

is a crime under international law and defines genocide as actions committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

The United States, under President Truman, was the first Nation to sign the convention. Last year marked the 15th anniversary of President Reagan's signing of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act.

Just over a year ago, I introduced H.R. 193 with my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), and other Members of this House. This resolution reaffirms the support of the Congress for the genocide convention and commemorates the anniversary of our becoming a party to this landmark legislation.

On May 21 of last year, we achieved a huge victory when we passed the genocide resolution by a very strong bipartisan vote.

This should be an easy resolution for all of us now to support on the House floor. Genocide is the most abhorrent crime known to humankind; and unfortunately, it still exists. Exactly 10 years ago, before the cameras of the world, Rwanda's majority Hutus exterminated over 500,000 Tutsi in just over 3 months' time, mostly with machetes and homemade axes.

The reason that we have not yet succeeded in passing this resolution on the House floor is simple. The government of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the genocide and the strongest Nation on Earth fears their reaction if we do.

All over the globe—from South Africa, to Argentina, to the former Yugoslavia, governments have set up truth commissions and other bodies to investigate atrocities. Nowhere has this process been more extensive than in Germany, which has engaged in decades of soul-searching and good works that have not only restored the nation's standing, but also its moral authority.

I call upon the government of Turkey and our own government to do the same. When the burden of the past is lifted, then the future is brighter. As long as Ankara engages in prevarication, equivocation and evasion, Turkey will exist under a cloud—not because of its past, but because of its refusal to address that past. And as long as we fail to do our duty in this country, in this Congress, we do not live up to our great name and our great heritage.

I also call upon the distinguished Speaker of the House to allow us to vote on the Genocide Resolution. One hundred ten of my colleagues have cosponsored this resolution and I expect that it would pass overwhelmingly if given the chance, but we must do it soon, for with each year the events of 1915–1923 recede a bit more into the dark of history.

Time, Mr. Speaker, is not on our side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot recognize that unanimous consent request. The gentleman's time has expired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask that I utilize the 5 minutes, that I am on the list, at this time.

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

There was no objection.

GEOHERMAL ENERGY INITIATIVE ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress legislation that I have recently introduced.

The Geothermal Energy Initiative of 2004, H.R. 4094, is legislation that addresses a critically underdeveloped energy segment of our national renewable energy portfolio. The problem was cited in a January 2004 Associated Press article which stated that the Federal Government has a backlog of 230 lease applications for the prospect of the utilization of geothermal energy.

This Associated Press article also stated that the average age of an application for the prospect of geothermal sites is 9 years.

February 2004 supply projections from the American Gas Association show that natural gas supplies will remain tight into the foreseeable future and will result in continued high prices. The high cost of natural gas affects electricity and home heating costs.

In March of 2004, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's climate monitoring laboratory reported that carbon dioxide levels in our environment are rising at alarming rates. Carbon dioxide contributes to global warming that disrupts climate and causes seas to rise.

The last national resource assessment of geothermal sites in the United States was completed in 1978. There have been substantial improvements in technology and advances in geological sciences in the intervening 26 years.

Clearly, there is a lack of resources and priority in the Department of the Interior concerning geothermal energy efforts.

Now, in the current situation, most of our Nation's geothermal power

plants were built in the mid-1980s and early 1990s when our energy markets were searching for alternative energy investments. Unfortunately, since that time, there has been a significant decline of focus on geothermal energy. Specifically, the Department of the Interior has steadily de-emphasized the geothermal energy program in the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Geological Survey.

We must restore that focus. I believe we have an important opportunity to reemphasize this vital energy sector and greatly enhance our Nation's renewable energy portfolio.

For example, the Bush administration has repeatedly championed the need to expand our renewable energy sources and to prioritize the development of our country's geothermal energy sources.

Department of the Interior Secretary Gail Norton and Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham have jointly stated their commitment to increasing our energy security by expanding the use of indigenous resources on Federal lands, while accelerating protection of the environment.

That is not a true assessment as I see it, however. In fact, a 2003 report from the Department of Energy found that California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington State have the greatest potential for quick development of geothermal resources. Both those Secretaries, Norton and Abraham, should look at this report. In fact, the study listed nine top sites in California and 10 in Nevada.

Unfortunately, progress has not been made by either one of these departments. That is why I have introduced the Geothermal Energy Initiative of 2004, so that Congress, this administration and States can all work in concert.

The Geothermal Energy Initiative Act of 2004 is straightforward legislation that will do the following: authorize the update of the 26-year-old national assessment of geothermal resource. Significant advances in energy development technology and advances in geological sciences need to be harnessed to better understand and manage our geothermal resources.

We must provide financial incentives to encourage the development of geothermal resources by expanding the production tax credit to include geothermal resources.

Direct the Federal land management agencies to responsibly consider geothermal resources in their land use planning process. The initiative also provides direction to assist in streamlining the permit approval process.

Provide provisions to defray costs associated with preparation of documents and analysis for compliance with Federal environmental protection regulations.

Speaking from a California perspective for a moment, the immediate benefits of this initiative is the enormous positive impact that it will have on air

quality and quality of life. For example, it has been estimated that when geothermal resources associated with California are developed, they will replace half the fossil fuel-generated electricity for California.

This benefit alone would help thousands of asthma sufferers in the Los Angeles basin. Also, the addition of geothermal energy will help relieve the high cost of electricity and provide families with more disposable income.

Jobs continue to be a top priority for States and localities. As our country works toward rebuilding our job base, due to the loss of textile and manufacturing jobs that have moved overseas, my legislation offers communities a new economic base and the opportunity for economic growth.

Most geothermal generating facilities are located in rural areas where jobs tend to be scarce. A recent economic development study documents the tremendous job opportunities associated with geothermal generation facilities. Building a 50 megawatt geothermal power plant would create hundreds of immediate construction and related development jobs as well as approximately 30 to 50 permanent full-time jobs at the facility.

Considering the economic multiplier effect, this would mean at least 150 to 200 new jobs in the community.

Given the long operating life of existing geothermal plans, they are a stable and reliable part of the community's economic base. These facilities have a proven record of providing millions of dollars in property taxes and royalties to county and State treasuries. These funds help schools and community infrastructure.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, geothermal energy development sustains renewable energy efforts including compliance with renewable portfolio standards. It is consistent with the wind energy sources. Geothermal power plants recycle their spent hot water back into the aquifer they are developed on. So this is truly renewable.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, I attended a ceremony to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide in Times Square in New York City, and I have to say it was a very moving moment. There were several, I

would not say many, because there are not that many genocide survivors that are still around, but I did have a chance to talk briefly with maybe 10 or so.

It was incredible to hear them tell the stories of the families and atrocities that had occurred 89 years ago now. More and more countries and States and even the media are now in the process of recognizing the genocide, and I just wanted to mention specifically that the Canadian House of Commons last week joined France, Italy, the Vatican and a number of other European countries and the European Parliament in acknowledging this crime against humanity as genocide.

□ 2000

Also last week, The New York Times reversed decades of ambiguity by declaring in favor of using the term "genocide" to describe the Armenian cataclysm of 1915. The Boston Globe adopted a similar policy change last year.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate thing is, although so many other countries and so many of our own States have recognized the Armenian genocide, we in the Congress continue not to recognize it. I think it is important that we do so.

The gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was here earlier, and he mentioned the House Genocide Resolution, H. Res. 193, which has now 111 cosponsors. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 21, 2003, but it has not been brought to the floor for consideration. I would urge the Speaker and the leaders on the Republican side of the aisle to bring this resolution to the floor. It is important that they do so.

Now, this year, as we do every year, the members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues put together a letter to the President of the United States asking him to acknowledge the Armenian genocide. This year there were 169 signatures, more than we have ever had before in that letter that we sent to the President; and I just wanted to read, if I could, some sections of that letter, because I think it is important.

We say, "Dear Mr. President: We are writing to urge you to join us in reaffirming the U.S. record on the Armenian genocide in your April 24 commemorative statement.

"By properly recognizing the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as genocide in your statement, you will honor the many Americans who helped launch our first international human rights campaign to end the carnage and protect the survivors. The official U.S. response mirrored the overwhelming reaction by the American public to this crime against humanity and, as such, constitutes a proud, irrefutable and groundbreaking chapter in U.S. diplomatic history.

"Now, more than ever, as your administration seeks to bring an end to

global terrorism and to help establish democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq, the memory of the genocide underscores our responsibility to help convey our cherished tradition of respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughters. The victims of the Armenian genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history. It is in the best interests of our Nation and the entire global community to remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to ensure they are never repeated."

That is really the essence of what we are trying to achieve here today in asking that the President and this Congress basically reaffirm the Armenian genocide, because we simply do not want it repeated again. We know how many times in the 20th century that genocide occurred.

House Resolution H.R. 193, and also its Senate counterpart, Senate Resolution 164, which I would like to add has 37 cosponsors right now, basically state that the purpose of the resolutions are to strengthen America's commitment to the value of the genocide convention that was implemented 15 years ago.

This convention recognizes essentially a number of the genocides that occurred in the 20th century. And as some of my colleagues mentioned earlier, not only the Armenian genocide, but that in Rwanda, Burundi, and, of course most important, the Nazi Holocaust genocide against the Jews.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that when we talk about the Armenian genocide, we are simply acknowledging the fact. And we feel very strongly that if at the time the genocide occurred the world and the nations of the world had taken more notice and had tried to prevent it, I think it would have served as a lesson so that the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews and so many other atrocities that took place in the 20th century would not have occurred. If we are going to see a situation in the future, in this 21st century, where we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, we must acknowledge the Armenian genocide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WAXMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia