

Mr. Speaker, the people of the Virgin Islands see it as only fitting that we, along with the residents and citizens of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia should also have the opportunity to educate our fellow Americans on whose side we have fought to defend and protect our Nation in every conflict from the Revolutionary War to the present day about our unique qualities, as well as promote our pride at being Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the champion of the original bill, and our ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), for including the District of Columbia and our territories, and I particularly want to also extend our gratitude to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia because it was her leadership and dogged determination that made this day possible, and I ask my colleagues to support her in our effort and vote "yes" on H.R. 2993.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, with renewed appreciation of the gentleman from Delaware and the gentleman from Ohio, the chairman of the full committee, for allowing this measure, so important to so many of our colleagues, to come forward, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will be very brief. I just want to thank the representatives from the various territories and from the District of Columbia for actual historical lessons here on the floor. I think it behooves all of us, I recall those comments of the gentleman from Nebraska next to me, that perhaps putting the territories and District of Columbia on the quarter is more important than the States in some ways as this is such a good educational tool for our young people. So, hopefully, we will get that done this year.

Based on all I have heard, I think the problem is in the Senate, not the House. So we all need to go to work over in the Senate and get this done.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2993, the "District of Columbia and United States Territories Circulating Quarter Dollar Program Act," and urge its immediate passage.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how fond the American people are of the 50-State quarter program that began in 1999. It has proved popular with collectors, of course, and it has caused all Americans to look at the change in their pockets or their purses in a new light. It has been an invaluable aid in teaching about the unique nature of each state.

All Members salute the gentleman from Delaware, Mr. CASTLE, for his foresight in authoring that legislation. Today we consider a completely separate program, one that is modeled on, but is not part of the State quarter program. Instead of honoring five States a year for a decade, this program will issue six different quarters, for the District of Columbia and the five territories, all in a single year.

Surely, the District of Columbia and the five territories will benefit in similar fashion as the

states have. I think this program will be of particular benefit regarding the territories, which are not as well-known, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, of Guam and the United States Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

I have learned a lot about the territories from previous debates on similar legislation in previous Congresses, Mr. Speaker, and I think this legislation will be educational as well.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us has passed the House in a number of Congresses, passing by both recorded and voice votes. I know of no objection to it, and I urge all Members to support its immediate passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2993.

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. CASTLE. 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.

AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 254) to authorize the President of the United States to agree to certain amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States concerning the establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:
Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION. 1. AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT; GRANT AUTHORITY.

(a) AMENDMENT AUTHORITY.—Part 2 of subtitle D of title V of Public Law 103-182 (22 U.S.C. 290m-290m-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 545. AUTHORITY TO AGREE TO CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

"The President may agree to amendments to the Cooperation Agreement that—

"(1) enable the Bank to make grants and non-market rate loans out of its paid-in capital resources with the approval of its Board; and

"(2) amend the definition of 'border region' to include the area in the United States that is within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mex-

ico, and the area in Mexico that is within 300 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico."

(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—Part 2 of subtitle D of title V of Public Law 103-182 (22 U.S.C. 290m-290m-3), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 546. GRANTS OUT OF PAID-IN CAPITAL RESOURCES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall instruct the United States Federal Government representatives on the Board of Directors of the North American Development Bank to oppose any proposal where grants out of the Bank's paid-in capital resources, except for grants from paid-in capital authorized for the community adjustment and investment program under the Bank's charter of 1993, would—

"(1) be made to a project that is not being financed, in part, by loans; or

"(2) account for more than 50 percent of the financing of any individual project.

"(b) EXCEPTION.—

"(1) GENERAL RULE.—The requirements of subsection (a) shall not apply in cases where—

"(A) the President determines there are exceptional economic circumstances for making the grant and consults with the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; or

"(B)(i) the grant is being made for a project that is so small that obtaining a loan is impractical; and

"(ii) the grant does not exceed \$250,000.

"(2) LIMITATION.—Not more than an aggregate of \$5,000,000 in grants may be made under this subsection."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1(b) of such public law is amended in the table of contents by inserting after the item relating to section 544 the following:

"Sec. 545. Authority to agree to certain amendments to the Border Environment Cooperation Agreement.

"Sec. 546. Grants out of paid-in capital resources."

SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall submit annually to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a written report on the North American Development Bank, which addresses the following issues:

(1) The number and description of the projects that the North American Development Bank has approved. The description shall include the level of market-rate loans, non-market-rate loans, and grants used in an approved project, and a description of whether an approved project is located within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico or within 300 kilometers of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico.

(2) The number and description of the approved projects in which money has been dispersed.

(3) The number and description of the projects which have been certified by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, but yet not financed by the North American Development Bank, and the reasons that the projects have not yet been financed.

(4) The total of the paid-in capital, callable capital, and retained earnings of the North American Development Bank, and the uses of such amounts.

(5) A description of any efforts and discussions between the United States and Mexican governments to expand the type of projects which the North American Development Bank finances beyond environmental projects.

(6) A description of any efforts and discussions between the United States and Mexican governments to improve the effectiveness of the North American Development Bank.

(7) The number and description of projects authorized under the Water Conservation Investment Fund of the North American Development Bank.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR NADBANK PROJECTS WHICH FINANCE WATER CONSERVATION FOR TEXAS IRRIGATORS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE RIVER VALLEY.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) Texas irrigators and agricultural producers are suffering enormous hardships in the lower Rio Grande River valley because of Mexico's failure to abide by the 1944 Water Treaty entered into by the United States and Mexico;

(2) over the last 10 years, Mexico has accumulated a 1,500,000-acre fee water debt to the United States which has resulted in a very minimal and inadequate irrigation water supply in Texas;

(3) recent studies by Texas A&M University show that water savings of 30 percent or more can be achieved by improvements in irrigation system infrastructure such as canal lining and metering;

(4) on August 20, 2002, the Board of the North American Development Bank agreed to the creation in the Bank of a Water Conservation Investment Fund, as required by Minute 308 to the 1944 Water Treaty, which was an agreement signed by the United States and Mexico on June 28, 2002; and

(5) the Water Conservation Investment Fund of the North American Development Bank stated that up to \$80,000,000 would be available for grant financing of water conservation projects, which grant funds would be divided equally between the United States and Mexico.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) water conservation projects are eligible for funding from the North American Development Bank under the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank; and

(2) the Board of the North American Development Bank should support qualified water conservation projects which can assist Texas irrigators and agricultural producers in the lower Rio Grande River Valley.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR NADBANK PROJECTS WHICH FINANCE WATER CONSERVATION IN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA.

It is the sense of the Congress that the Board of the North American Development Bank should support—

(1) the development of qualified water conservation projects in southern California and other eligible areas in the 4 United States border States, including the conjunctive use and storage of surface and ground water, delivery system conservation, the re-regulation of reservoirs, improved irrigation practices, wastewater reclamation, regional water management modeling, operational and optimization studies to improve water conservation, and cross-border water exchanges consistent with treaties; and

(2) new water supply research and projects along the Mexico border in southern California and other eligible areas in the 4 United States border States to desalinate ocean seawater and brackish surface and groundwater, and dispose of or manage the brines resulting from desalination.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RELATING TO UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR NADBANK PROJECTS FOR WHICH FINANCE WATER CONSERVATION FOR IRRIGATORS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE SOUTHWEST UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Irrigators and agricultural producers are suffering enormous hardships in the southwest United States. The border States of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas are suffering from one of the worst droughts in history. In Arizona, this is the second driest period in recorded history and the worst since 1904.

(2) In spite of decades of water conservation in the southwest United States, irrigated agriculture uses more than 60 percent of surface and ground water.

(3) The most inadequate water supplies in the United States are in the Southwest, including the lower Colorado River basin and the Great Plains River basins south of the Platte River. In these areas, 70 percent of the water taken from the stream is not returned.

(4) The amount of water being pumped out of groundwater sources in many areas is greater than the amount being replenished, thus depleting the groundwater supply.

(5) On August 20, 2002, the Board of the North American Development Bank agreed to the creation in the bank of a Water Conservation Investment Fund.

(6) The Water Conservation Investment Fund of the North American Development Bank stated that up to \$80,000,000 would be available for grant financing of water conservation projects, which grant funds would be divided equally between the United States and Mexico.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) water conservation projects are eligible for funding from the North American Development Bank under the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank;

(2) the Board of the North American Development Bank should support qualified water conservation projects that can assist irrigators and agricultural producers; and

(3) the Board of the North American Development Bank should take into consideration the needs of all of the border states before approving funding for water projects, and strive to fund water conservation projects in each of the border states.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING FINANCING OF PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Board of the North American Development Bank should support the financing of projects, on both sides of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico, that address coastal issues and the problem of pollution in both countries having an environmental impact along the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of Mexico shores of the United States and Mexico.

(b) AIR POLLUTION.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Board of the North American Development Bank should support the financing of projects, on both sides of the international boundary between the United States and Mexico, which address air pollution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. 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 include extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his support for H.R. 254, as amended by the Senate. This bill makes necessary changes to the charter agreement of the North American Development Bank, or NADBank. This bill, which this Member reintroduced on January 8, 2003, contains legislative changes requested by the administration. This legislation passed the House on February 26, 2003. Over a year later, the Senate did pass H.R. 254, with an amendment, on March 12 of this year.

First, this Member would like to thank both the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, and the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for their efforts in bringing this measure to the House floor.

I would also like to thank the following four members of the House Committee on Financial Services who are original cosponsors of this legislation: two distinguished gentlemen from California (Mr. OSE) and (Mr. ROYCE) and two distinguished gentlemen from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) and (Mr. HINOJOSA). All four of these Members, who provided valuable input into H.R. 254, have a distinct interest in this subject, as they come from a State, either California or Texas, where the NADBank is commissioned to work along the international U.S.-Mexican boundary.

In addition to these Members, the following Members are seven additional bipartisan cosponsors of H.R. 254: the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA); the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA); the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES); and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ). All of these Members, with the exception of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), represent a portion of the U.S.-Mexican border.

In this Member's opening statement on H.R. 254, he would like to briefly discuss the following three items: the background on the NADBank; the contents of H.R. 254; and the description of the Senate amendment to H.R. 254.

First, as to background, during the 1993 debate on the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, environmental issues emerged. A particular concern was that NAFTA could result in the industrialization and population growth in the U.S.-Mexico border region, which could further exacerbate pollution problems in the area. In addition, during the NAFTA debate, some Members of Congress were concerned that the perceived lax enforcement of environmental laws by the Republic of Mexico would not be sufficient.

As a result of these factors, which were raised in the NAFTA debate, the

U.S. and Mexico agreed to create the NADBank which was charged with financing environmental infrastructure projects on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico international boundary. The NADBank currently assists communities within 100 kilometers of the U.S.-Mexico border by financing environmental infrastructure projects that address the need for waste water treatment, drinking water, and disposal of municipal solid waste.

As the administration has testified, the NADBank's overall performance thus far has been inadequate and unsatisfactory. As of March 10, for example, of this year, the NADBank had approved only approximately \$96.4 million in loans to projects and disbursed only \$20.8 million in loans, despite having \$450 million in scheduled paid-in capital and a total lending capacity of \$3 billion.

In order to address the inadequacies of the NADBank, U.S. President Bush and Mexican President Fox came forth with a joint agreement which was announced in Monterrey, Mexico, in March of 2002. Two of the provisions in this joint agreement require U.S. congressional approval as they are amendments to the Border Environment Cooperation Agreement which established the NADBank.

Of the second thing, the legislation before us today includes the following changes agreed to by Presidents Bush and Fox. These provisions are as follows:

Number one, NADBank would be able to make grants and nonmarket rate loans out of its paid-in capital resources with the approval of the board of directors. Currently, NADBank can only finance market rate loans.

Two, the region that the NADBank serves will be expanded on only the Mexican side from 100 kilometers of the international boundary to within 300 kilometers of that boundary.

With respect to the first legislative change, the administration believes that NADBank's current financial framework is having a limited impact in regions with high poverty rates. Communities in the border regions in many instances have been unable to afford market rate financing for environmental infrastructure projects. An element of the financing which involves grants and nonmarket rate loans will make the NADBank more affordable for the eligible communities.

With respect to the second legislative change, the administration believes that the geographic expansion on the Mexican side of the international boundary will give the NADBank more opportunities to address a greater scope of environmental issues that affect communities along the U.S. and Mexican border. For example, with this change the NADBank will be better able to undertake projects that improve water use over a broader geographic area.

Furthermore, H.R. 254 would also enhance congressional oversight through

an annual reporting requirement on the subject of the NADBank by the Secretary of the Treasury to both the House Committee on Financial Services and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Currently, there is no such reporting requirement. In addition to this report, H.R. 254 also includes four different senses of the Congress resolutions which address either water pollution or water conservation.

Third and finally, the Senate amendment, which was authored by the distinguished senior Senator from Texas, would limit the amount of grants which can be given for any one project.

□ 1145

The rationale behind this argument was to help ensure that NADBank does not run out of money by using grants exclusively for just a few projects.

Specifically, the Senate amendment requires the U.S. representatives to the NADBank to oppose any proposal which would either: (1) Be for a project that is not being financed, in part, by loans from any source; or (2) for a NADBank grant to account for more than 50 percent of the financing for an individual project.

The Senate amendment also includes an exception to this above rule, however. The U.S. representative to the NADBank cannot oppose a proposal if the President determines there are exceptional economic circumstances for making a NADBank grant, which does not exceed \$250,000, and the grant is made for a project for which finding a loan is impractical. If the President would make this determination, the President must consult with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on Financial Services.

In conclusion, for the reasons stated and many others, this Member urges his colleagues to support H.R. 254, as amended by the Senate. We have been told that the President is eager to sign this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 254, the North American Development Bank Reauthorization bill. I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his hard work in shepherding this bill through the legislative process. I also want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), for their assistance in again bringing this bill to the floor for consideration. Hopefully, this third time will be a charm.

As the representative from the 15th district of Texas which includes the U.S.-Mexico region, my constituents are directly affected by the work of the North American Development Bank and are vitally interested in reforms that will improve it.

The NADBank was originally created to gain passage of the North American

Free Trade Agreement. The NADBank was to be a partner in helping border communities deal with water and environmental problems that would result from increased trade. For example, adequate waste water treatment facilities were supposed to be built on the U.S.-Mexico border after passage of NAFTA 10 years ago.

Unfortunately, despite large amounts of available capital, the NADBank has funded only a small number of projects along the border because it was only allowed to offer market rate loans. Most communities in this impoverished region are unable to repay market rate loans. The environmental need for projects along the southwest border is too great for the bank to have money sitting idle. Many border communities still lack water and waste water infrastructure. Residents on both sides of the border remain at risk from the diseases caused by untreated water and pollution.

H.R. 254 fixes the problem by allowing NADBank to offer low-interest loans and grants to border communities to fund critical infrastructure projects. While I would have preferred that the bank have more flexibility in using grant funding, when appropriate, to assist the most distressed communities, the compromise which has been reached with the Senate will allow the bank to give up to \$50 million for grant assistance.

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) has given many of the details, so I will not repeat them; but that compromise certainly is acceptable. The reforms in this bill will finally allow the NADBank to live up to its promise and bring real assistance to border residents. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 254.

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the very able subcommittee chairman, for yielding me this time; and I congratulate him as well as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for their work on this very important legislation.

We know that President Fox and President Bush both talked about the importance of pursuing this legislation. This has been a priority. Why? Because we have an extremely critical relationship in the area of commerce between our two countries.

It is with great regularity that some of my colleagues will come down and talk about the ills of trade between Mexico and the United States, and it is very rare that we focus on the important benefits. It would come as a shock to many people to realize that we have

a quarter of a trillion dollars in cross-border trade between the United States and Mexico. In fact, Mexico has emerged beyond Japan to become the United States of America's number two trading partner. Doing whatever we can to facilitate an expansion of that will benefit both sides of the border.

Mr. Speaker, I have long argued that it is absolutely ridiculous for the United States to be tolerant of having a poor southern neighbor. There is no benefit to the United States of America having a poor southern neighbor. As we look at the many problems about which we regularly commiserate, whether it is illegal immigration, the problem of drug trafficking, which I am happy to say has improved dramatically over the past several years; but as we look at these challenges, we have to understand that enhancing the economy of Mexico is the best way for us to provide a disincentive for people to illegally flee across the border into the United States.

That is why I think this legislation can go a long way in helping us expand what is already a very important and very positive trade relationship between our two countries.

I have had the opportunity, as I know most of my colleagues have, to visit Mexico and I regularly have people who say please make sure we have an opportunity to have access to more U.S. goods and services. This legislation will go a long way towards helping that, and I think we need to realize we are in this together.

There are some people who would like to make a change to the fact that we share 2,000 miles with Mexico. I know this will sadden some, but there is no way we will ever change the fact that we share a 2,000-mile border with Mexico, and it seems to me that in light of that reality, which I happen to personally think is a great one, we should do everything that we possibly can to improve it and make lives on both sides of the border even better.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), home to the NADBank. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) has served more than three terms on the Committee on Financial Services and has spent a lot of time on this legislation and is very knowledgeable about the benefits to the communities on the U.S.-Mexico border that would benefit by the passage of H.R. 254.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 254.

As previous speakers have already expressed their gratitude, I do not want to be remiss. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY); the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the ranking member; the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING); and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), our subcommittee chairman, who has been the

driving force behind this and has given us an opportunity as Democrats to participate in this particular piece of legislation. We do thank the gentleman most sincerely, who will be sorely missed upon his retirement, although we are still trying to convince the gentleman to reconsider his decision.

The thing I wish to point out is maybe the third time will be a charm. We have passed this a couple of times. This is a piece of legislation that actually has been endorsed by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. I think it is important to make some distinctions because I think it can be misinterpreted, and then we get into controversies that are truly not necessary.

I am gratified by the remarks of the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), but I want to make sure Members do not misunderstand the import of this legislation. So I guess I need to spend a couple of seconds on that. This is not a piece of legislation about NAFTA. This will not define you as to whether you opposed NAFTA when it was passed, you still oppose it, or you favor it. It is not of that dimension. It is not about trade dimension programs or immigration. Does it have some impact? Yes, it could increase the quality of life for residents on both sides of the border, and so that might have some indirect consequences on these other problems that we face and we try to grapple with in a cooperative fashion with our neighbor Mexico.

But this is a very simple bill. We know what it is not. But what is it? It is a bill that seeks congressional authorization to allow the United States and Mexico to finalize their agreement concerning improving the functioning of NADBank and the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission. That is all it is. It is no more than that.

In summary, this agreement streamlines the organization of these two institutions, expands the low-interest loan capacity of the bank, and expands NADBank's grant-making capacity to make it more efficient and effective.

Mr. Speaker, some of the communities that benefit from NADBank financing have average per capita income in the range of \$5,000, and that is on the United States side of the border. Conventional financing alone is simply not an option for communities this economically disadvantaged, and I am sure the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) can speak to that point.

NADBank gives border communities the financial tools to modernize their water supply and protect their air quality. It is quickly becoming a critical link in efforts to protect the public health of the United States-Mexican border citizens. I recognize and, in fact, agree with some of the concerns raised by others concerning the challenges in our relationship with Mexico. Fortunately, the NADBank was created to address some of those challenges.

Regardless of Members' opinions regarding the United States and Mexican relations, it is hard to disagree with

the mission of NADBank: to improve the quality of life of some of the most disadvantaged communities in America.

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ), who represents the border between Texas and Mexico starting in Brownsville, a gentleman who is very knowledgeable about trade and commerce and the importance of this bill.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 254, which improves elements of the North American Development Bank, the mission of which is to leverage Federal funding to borrowing entities to improve the infrastructure for water conservation and irrigation.

Most importantly, this bill says the board of the North American Development Bank should support qualified water conservation projects in the lower Rio Grande Valley, a show of the importance of the injury to south Texas regarding Mexico's noncompliance with the 1944 water treaty.

This bill enables the North American Development Bank to make grants and nonmarket rate loans out of its paid-in capital resources with the approval of its board of directors for qualified water conservation projects.

I am so grateful to the gentleman from south Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for carrying the water for us on this bill and trying to help educate the Members of this House about the travesty that we have lived through in south Texas in the Rio Grande Valley as a result of Mexico's noncompliance with our international treaty.

□ 1200

In this bill we formalize the following findings:

That Texas irrigators and agricultural producers are suffering enormous hardships in the lower Rio Grande River Valley because of Mexico's failure to abide by the 1944 water treaty entered into by the United States and Mexico;

That over the last 10 years, Mexico has accumulated a 1.5 million acre-feet water debt to the United States which has resulted in a very minimal and inadequate irrigation water supply in Texas;

That recent studies by Texas A&M University show that water savings of 30 percent or more can be achieved by improvements in irrigation system infrastructure such as canal lining and metering;

That the North American Development Bank's Water Conservation Investment Fund offered up to \$80 million for grant financing of water conservation projects which grant funds, the money divided equally between the United States and Mexico.

While South Texas farmers were disappointed, to say it mildly, that farmers in Mexico were granted equal status with Mexico in the division of these

funds, the money is certainly better than nothing.

We appreciate the gentleman from Nebraska and the rest of the Members who realize that we have a very, very serious business to do in South Texas with this bill. I hope that all the Members will support this bill.

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

I am delighted that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) has given a good explanation of the benefits that we will receive along the Texas border region where we have had a drought of over 7 years. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON and the Members from the border region who represent Texas are delighted that we are going to be able to help so many farmers and ranchers in improving the water distribution that is coming down the Rio Grande River all the way down from El Paso to Brownsville.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ), chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, who also represents some of the Texas border area.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his leadership on this issue.

The NADBank was created to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in communities along the border, on both sides of the border. This legislation will give NADBank the tools to do its job more effectively. I want to thank the leadership on both sides for making this happen.

The bill will allow NADBank to provide the low-interest loans and grants that are needed and create new ways to assist disadvantaged communities in water supply and other environmental infrastructure projects.

Since the NADBank's inception in 1995, it has provided vital assistance for infrastructure improvements along the U.S.-Mexico border. The NADBank to date has provided some \$643 million in loans and grants in order to make over \$2.1 billion worth of projects possible.

I would also like to provide one example of how the NADBank has worked in local communities in my district. Last year alone, the NADBank provided some \$5.5 million for colonia water and wastewater improvements in the city of Roma. This project will provide first-time sewer service for some 3,688 households. Without the NADBank's assistance, this poor community would never have had the opportunity to make this possible.

The city of Roma, by the way, is located in Starr County. For those of my colleagues that do not know, this has the unfortunate distinction of being the poorest county in the entire United States. These are the types of communities that the NADBank was created to help. These communities are willing to move forward, willing to participate, willing to make a difference, but they find themselves without the opportunity to be able to obtain the loans.

The NADBank also should be empowered to help disadvantaged communities to the fullest extent possible. They currently have projects all along the border from Texas to California, including Laredo and Mission, Texas, as well as in the areas all along. These are critical issues.

I wanted to touch quickly on the discussion of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) on the water issue. This water issue is not going to be going away anytime soon. The bottom line is that the Mexican Government owes over 1 million acre-feet of water. It is not just to the U.S. side; it is also to the Mexican side. It is almost an upstream versus downstream battle with the state of Chihuahua because the state of Tamaulipas on the other side would also benefit tremendously. It is an issue that is not going to go away because as time gets difficult and as people continue to move to the region, the need for water is going to be there.

There is a real need for us to continue to engage in that issue. The NADBank has been helping to make sure that we do that. In addition to that, we know that water is key for any growth and development. We need to continue work on that.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 254, a bill to make certain changes to the agreement between the United States and Mexico concerning the North American Development Bank (NAD Bank).

I would like to express my appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for his leadership and commitment to this important legislation. The legislation is important because it requires the U.S. representatives to the NAD Bank to agree to changes which will make the institution more effective in financing environmental infrastructure projects along the U.S./Mexico border. The legislation passed the House once already and it is my pleasure to support it again.

This legislation is needed in order to make two changes to the charter agreement before the NAD Bank can commence operations. First, the NAD Bank would be able to make grants and non-market rate loans for environmental infrastructure projects along the border out of its paid-in capital resources with the approval of its Board. Currently, the NAD Bank can only finance market rate loans.

Second, the legislation limits the amount of grants that can be provided to support any one project. This limitation is important in order to ensure that the NAD Bank does not run out of money by using exclusively grants for a small number of projects. It is a reasonable limitation that should protect the Bank's ability to support a wide range of projects through grants as well as concessional and market-rate lending.

I am confident that the congressional oversight authority established in this legislation will provide Congress with an on-going opportunity to review the NAD Bank's work. H.R. 254 includes an annual reporting requirement on the subject of the NAD Bank by the Secretary of the Treasury to both the House Committee on Financial Services and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. It also includes different sense of the Congress provisions regarding the water conservation needs of the U.S. border regions.

Establishment of the NAD Bank reflects the United States' continued commitment to its partner in the first regional free trade agreement of the modern era. The economies of Mexico and the United States are increasingly integrated. As our two economies grow together, the growing number of people living in the border areas between Mexico and the United States will increasingly share similar priorities regarding development of that border in an environmentally sensitive manner. Establishment of the NAD Bank will help ensure that projects consistent with the goals will have an opportunity to receive funding, benefiting both the United States and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, this is straightforward legislation that enjoys broad bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 254 expands the authority of the North American Development Bank (NAD), which was created in the allegedly free-trade NAFTA agreement, to make below-market loans. H.R. 254 also expands the geographic area in which the NAD bank operates. This bill is economically unsound and blatantly unconstitutional and I hope my colleagues will reject it.

Supporters of the NAD claim that the bank facilitates economic development and thus improves the quality of life for those living in regions where NAD finances projects. In fact, the NAD bank hinders economic development.

When Congress funds institutions like NAD, it transfers resources from the private sector to the government. When resources are left in the private sector, they are put to the use most highly valued by individual consumers. In contrast, the use of resources transferred to the public sector by agencies like NAD is determined by bureaucrats and politically powerful special interests, thus assuring that the resources cannot be put to their highest-valued use. Therefore, determining the allocation of resources through the political process decreases economic efficiency. Thus, NAD will actually cost jobs and reduce the standard of living of the very workers NAD's supporters claim to benefit!

I would also like to remind my colleagues that there is no constitutional authorization for Congress to fund organizations like the NAD. If my colleagues are not convinced by the constitutional argument, I would hope they would consider the wisdom of expanding the scope of taxpayer support of programs like the NAD at a time when the government is facing massive deficits and Congress is scrambling to find the money to pay for national priorities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand up for sound economics and constitutional principles by rejecting H.R. 254, legislation expanding the North American Development Bank.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 254.

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. BEREUTER. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the Journal and on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3926, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 522, by the yeas and nays; approving the Journal, de novo;

H.R. 1768, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

ORGAN DONATION AND RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3926.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3926, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 2, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 76]

YEAS—414

Abercrombie	Boucher	Crowley
Ackerman	Boyd	Cubin
Aderholt	Bradley (NH)	Culberson
Akin	Brady (PA)	Cummings
Alexander	Brady (TX)	Cunningham
Allen	Brown (OH)	Davis (AL)
Andrews	Brown (SC)	Davis (CA)
Baca	Brown, Corrine	Davis (FL)
Bachus	Burgess	Davis (IL)
Baird	Burns	Davis (TN)
Baker	Burr	Davis, Jo Ann
Baldwin	Burton (IN)	Davis, Tom
Ballance	Buyer	Deal (GA)
Ballenger	Calvert	DeFazio
Barrett (SC)	Camp	DeGette
Bartlett (MD)	Cantor	Delahunt
Barton (TX)	Capito	DeLauro
Bass	Capps	DeLay
Beauprez	Capuano	Deutsch
Becerra	Cardin	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bell	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bereuter	Carson (IN)	Dicks
Berkley	Carson (OK)	Dingell
Berman	Carter	Doggett
Berry	Case	Dooley (CA)
Biggert	Castle	Doolittle
Bilirakis	Chabot	Doyle
Bishop (GA)	Chandler	Dreier
Bishop (NY)	Chocola	Duncan
Bishop (UT)	Clay	Dunn
Blackburn	Coble	Edwards
Blumenauer	Cole	Ehlers
Blunt	Collins	Emanuel
Boehlert	Cooper	Emerson
Boehner	Costello	Engel
Bonner	Cox	English
Bono	Cramer	Eshoo
Boozman	Crane	Etheridge
Boswell	Crenshaw	Evans

Everett	Leach	Renzi
Farr	Lee	Reyes
Fattah	Levin	Reynolds
Feeney	Lewis (CA)	Rodriguez
Ferguson	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Filner	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (KY)
Foley	Linder	Rogers (MI)
Forbes	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Ford	LoBiondo	Ros-Lehtinen
Fossella	Lofgren	Ross
Frank (MA)	Lowey	Rothman
Franks (AZ)	Lucas (KY)	Roybal-Allard
Frelinghuysen	Lucas (OK)	Royce
Frost	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Gallegly	Majette	Rush
Garrett (NJ)	Maloney	Ryan (OH)
Gephardt	Manzullo	Ryan (WI)
Gerlach	Markey	Ryan (KS)
Gilchrest	Marshall	Sabo
Gingrey	Matheson	Sanchez, Linda T.
Gonzalez	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta
Goode	McCarthy (MO)	Sanders
Goodlatte	McCarthy (NY)	Sandlin
Gordon	McCollum	Saxton
Goss	McCotter	Schakowsky
Granger	McCrery	Schiff
Graves	McDermott	Schrock
Green (TX)	McGovern	Scott (GA)
Green (WI)	McHugh	Scott (VA)
Greenwood	McInnis	Sensenbrenner
Grijalva	McIntyre	Serrano
Gutierrez	McKeon	Sessions
Gutknecht	McNulty	Shadegg
Hall	Meehan	Shaw
Harman	Meek (FL)	Shays
Harris	Meeks (NY)	Sherman
Hart	Menendez	Sherwood
Hastings (FL)	Mica	Shimkus
Hastings (WA)	Michaud	Shuster
Hayes	Millender	Skelton
Hayworth	McDonald	Slaughter
Hefley	Miller (FL)	Smith (MI)
Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Smith (NJ)
Herger	Miller (NC)	Smith (TX)
Hill	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Hinchee	Miller, George	Snyder
Hinojosa	Mollohan	Solis
Hobson	Moore	Souder
Hoeffel	Moran (KS)	Spratt
Hoekstra	Moran (VA)	Stark
Holden	Murphy	Stearns
Holt	Murtha	Stenholm
Honda	Musgrave	Strickland
Hooley (OR)	Myrick	Stupak
Hostettler	Nadler	Sullivan
Houghton	Napolitano	Sweeney
Hoyer	Neal (MA)	Tanner
Hulshof	Nethercutt	Tauscher
Hyde	Neugebauer	Taylor (MS)
Inslee	Ney	Taylor (NC)
Isakson	Northup	Terry
Israel	Norwood	Thomas
Issa	Nunes	Thompson (CA)
Jackson (IL)	Nussle	Thompson (MS)
Jackson-Lee	Oberstar	Thornberry
(TX)	Obey	Tiahrt
Jefferson	Olver	Tiberi
Jenkins	Ortiz	Tierney
John	Osborne	Toomey
Johnson (CT)	Ose	Towns
Johnson (IL)	Otter	Turner (OH)
Johnson, E. B.	Owens	Turner (TX)
Johnson, Sam	Oxley	Udall (CO)
Jones (NC)	Pallone	Udall (NM)
Kanjorski	Pascrell	Upton
Kaptur	Pastor	Van Hollen
Keller	Payne	Velázquez
Kelly	Pearce	Visclosky
Kennedy (MN)	Pelosi	Vitter
Kennedy (RI)	Pence	Walden (OR)
Kildee	Peterson (MN)	Walsh
Kilpatrick	Peterson (PA)	Wamp
Kind	Petri	Waters
King (IA)	Pickering	Watson
King (NY)	Pitts	Watt
Kingston	Platts	Waxman
Kirk	Pombo	Weiner
Kleczka	Pomeroy	Weldon (FL)
Kline	Porter	Weldon (PA)
Knollenberg	Portman	Weller
Kucinich	Price (NC)	Wexler
LaHood	Pryce (OH)	Whitfield
Lampson	Putnam	Wicker
Langevin	Quinn	Wilson (NM)
Lantlos	Rahall	Wilson (SC)
Larsen (WA)	Ramstad	
Larson (CT)	Rangel	
Latham	Regula	
LaTourette	Rehberg	

Wolf
Woolsey

Wu
Wynn

Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Paul

NOT VOTING—17

Bonilla	DeMint	Kolbe
Brown-Waite,	Gibbons	Radanovich
Ginny	Gillmor	Simmons
Cannon	Hunter	Simpson
Clyburn	Istook	Tancred
Conyers	Jones (OH)	Tauzin

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes left in this vote.

□ 1229

Mr. AKIN and Mr. HOBSON changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, today, I missed the vote on H.R. 3926, the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act (No. 76). I intended to vote "aye."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the remainder of this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING HEART DISEASE AMONG WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 522.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 522, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 0, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 77]

YEAS—420

Abercrombie	Beauprez	Bonner
Ackerman	Becerra	Bono
Aderholt	Bell	Boozman
Akin	Bereuter	Boswell
Alexander	Berkley	Boucher
Allen	Berman	Boyd
Andrews	Berry	Bradley (NH)
Baca	Biggert	Brady (PA)
Bachus	Bilirakis	Brady (TX)
Baird	Bishop (GA)	Brown (OH)
Baker	Bishop (NY)	Brown (SC)
Baldwin	Bishop (UT)	Brown, Corrine
Ballance	Blackburn	Burgess
Ballenger	Blumenauer	Burns
Barrett (SC)	Blunt	Burr
Bartlett (MD)	Boehlert	Burton (IN)
Bass	Bonilla	Buyer