Clark, almost 200 years ago now, arrived at the coast, looked out across that ocean, hoping they would find a ship. They saw none, and they had to winter over across the river in the gentleman from Oregon's (Mr. WU) district.

But this commemoration is a chance not only to celebrate the accomplishments of Lewis and Clark but also the contributions of the Native Americans who helped them along their way to reinvigorate this Nation's spirit of adventure at a time when we sorely need it. By changing the nickel temporarily in this fashion, we can honor Lewis and Clark and also honor that great man, Thomas Jefferson, who sent them on the way.

I rise in strong support of this, thank my colleagues for their leadership on it, and hope the American people will find new inspiration when they use this nickel with the new design.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the legislation. I

am a co-chairman of the Lewis and Clark Caucus here in Congress. There is an equivalent effort in the Senate. We have been functioning for several years. The Members that have just spoken, from Virginia and Washington State, are certainly members of that. I think it is an outstanding item of legislation we have before us.

Just this January the celebration of the Corps of Exploration, which will continue through 2006, began at Monticello. I know the gentleman undoubtedly was very proud of that event, and now I think we will have many celebrations and commemorations for the next several years to celebrate the bicentennial of the Corps of Exploration. This gives additional attention to this dramatic involvement of American history, and I rise in support and ask the Members of the body to support it.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of the legislation, for all the underlying reasons that we have here.

I would like to just mention one other aspect, and I will submit a statement in full with respect to this. But the commemorative coin reform language, which required the beneficiary organization to raise private funds matching the surcharge they receive, has been misinterpreted by the Mint in a well-intentioned but unfortunate mix-up that has resulted in two coin program beneficiaries not receiving any surcharge distribution despite their coins having sold respectable numbers and having raised respectable amounts of private matching funds. They interpret the legislation that one had to sell to the maximum amount; and we believe one should have to sell to the minimum amount, to make a long story short.

This is something which we think should be corrected for these groups and long term. We spent a lot of time working with the subcommittee when I headed it, trying to make sure that we did not lean on public funding for these programs, but groups could benefit from it as they made proper sales. To make a long story short, that is essentially what is included in this legislation along with the Lewis and Clark, and I will submit a fuller explanation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to explain why I believe Mr. CANTOR'S "American 5-Cent Coin Continuity Act" is important.

When I served as chairman of the old House Banking Committee's Domestic and International Monetary Policy subcommittee from 1995–98, a central portion of the subcommittee's business dealing with the United States Mint focused on increasing the usefulness of circulating coins and on reforming the nation's commemorative coin program, which had begun to cost taxpayers fairly large sums of money.

When reform of the commemorative coin program, we eliminated the costs to the taxpayer, limited the number of coin programs each year to enhance their importance and

desirability, and established the important principle that a group that is the beneficiary of the surcharges from the sale of commemorative coins should not view that as "free money," but should have to raise matching funds from the private sector before receiving the surcharge money.

The second title of this bill clarifies the surcharge-distribution section of any commemorative-coin reform language. That language, requiring the beneficiary organization to raise private funds matching the surcharges they receive, has been misinterpreted by the Mint in a well-intentioned, but unfortunate mixup that has resulted in two coin program beneficiaries not receiving any surcharge distribution despite their coins having sold respectable numbers and having raised respectable amounts of private matching funds. Both the Black Revolutionary War Patriots program and the Leif Ericson program would likely be eligible for surcharge distribution. As before, this involves no taxpayer funds whatsoever.

To make sure there is no further confusion about how the matching is supposed to work, I want to take a moment to illustrate it with an example. In a case where the maximum possible surcharges that could be collected for the commemorative coin was \$5 million, but the Mint only managed to sell enough coins to collect \$3 million in surcharges, the private matching funds that would have to be raised to collect any portion of the \$3 million in surcharges must be \$3 million, nothing less. The intent is to set a high bar for matching funds so those programs with the most public support, as demonstrated through their ability to raise private matching funds, receive the surcharges. If the bar for matching funds were set too low, the commemorative coin program would be flooded with programs in search of "free" federal dollars.

Mr. Speaker, there is no cost involved in this bill at all. In fact, if our experience with the 50-state quarters is any guide, there may even be a modest gain to the Treasury, as some coins are taken out of circulation permanently as collectibles. So Mr. Speaker, I see this as one of the rare pieces of legislation we handle around here that has bipartisan support and for which there are no losers, only winners. I urge its immediate, unanimous passage.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation and am pleased to join the other members of the Virginia Delegation in supporting The American 5-Cent Coin Design Continuity Act of 2003.

The strong support this bill has received from the Virginia Delegation is evidence of how important this bill is to preserving important symbols of American History.

As you all know, the Nickel currently displays a likeness of Thomas Jefferson on its face in addition to view of Monticello, Jefferson's home, on the reverse.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and the Fourth President of the United States, is one of eight great men who rose to become President for Virginia, and is a source of great pride for not only Virginians, but for all Americans.

H.R. 258 was introduced to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the new territory acquired through the Louisiana Purchase.

Earlier this year I was honored to attend the Commencement Ceremony of the Lewis and

Clark Bicentennial at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson outside of Charlottesville, Virginia, where the expedition began in 1803.

From 2003 through 2006 our nation will observe the bicentennial of this incredible journey, this will also serve as the 200-year anniversary as the complete nation Jefferson envisioned.

H.R. 258 would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign the Nickel over a four-year period to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. At the end of this period the nickel would revert to being a permanent tribute to Thomas Jefferson and Monticello, which are of invaluable historical importance to our great nation.

A similar bill was passed in the 107th Congress by the House on July 22, 2002. The bill was referred to the Senate where unfortunately no action was taken during the 107th Congress.

I urge all members to support this important piece of legislation that not only commemorates two brave explorers, but also ensures that a great symbol of American history is preserved.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about the bicentennial of the Voyage of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. As you know, Lewis and Clark were true pioneers who are integral to the history of my home state of Oregon. The final destination of their journey, was, after all, the Pacific Coast of Oregon. In fact, they spent a winter, and discovered a beached whale, just a few short miles north of my district. One might say that, if there were not so courageous and brave to make the difficult journey that they did, neither I nor the other representatives from the Pacific Northwest would be here in Congress today! Well, I for one am very thankful that they completed that journey!

I'm excited and encouraged by the legislation before our committee today to honor the bicentennial of the Voyage of Lewis and Clark. In these troubling times, when fear seems all too commonplace, I believe it is important for all of us to look to those great adventurers that helped make this country what it is, and to take heart in the courage, perseverance, and dedication with which they overcame their own obstacles.

Thank you again Mr. Speaker for the opportunity to offer my support for this legislation.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 258, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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.