

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for his work and leadership on this issue. Kansas does not have the hurricane problems that my State has, but I know its position in the middle of Tornado Alley makes it a life-and-death issue for the State of Kansas. So I thank the gentleman.

As a Member of the House Committee on Science, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) has been fighting to improve research in wind-related hazards for years. I have been proud to cosponsor and support very similar legislation that he introduced both in this Congress and during the 107th Congress.

Very simply, this legislation will save lives in North Carolina, in Kansas and throughout this country. I congratulate my friend and colleague on his success in this effort, and urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3980.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to close by saying that this bill consolidates and coordinates windstorm research that has been going on throughout multiple agencies and brings oversight to that process, and I think that is very important. I think the American people expect us to oversee the moneys that we are appropriating and authorizing; but it also is a public and private partnership, and the whole goal of this bill is to make sure that we get the important research out of the laboratories and into practical solutions that are going to be saving lives and reducing property damage.

So I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 3980, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3890, the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act. I'd like to commend my colleague from Pennsylvania, MELISSA HART, for introducing this important legislation.

During a very busy week in May, I chaired two Energy Subcommittee hearings on the issues of energy efficiency R and D. The first hearing took a broad look at research and development in the area of energy efficiency.

The second hearing focused on the legislation under consideration today, H.R. 3890. This bill authorizes a research and development program at the Department of Energy aimed at improving the energy efficiency of the metals industry.

Some may have wondered why we didn't simply combine the two hearings, on similar topics, into a single hearing. But there were two main reasons why it was important to give the metals industry initiative a dedicated place on the Subcommittee's calendar, and why the Department of Energy has an initiative focused on this one industry to begin with.

First of all, the metals industry is highly energy-intensive. Taken together, the steel, aluminum, and copper industries account for more than 10 percent of industrial energy usage in the United States. President Bush's National Energy Plan recognized that improv-

ing energy efficiency in our most energy-intensive industries could yield large improvements in productivity, product quality, safety, and pollution prevention.

Second, we have a strategic national interest in helping our metals industry remain competitive. For any industry, energy efficiency means increased production without increased energy consumption or costs. Improving energy efficiency helps improve the bottom line, making American metal products more competitive on the global market. That means more jobs here at home.

But energy efficiency is more than that. Reducing energy use reduces our emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases, and it increases our energy security. In this way, energy efficiency just makes sense—dollars and cents—for the nation. Again, I commend Ms. HART for all her hard work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3980, 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.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. 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.

#### STEEL AND ALUMINUM ENERGY CONSERVATION AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 1988 REAUTHORIZATION

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3890) to reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3890

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.

(a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—Section 9 of the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5108) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this Act for fiscal year 2005, an amount equal to the amount appropriated for the same purposes for fiscal year 2004, and \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2009.”.

(b) *STEEL PROJECT PRIORITIES.*—Section 4(c)(1) of the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5103(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “coatings for sheet steels” and inserting “sheet and bar steels”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(K) *The development of technologies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*”.

(c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—The Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988 is further amended—

(1) by striking section 7 (15 U.S.C. 5106); and

(2) in section 4(b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND REPORT” after “MANAGEMENT PLAN”; and

(B) by striking “Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Act enacting this sentence”;

(C) by striking “to expand the steel research and development initiative to include aluminum and”; and

(D) by inserting “, and shall transmit such plan to Congress” after “carry out the purposes of this Act”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3890, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Chairman Biggert) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) of the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Science, and also the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) of the full Committee on Science, for working with me on H.R. 3890, a bill which will reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988.

The legislation reauthorizes the Steel and Aluminum Competitiveness Act of 1988, which established a public-private research initiative, with cost sharing from industry, focused on improving industrial energy efficiency in the steel and aluminum smelting and fabrication industries.

The bill would result in improved energy efficiency in the domestic metals industries, thereby improving our international competitiveness in those industries. Improved industrial energy efficiency also offers environmental benefits through reduced emissions per unit of steel or aluminum produced. It can also help reduce the future demand for energy in the industrial sector, which is extremely important as we see rising fuel prices.

The bill authorizes \$13.3 million for this program in fiscal year 2005, the same level that was appropriated for fiscal year 2004. For the outyears, that

is, fiscal years 2006 through 2009, the bill authorizes \$20 million per year, for a total \$93.3 million over the 5-year cycle of the legislation.

This bill is right for industry, Mr. Speaker; it is good for our energy security, and it is good for the environment.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART) for her work on H.R. 3890, a bill to reauthorize the steel and aluminum research and development program at the Department of Energy. This energy conservation program is part of the Industries of the Future program in DOE's Office of Industrial Technologies. It is carried out through cost-shared partnerships with industry.

Past research under this program has made such steel mills and aluminum production facilities less polluting, more efficient and more productive.

The budgets for such programs have been cut significantly during the past 3 years, Mr. Speaker. This sends the wrong message to American workers, who are relying on these industries to remain competitive in a global market.

By reauthorizing the metals R&D program at H.R. 3890's authorization funding levels, we can give appropriate support for this research program. Restoring this funding will benefit the domestic steel and aluminum industries, the manufacturers who use American steel and aluminum in their products, and, ultimately, the American consumer.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend support for the bill by my colleagues.

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

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the reauthorization of this very worthy program. As we all know, the last few years have been difficult for America's steel industry and continuing the Metals Initiative will go a long way towards easing those burdens.

This Nation's steel industry is second to none, and it is this Congress' responsibility to do everything in its power to enable American-produced steel to compete in a global economy.

The Metals Initiative lends private industry the resources it needs to develop energy-saving technologies that increase productivity and cut pollution. These innovations are a vital component to a strong American steel industry.

I can think of few other programs that offer so much with a prudent investment. Not only does this program create jobs by making the steel industry more competitive and reduce environmental impacts caused by steel pro-

duction, but any costs incurred are recouped. A portion of all royalties realized by these new technologies are repaid until the full Federal investment has been recovered.

At a recent hearing held by the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Science, U.S. Steel cited just one example of how the company has utilized these moneys. Several projects have been funded through the Metals Initiative to research and develop Advanced High Strength Steels.

This steel allows for the creation of lightweight cars that maintain the same standards of safety currently available to today's drivers. By using Metals Initiative funds, Advanced High Strength Steels production requires 171 million fewer gallons of gasoline, 4 million fewer barrels of oil, and emits 2.1 million fewer tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Such innovation reduces our dependency on both foreign steel and foreign oil, while further contributing to a safer road system and a healthier environment for us all.

This Nation would not be what it is today were it not for the contributions of the American Steel Industry and American steelworkers. Congress should recognize the significant strides the industry has taken to remain competitive despite many obstacles.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3890.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this initiative is one that is not as common for government, I think, as the American people would like to see. It is designed to help industry to become more efficient in its processes, but also more efficient in its use of energy. So, in the long run, it helps preserve American jobs.

That is why we are here today, Mr. Speaker. We are working on efficiency in technology and efficiency in energy use and, obviously, better emissions.

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It is important to our industries to be competitive worldwide as we move this legislation forward.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3890, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2004

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 1856) to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1856

*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 "Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Amendments Act of 2004".

#### SEC. 2. RETENTION OF TASK FORCE.

Section 603 of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note) is amended by striking subsection (e).

#### SEC. 3. SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS AND RESEARCH, DEMONSTRATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PLANS.

Such section 603 is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by adding at the end the following:

"In developing the assessments and plans described in subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f), the Task Force shall work with appropriate State, Indian tribe, and local governments to ensure that the assessments and plans fulfill the requirements of subsections (b)(2), (c)(2), (d)(2), (e)(2), and (f)(2). Additionally, the Task Force shall consult with appropriate industry (including agriculture and fertilizer industry), academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations throughout the development of the assessments and plans."; and

(2) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

"(b) SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENTS OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.—(1) Not less than once every 5 years the Task Force shall complete and submit to Congress a scientific assessment of harmful algal blooms in United States coastal waters. The first such assessment shall be completed not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Amendments Act of 2004 and should consider only marine harmful algal blooms. All subsequent assessments shall examine both marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms, including those in the Great Lakes and upper reaches of estuaries.

"(2) The assessments under this subsection shall—

"(A) examine the causes and ecological consequences, and economic costs, of harmful algal blooms;

"(B) describe the potential ecological and economic costs and benefits of possible actions for preventing, controlling, and mitigating harmful algal blooms;

"(C) evaluate progress made by, and the needs of, Federal research programs on the causes, characteristics, and impacts of harmful algal blooms; and

"(D) identify ways to improve coordination and to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort among Federal agencies and departments with respect to research on harmful algal blooms.

"(c) SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF FRESHWATER HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS.—(1) Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Amendments Act of 2004 the Task Force shall complete and submit to Congress a scientific assessment of current knowledge about harmful algal blooms in freshwater locations such as the Great Lakes and upper reaches of estuaries, including a research plan for coordinating Federal efforts to better understand freshwater harmful algal blooms.

"(2) The freshwater harmful algal bloom scientific assessment shall—