

Mr. Speaker, I want to also express my thanks to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST) for their work on moving this bill through the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as the Committee on Resources. Finally, I thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) for his hard work bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1856 will provide a timely update for these important programs that help our coastal communities deal with harmful algal blooms and hypoxia. I urge all of our colleagues to support H.R. 1856.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, as someone concerned with the health of the Great Lakes, I rise in support of H.R. 1856, the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Amendments Act.

I would also like to thank my distinguished colleague from Michigan for offering this bill as well as for his leadership on this and other issues of importance to the Great Lakes.

As has been noted, harmful algal blooms are dense patches of toxic algae, which can poison marine life.

Harmful algal blooms can also become airborne and cause respiratory problems in humans.

Worse still, when the toxic algae decays, it can cause hypoxia, or a condition where all the oxygen in the water surrounding the algal bloom is consumed, resulting in a "dead zone" where no living thing can survive.

These algal blooms plague the Gulf of Mexico, the Chesapeake Bay and many of the Great Lakes, notably Lake Erie.

In fact, a recent report estimates that more than half of the Nation's estuaries experience hypoxic conditions at some time each year.

Economic impact of harmful algal blooms in United States average annually \$50 million, but individual outbreaks can cause economic damage that far exceed the annual average.

Total public health impacts due to shellfish poisoning from harmful algal blooms averaged \$22 million between 1987–1992.

H.R. 1856 will help us to better understand harmful algal blooms by increasing and updating research programs at NOAA.

But, importantly, H.R. 1856 will begin new research into Great Lakes algal blooms, which present different challenges and concerns than their ocean relatives.

Indeed, this bill will do a lot to help us better understand just one of the many problems facing the Great Lakes, and ultimately help us to begin to restore the health of one of our greatest national treasures.

This bill is a good first step, and I hope it will renew this body's interest in providing resources to conserve our nation's lakes and oceans, including the Great Lakes.

For this reason I support H.R. 1856, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1856, 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE WORLD YEAR OF PHYSICS

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 301) supporting the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 301

Whereas throughout history physics has contributed to knowledge, civilization, and culture around the world;

Whereas physics research has been and continues to be a driving force for scientific, technological, and economic development;

Whereas many emerging fields in science and technology, such as nanoscience, information technology, and biotechnology, are substantially based on and derive many of their tools from fundamental discoveries in physics and applications thereof;

Whereas physics will continue to play a vital role in addressing many 21st-century challenges related to sustainable development, including environmental conservation, clean sources of energy, public health, and security;

Whereas Albert Einstein is a widely recognized scientific figure who contributed enormously to the development of physics, beginning in 1905 with his groundbreaking papers on the photoelectric effect, the size of molecules, Brownian motion, and the theory of relativity that led to his most famous equation, $E = mc^2$;

Whereas 2005 will be the 100th anniversary of those important scientific achievements; and

Whereas the General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics unanimously approved the proposition designating 2005 as the World Year of Physics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics, as designated by the General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics;

(2) encourages the American people to observe the World Year of Physics as a special occasion for giving impetus to education and research in physics as well as to the public's understanding of physics;

(3) encourages all science-related government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, the private sector, and the media to highlight and give enhanced recognition to the role of physics in social, cultural, and economic development as well as its positive impact and contributions to society; and

(4) encourages all those involved in physics education and research to take additional steps, including strengthening existing and emerging fields of physics research and promoting the public's understanding of physics, to ensure that support for physics continues and that physics studies at all levels continue to attract an adequate number of students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. 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. Con. Res. 301, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are considering this resolution recognizing the importance of physics to our everyday lives. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics and at the same time celebrates the 100th anniversary of Einstein's development of the theory of relativity. I am certain we are all familiar with the equation $E=mc^2$ which, for the first time, recognized that mass is a form of energy and in fact could be converted into energy. This was a key factor in discovering nuclear fission and nuclear fusion.

The resolution recognizes the important contributions of physicists to technological progress and the health of many industries. I could go on and on listing all the various benefits that we have developed in today's world resulting from the work of physicists. Many people do not realize, for example, that some of the most important developments in health care come directly from the world of physics. As an example, x-rays were discovered by a physicist. The CAT scan was developed based on work that physicists had done. And MRI imaging, which is very useful for health diagnosis and research, was developed by physicists resulting from work done on nuclear magnetic resonance, which was discovered while I was still a graduate student.

In addition, what has developed with lasers is a very important aspect of what was at first a small, unknown field of research, very related to the field of research in which I received my doctorate. Discovery of lasers was the first proof of something that had been developed years ago theoretically, that photons passing through a material in an excited state would result in the emission of additional photons precisely in phase and at the same frequency as the photon that initiated the emission. That was the heart of developing the laser.

The ramifications and uses of the laser are so numerous that I can scarcely begin to mention them. They are used in surgery. They are used in factories to cut steel and to cut out patterns for clothes. In many, many other areas lasers play an extremely important role.

As I said, I could go on and on talking about the contributions that physicists have made to technological

progress in many industries, but this resolution, in addition to recognizing that, encourages the people of the United States to observe next year as the World Year of Physics in conjunction with the United Nations declaration of 2005 as the International World Year of Physics.

As a physicist, I recognize the physics principles that are part of our everyday lives. From mechanics and gravity to optical technologies that enable our CD players, physics is all around us. Through physics we can explore the depths of the universe and black holes, as well as the tiniest parts of the atom. And what has always fascinated me about my study of the atomic nucleus and also my readings in cosmology is that we humans are basically at the center of that scale. We are about as far removed from the size of an atomic nucleus, as we are from the size of the universe. I think it is just absolutely marvelous that we can explore our world in both the smaller and larger directions and have not reached limits at this point.

This resolution encourages the American public to take note of the physics used every day and encourages them to learn more about it. I hope that the American people will observe the World Year of Physics by supporting physics education and research. I encourage physicists and educators to engage the public, especially the children, in physics to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

I commend the American Physical Society for promoting the World Year of Physics. This is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate the importance of physics in our lives, promote public understanding of physics, and express our support for physics research and education.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 301, supporting the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 301 which recognizes the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for bringing this resolution forward. I also personally want to say how much I enjoy serving with the gentlemen on the Committee on Science and what a rewarding experience it is to have two physicists on the Committee on Science itself. Some of the more esoteric details we often turn to these gentlemen to help us understand.

Physics, of course, is the discipline that underpins all of science in some way, and so much of our technology deals with the most fundamental understanding of the properties of matter. Emerging fields such as nanotechnology, information technology and biotechnology are substantially based on the results of fundamental discoveries in physics.

The General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics unanimously approved the proposition designating 2005 as the World Year of Physics. This will be the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's remarkable series of scientific papers on the photoelectric effect, the size of molecules, Brownian motion, and, of course, the theory of relativity itself.

This makes 2005 an appropriate year to recognize the importance of physics to the advance of civilization and the important role physics plays in social, cultural and economic development in our society and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this resolution to my colleagues and ask for their support for its passage by the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for their work in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

As I mentioned before, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) has been most helpful in the Committee on Science. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and I, as the two physicists in the Congress, have worked together closely on many issues, including this one. So I want to recognize both of them for their work and for their long history in recognizing the importance of not only physics but science in general.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 301.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, physics is all around us. Physics has been highly successful in explaining many of the phenomena governing our natural world; it was a basis for the Renaissance and the enlightenment of western civilization. Through physics we can explore the diverse phenomena from the existence of black hole and to the composition of the atom and nucleus. Understanding mechanics, gravity and propulsion allowed us to develop machinery, bridges and rockets while knowledge about electricity and magnetism and matter led to lasers, light bulbs, telescopes, fiber optics, the internet and the huge market of consumer electronics.

Physics research creates technological innovations, which drives the world's economic growth and markets. It has changed human life for the better. It has made major contributions to cutting-edge technologies such as Nanotechnology, Biotechnology and Information Technology. Physics research will help us to solve major new challenges in homeland security and find new energy sources.

In 2005, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Einstein's theory of relativity. This resolution is the perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate the importance of physics to our lives.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 301.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4754, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 701 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 701

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: section 108; beginning with "Provided" on page 48, line 13, through the colon on line 19; beginning with "and" on page 57, line 24, through page 58, line 2; section 603; beginning with "or (6)" on page 97, line 21, through the semicolon on line 23; and section 607. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph or section, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph or section may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph or section. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.