

But if the argument for supporting humane treatment of our immigrant population does not sway you, consider that many of these legal immigrant families include children, kids who are American citizens, kids who will be denied food stamps for an extra 5 years. If you do not see this as unconscionable, I do not know what you see as unconscionable. If you do not think this is un-American, I do not believe there is anything that is un-American more than this.

WHAT RECONCILIATION MEANS

(Mr. BOYD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership has announced earlier that tomorrow we will vote on budget reconciliation. I wanted to understand better what reconciliation meant, so I went to Webster. And let me read to you what it means to reconcile: to restore to friendship or harmony; secondly, to make consistent or congruous; thirdly, to check a financial account against another for accuracy. That is Webster. The Republican budget reconciliation certainly does not restore friendship and harmony since they have been unwilling to include any Democrats, including our Blue Dog Coalition, in the discussion of this huge deficit problem. And it certainly does not make our financial accounts balance since it will increase our annual deficit by more than \$16 billion. Under this administration and Republican leadership in Congress, our national debt has shot through the \$8 trillion mark and continues to rise.

PAYGO PROPOSAL

(Mr. COOPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I think most folks back home want us to get along with each other in order to strengthen our Nation. Well, how can we best do that, especially at a time of contentious budget reconciliation? There is a simple proposal called PAYGO that is not theory; it has worked incredibly well. It worked from the year 1990 to the year 2002 when our friends on the other side of the aisle allowed it to expire.

How well did it work? Well, Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said it is the single most important thing we can do to right our fiscal ship. Pay-as-you-go means that if you want to spend more money, you have to find offsetting cuts somewhere before you can think about spending the new money. And it also means if you want to offer someone a tax cut, that is fine. Just figure out a way to pay for it. It is a simple and clear rule, and it guided our Nation into prosperity from 1990 to 2002.

Why can we not readopt that? It has proven to work and work well for all

Americans and to strengthen our Nation. The Blue Dog Coalition has been more consistent in its support for the PAYGO provisions than any other group in Congress. Support PAYGO.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I love coming down here and listening to these whiz bangs on the other side talk about their fiscal responsibility and all of this foolishness that they have put forth to the American people. It makes me want a dip of snuff. It is almost like they cannot add and subtract. I know they cannot multiply and divide. But the great mystery to me will always remain why in 5 years' time when they have increased the national debt by \$3 trillion and demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have absolutely no interest in being responsible, they would come here, present a budget that increases the debt by tens of billions of dollars more and try to tell the American people this is what you need; this is what we are going to do for you. You are going to have to answer to your children and grandchildren. And I would love to be there when they walk up to you and say, Grandmother, Grandfather, why did you do this to us?

RECONCILIATION PLAN

(Mr. MELANCON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, I cannot vote for this reconciliation plan for one very simple reason: Now is not the time to be cutting taxes for the wealthy in our country when the people of the ravaged gulf coast region receive silence and burdensome loans. I join my fellow Blue Dogs in opposition to this plan. Do the math: \$54 billion in spending cuts minus \$70 billion in tax cuts equals a \$16 billion increase in the deficit. We give tax cuts to the rich and continue to run up the deficit, but continue to send loans to the people who need their government the most in the gulf coast region.

Our government must do just as President Bush said in Jackson Square, whatever it takes to rebuild. I agree with the President on rebuilding. But let me be clear. Cutting taxes for the wealthy while loaning money to the devastated communities along the gulf coast is the wrong course of action. Let us start sending real help to the people in need and stop sending millionaires refund checks.

STUDENT AID IN RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, tomorrow's reconciliation bill is a reckless attack on students attending college. Basically, the bill burdens students from low- and middle-income families with 33 percent higher debt to pay for tax cuts that benefit almost exclusively those whose income is over \$200,000 a year. This bill cuts \$14 billion from student aid by increasing interest rates and taxes on loans and charging students new fees.

The cost of college is skyrocketing, and it already leaves the average student \$17,000 in debt. This bill would increase that debt by 33 percent. Many low- and middle-income students will no longer be able to afford college and their lifetime earning power will be reduced. Under the reconciliation bill, at least four students are going to start their careers burdened with added debt to pay for each millionaire's tax cut. And all this is being done so that the wealthiest 3 percent of Americans can have another huge tax cut.

REPUBLICAN RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Republican reconciliation bill, pretending to finally bring a sense of fiscal responsibility to that side of the aisle, having increased our debt by 62 percent in 5 years, actually is bleeding middle-income families, kids who want to get a higher education, \$14 billion out of student loans.

Those youngsters in the elementary schools are eating too much. Cut student lunches for those kids. Foster care, the family values side, long-term care for seniors. Why are they cutting all that? So they can bleed the poor and the middle class in this country. And then as they create this giant sea of red ink, they will float the yachts of the wealthy on it by giving them \$70 billion in tax breaks, actually increasing the deficit, having already stuck it to the middle class and struggling families.

They are going to increase the deficit in order to finance tax cuts for people who earn over \$300,000 a year so their yachts can be a little bigger and float a little higher. They should be ashamed of what they are doing to America and what they are doing to middle-income and struggling families.

□ 1045

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 539 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 539

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), 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.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 539 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration.

The resolution also provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. The energy and water development appropriations conference report provides a total of \$30.5 billion to fund the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, Department of Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation and several independent agencies for the current fiscal year.

The Bureau of Reclamation receives \$1.1 billion to maintain and operate water infrastructure projects throughout the West.

The Department of Energy constitutes the bulk of the bill with funding of \$24.3 billion. This represents a decrease of \$129 million from fiscal year 2005.

Overall, the conference report represents a compromise between the House- and Senate-passed bills and deserves the support of my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, included in this bill are a number of projects and provisions of importance to my central Washington congressional district. The Bureau of Reclamation's budget provides \$1.5 million to keep pace with a Federal study looking to add more water storage in the Yakima River basin and the potential of the Black Rock reservoir. Water storage is critical to the farmers and communities in this arid part of our Nation, and this year's drought made clear the importance of finding solutions for creating additional storage.

Funds were also provided for the Bureau of Reclamation to continue work to address the depletion of the Odessa Subaquifer on the Columbia Basin project, as well as needed improvements to the West Canal. Finding answers for farmers whose water supply is disappearing requires the active participation of the Bureau of Reclama-

tion, and this bill continues the involvement that I was able to launch last year.

The final conference report also provides \$18 million for the Department of Energy's budget for the transition of Pacific Northwest National Lab scientists and capabilities into new lab space. The buildings in which the scientists currently work are located in the Hanford site's 300 Area and will be torn down in the next few years to clean up this contaminated area.

The \$18 million represents an increase of \$10 million above DOE's budget request that I worked to add to make certain this effort remains on track and that construction activity can begin this year.

Ensuring the new lab space is ready and available before cleanup of Hanford requires the destruction of the scientists' current lab space is a top priority of mine, and I will continue to work hand-in-hand with the leaders of Pacific Northwest National Lab to make this happen.

This bill also funds the cleanup of the Hanford site. In February, I was disappointed with the Department of Energy's proposed funding for Hanford, and I have worked for months to restore some of that funding.

I am pleased that this bill provides increases above DOE's requested budget for several important cleanup projects in Hanford, including the River Corridor initiative, tank waste retrieval, groundwater protection, preserving the historic B Reactor, and continuing the important safety and training work of the Volpentest HAMMER facility.

There are very real cleanup successes being achieved at Hanford, and it is important to keep progress moving forward. This bill does, however, reduce funding for construction of the Waste Treatment Plant by \$100 million, which is a reduction that DOE proposed. I have made my dissatisfaction with the situation created by the Department very clear, and I intend to keep pressing DOE to be open in providing answers on its plan for the Waste Treatment Plant.

DOE has repeatedly stated their commitment to building and completing the vitrification plant, and we simply cannot afford to have a lack of information from the Department create further challenges for this project.

Madam Speaker, this conference report comes to us with bipartisan support from the House-Senate conference committee, and I urge my colleagues to give bipartisan support for this rule and passage of the conference agreement.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding me this time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I look forward to today's consideration of H.R. 2419, which reflects much thought and long-term planning on behalf of the Committee on Appropriations. This year's energy and water bill means a great deal to my constituents in my hometown of Sacramento.

This year, we pointedly witnessed just how important the water funding included in the energy and water appropriations funding legislation is. And we must now embrace the lessons this year's unprecedented hurricane season have taught us about the essential need to invest in our Nation's flood control infrastructure, dollars that are necessary to examine, maintain and strengthen our levee and dam systems.

Federal officials must look expeditiously at the significant role infrastructure plays to reduce catastrophic loss in a flood event. I commend the committee for calling on the Corps of Engineers to identify and create a list of the Nation's 10 most critical water resource needs in the country.

While hurricane season has ended, the flooding season in Sacramento and all of California will begin shortly. And as I have consistently spoken about the unacceptable risk of flooding my constituents face, I am certain you understand the concern I have about this upcoming season. Despite years of dedicated efforts, Sacramento still remains one of the most flood-prone and threatened cities in the country, piling in comparison to the level of protection enjoyed by other river cities.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento's flood risk is among the highest of urban areas in the country. This bill makes a significant investment in Sacramento's flood reduction efforts. It keeps the region on track to achieve our short-term goal, through levee work, of reaching 100-year protection. Moreover, this legislation ensures our other projects move forward, through which Sacramento will more than double the current level of flood protection. This increased protection is essential.

With thousands of lives and the capital of the Nation's largest State at risk, the need for this critically important investment is clear. We cannot afford to delay this work. This legislation recognizes the immediate need for progress on our flood control by directing our Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to continue the collaborative work addressing improvements to Folsom Dam. On behalf of Sacramento, I appreciate their dedication to this goal.

Each of our flood control partners, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the State of California, recognize the dire need for improved flood control and have personally invested in finding a solution; and I thank them for this. They, as I, who live in Sacramento, understand that lives are at risk and delays only add to our vulnerability.

I cannot proceed without also expressing my gratitude to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY). Their commitment to improving our Nation's water infrastructure is evident in this legislation. I thank both of California's Senators for their efforts on Sacramento and California's flood control needs. I appreciate Senator FEINSTEIN's leadership in the conference committee. To the energy and water appropriations staff, particularly Peder Maarbjerg and John Blazey, your long hours and hard work are much appreciated.

Their efforts reflect not only the incredible investments that must be made to improve our infrastructure across the Nation, but also an acknowledgment that we must wisely spend each dollar. This legislation adds new measures to ensure that the Corps manages each dollar efficiently.

To improve the execution of projects, the Corps is directed to develop a 5-year comprehensive budget plan and vision for water infrastructure in the country to comprehensively integrate financial planning and project management. Further, while the Corps will still have the flexibility to occasionally shift project funding as needed, the Corps will no longer be able to consistently use this practice.

By working together, the Congress, the administration, and the Corps of Engineers will be better prepared to ensure that limited Federal resources are spent efficiently, commitments to local sponsors are honored, and projects remain on schedule.

This bill moves our country forward on many levels, from improving local water infrastructure to bigger-picture Corps of Engineer financial management and efficiency issues.

In light of the realities our Nation faced this year, I hope Congress will continue this commitment to public safety and significantly invest in water infrastructure. I strongly support the underlying conference report and look forward to voting in support of the measure.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam 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 question will be postponed.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2862, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 538 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 538

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2862) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam 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.

House Resolution 538 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration and provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 538 and the underlying conference report for H.R. 2862, the Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005. This conference report provides \$57.85 billion, \$2.5 billion less than the President requested, to fund the Departments of Justice, Commerce and State along with NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Federal Communication Commission, FCC, the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, the Legal Services Corporation, and the Small Business Administration, SBA.

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In recognition of the continual requirement to reassess our security and law enforcement needs, this conference report establishes responsible priorities to enable law enforcement to meet threats abroad and at home in order to secure our communities.

Madam Speaker, this conference report provides \$5.8 billion for the FBI, an increase of \$547 million above fiscal year 2005 and \$15 million above the President's request. It provides \$1.7 billion for the Drug Enforcement Agency, the DEA, and this is a \$48 million increase above fiscal 2005, and it is \$8 million below the President's request.

It provides \$802 million for the United States Marshals Service, and this is an increase of \$42 million from

fiscal year 2005 and actually \$12 million above the President's request.

Additionally, included in the conference report is \$924 million for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, an increase of \$41 million above fiscal year 2005, and it is the same as the President's request.

Further, this conference report contains \$2.7 billion for assistance to State and local law enforcement for crime-fighting initiatives, \$1.1 billion above the President's request and actually \$287 million below fiscal year 2005.

This amount includes \$405 million to reimburse States for criminal alien detention costs, \$387 million for violence against women prevention and prosecution programs, \$416 million for the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants program, \$340 million for juvenile delinquency prevention and accountability programs. It includes \$109 million to eliminate DNA analysis backlogs, \$140 million for law enforcement technologies and interoperability, \$64 million for methamphetamine hotspots, and \$40 million to reduce gang violence.

Madam Speaker, this conference report appropriates \$6.6 billion for the Department of Commerce, marking a decrease of \$37 million from fiscal year 2005 and a \$2.9 billion increase from the President's request.

Recognizing the importance of space exploration that has fascinated minds for generations and provided many breakthrough technologies, this conference report matches the President's request of \$16.5 billion to NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, and this is \$260 million above fiscal year 2005. The bill provides funding for space exploration and the space shuttle program, restoring the aeronautics research program. Additionally, the National Science Foundation would receive \$5.65 billion of much-needed funding to drive American research and education, thereby keeping this country on the cutting edge of advanced technology and research.

This conference report also provides \$9.6 billion for the State Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, including \$1.6 billion to continue worldwide security improvements and replacement of vulnerable embassies; \$4.4 billion for diplomatic and consular programs; and \$652 million for international broadcasting, including expanding broadcasting to the broader Middle East.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this conference report includes \$456 billion for the Small Business Administration, \$290 million for the Federal Communications Commission, \$888 million for the Securities and Exchange Commission, and \$331 million for the Legal Services Corporation.

While this conference report is not perfect, all in all it adds up to better protection for our communities, stronger law enforcement at home, more vigorous diplomacy abroad, and improved scientific research and technology. This is the kind of fundamental