

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2608 authorizes two important interagency programs to coordinate the federal government's efforts to mitigate the loss of life and property from earthquakes and windstorms. I'd like to thank Congressman NEUGEBAUER for all of his hard work and effort as the author and driving force behind the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program. I'd also like to thank Congressman LOFGREN for helping me craft the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program reauthorization and shepherding it through the legislative process.

Damaging earthquakes are inevitable, however infrequent they may be. Total annualized damages from earthquakes in the United States are estimated to be about \$4.4 billion in direct financial losses. The 1994 Northridge earthquake in California (magnitude 6.7) was the most costly in U.S. history, causing over \$40 billion in damages.

Further, all or parts of 39 states are within zones where the probability of an earthquake occurring is great. Recent research indicates that areas in the eastern and central United States are at greater risk of earthquake occurrence than earlier evidence indicated. The threat from earthquakes is constant and far reaching. Indeed, earthquakes are clearly not just a state or regional problem, but a nationwide problem, demanding nationwide mitigation. Accordingly, the federal government mitigates earthquakes through the comprehensive National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, also known as "NEHRP".

Over the past week, significant earthquake events in California and Washington have garnered our attention and concern. NEHRP-supported monitoring equipment managed by the U.S. Geological Survey and the national Science Foundation have resulted in an unprecedented harvest of data from both the Mr. St. Helens volcanic activity as well as the 6.0 Parkfield Earthquake on the San Andreas Fault. This information will undoubtedly lead to important advances in our understanding of earthquakes, and ultimately in our ability to prepare for and respond to them.

But much room for improvement still exists. Our vulnerability to earthquakes continues to increase. Widespread developments still occurs unabated in areas of high seismic risk. Despite the existence of new knowledge and tools produced by the program, development, adoption, and enforcement of pertinent building codes have been incremental and slower than expected. The private sector has not had adequate incentives, and state and local governments have generally not had adequate budgets, to adopt NEHRP innovations.

It is clear that NEHRP needs to be strengthened. Several aspects of program leadership and coordination continue to be an ongoing problem. Knowledge and awareness of these needs within the Office of Management and Budget, relevant appropriators—and even to some degree NEHRP agencies—has been too low. Many outside of the small community of earthquake interests are unaware that this coordinated effort even exists. These factors are addressed in the legislation before us today.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
Washington, DC, October 8, 2004.

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your support for the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608,

the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004. As your letter indicates, the Senate amendment includes provisions from both the House version of H.R. 2608 and H.R. 3980, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004.

I agree that by permitting this bill to be brought before the House and not objecting to its passage by unanimous consent, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive its jurisdiction over certain provisions of H.R. 2608, as amended by the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT,  
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE,  
Washington, DC, October 8, 2004.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman, Committee on Science,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOEHLERT: I understand that H.R. 2608, the National Earthquake Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004 has just passed the Senate and incorporates provisions contained in H.R. 3980, the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act of 2004.

I note that in Title I of H.R. 2608, as amended by the Senate, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency is directed to: "operate a program of grants and assistance which would enable States to develop preparedness and response plans, prepare inventories and conduct seismic safety inspections of critical structures and lifelines, update building and zoning codes and ordinances to enhance seismic safety, increase earthquake awareness and education, and encourage the development of multi-State groups for such purposes."

As you know, both of these measures contain provisions within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I recognize your desire to bring these important matters before the House in an expeditious manner and I, therefore, do not object to passing them by unanimous consent. By agreeing to this, however, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 2608, as amended by the Senate.

I would appreciate it if you would place a copy of this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the bill is considered on the House Floor. I would also like to incorporate into this letter, by reference, the letter included in the RECORD when the House of Representatives considered H.R. 3980 on July 7th and 8th, 2004.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,  
Chairman.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. 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. 2608.

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

There was no objection.

#### AMENDING THE SECURITIES LAWS TO PERMIT CHURCH PENSION PLANS TO BE INVESTED IN COLLECTIVE TRUSTS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1533) to amend the securities laws to permit church pension plans to be invested in collective trusts, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Page 2, strike lines 17 through 22 and insert:

(2) by striking "other than any plan described in clause (A), (B), or (C)" and inserting the following: "or (D) a church plan, company, or account that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, other than any plan described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D)".

Mr. LATOURETTE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO REVEREND DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Financial Services be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 1368) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 1368

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. and his widow Coretta Scott King, as the first family of the civil rights movement, have distinguished records of public service to the American people and the international community;

(2) Dr. King preached a doctrine of non-violent civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice;

(3) Dr. King led the Montgomery bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Mrs. Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, Alabama;

(4) in 1963, Dr. King led the march on Washington, D.C., that was followed by his famous address, the "I Have a Dream" speech;

(5) through his work and reliance on non-violent protest, Dr. King was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

(6) despite efforts to derail his mission, Dr. King acted on his dream of America and succeeded in making the United States a better place;

(7) Dr. King was assassinated for his beliefs on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee;

(8) Mrs. King stepped into the civil rights movement in 1955 during the Montgomery bus boycott, and played an important role as a leading participant in the American civil rights movement;

(9) while raising 4 children, Mrs. King devoted herself to working alongside her husband for nonviolent social change and full civil rights for African Americans;

(10) with a strong educational background in music, Mrs. King established and performed several Freedom Concerts, which were well received, and which combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections to increase awareness and understanding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (of which Dr. King served as the first president);

(11) Mrs. King demonstrated composure in deep sorrow, as she led the Nation in mourning her husband after his brutal assassination;

(12) after the assassination, Mrs. King devoted all of her time and energy to developing and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (hereafter referred to as the "Center") as an enduring memorial to her husband's life and his dream of nonviolent social change and full civil rights for all Americans;

(13) under Mrs. King's guidance and direction, the Center has flourished;

(14) the Center was the first institution built in honor of an African American leader;

(15) the Center provides local, national, and international programs that have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy and methods, and claims the largest archive of the civil rights movement; and

(16) Mrs. King led the massive campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday, and the holiday is now celebrated in more than 100 countries.

## SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, a gold medal of appropriate design to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King, in recognition of their service to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentations referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

## SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2, under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the duplicate medals and the gold medal (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses).

## SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

## SEC. 5. FUNDING AND PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. 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. 1533 and S. 1368.

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

There was no objection.

## PRIVILEGED REPORT REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION

Mr. BARTON of Texas from the Committee on Energy and Commerce, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-754, Part II) on the resolution (H. Res. 776) of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to estimates and analyses of the cost of the Medicare prescription drug legislation, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## MODIFYING AND EXTENDING CERTAIN PRIVATIZATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ACT OF 1962

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate bill (S. 2896) to modify and extend certain privatization requirements of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2896

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

## SECTION 1. PRIVATIZATION REQUIREMENTS MODIFIED AND EXTENDED.

Section 621(5) of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 763) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking "June 30, 2004" and inserting "June 30, 2005"; and

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

"(F) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), a successor entity may be deemed a national corporation and may forgo an initial public offering and public securities listing and still achieve the purposes of this section if—

"(i) the successor entity certifies to the Commission that—

"(I) the successor entity has achieved substantial dilution of the aggregate amount of signatory or former signatory financial interest in such entity;

"(II) any signatories and former signatories that retain a financial interest in such successor entity do not possess, together or individually, effective control of such successor entity; and

"(III) no intergovernmental organization has any ownership interest in a successor entity of INTELSAT or more than a minimal ownership interest in a successor entity of Inmarsat;

"(ii) the successor entity provides such financial and other information to the Commission as the Commission may require to verify such certification; and

"(iii) the Commission determines, after notice and comment, that the successor entity is in compliance with such certification.

"(G) For purposes of subparagraph (F), the term 'substantial dilution' means that a majority of the financial interests in the successor entity is no longer held or controlled, directly or indirectly, by signatories or former signatories."

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2896 and urge swift passage of this noncontroversial legislation. Earlier this week, the Senate passed S. 2896, to extend the deadline by which INTELSAT and Inmarsat are required to conduct an initial public offering (IPO) under the ORBIT Act and to further broaden the options available to these companies to divest their government shareholders. I commend my colleagues in the Senate for expeditiously addressing this important issue.

The ORBIT Act was enacted in March 2000 to promote a competitive market for satellite communications through the privatization of inter-governmental organizations. To achieve that competitive satellite marketplace, the ORBIT Act called on Inmarsat and INTELSAT to conduct an initial public offering (IPO) by a date certain—December 31, 2001. The purpose of this IPO requirement was to ensure independence by substantially diluting the ownership of these privatized companies by their former owners, many of which were foreign governmental entities. Such dilution would facilitate a more competitive satellite marketplace devoid of the perverse influences associated with government ownership and control.

However, due to volatility in the financial markets, and the telecommunications sector specifically, Congress has repeatedly been forced to grant additional time for these companies to conduct their statutorily mandated IPOs. Unfortunately, the market conditions