

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall no. 151, I was listed as voting in favor of H.R. 4200, the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act. This was an error; I oppose H.R. 4200 and intended to vote "no".

H.R. 4200 is unnecessary legislation with significant negative consequences. It allows almost any activity, including timbering and roadbuilding, to proceed on an expedited basis with little or no environmental review and with little or no ability for the public to challenge a decision, under a broad array of circumstances beyond what most would view as emergencies. It shares many of the misguided goals and harmful effects of the so-called "Healthy Forest Restoration Act" of 2003, which I voted against.

Again, I intended to vote "no" on H.R. 4200.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JAMES E. SOMERVILLE**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of James E. Somerville, devoted husband, father and grandfather, WWII Veteran, and friend to many.

Mr. Somerville grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where he learned at an early age the values of family, faith, hard work and community. Together, he and his beloved wife Phyllis raised their three children, Gregory, Peggy and Kathleen. His quick wit and friendly demeanor easily drew others to him. Mr. Somerville consistently lived life with a certain kindness and grace, and he was always willing to help out a family member or friend whenever needed.

Mr. Somerville's life focused on service to country, devotion to family and dedication to work. He served with honor and valor as a Sergeant in the United States army during WWII. After the war, Mr. Somerville focused on providing a safe, stable and loving environment for his family. He was a dependable and hardworking employee in the textile industry for numerous years. His devotion to his Catholic faith never wavered; he was a longtime member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Strongsville. Although Mr. Somerville struggled with illness for many years, his faith and family gave him strength, and his kind heart and wonderful sense of humor continued to give strength to those who loved him most.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of James E. Somerville. Please also join me as I offer my deep condolences to his wife Phyllis; to his son, Gregory; to his daughters, Peggy and Kathleen; to his sons-in-law, William and Tom; to his grandchildren, Brandyn, Jordan and Camron; to his sister, Eileen; and to his extended family members and many friends. Although he will be greatly missed, the kindness, humor and love that framed his life, will

live on within the hearts of his family and friends, today and for all time, and he will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF AUGUSTINE PEREZ

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Augustine Perez of the Northwest Postal Station on Northwest Highway in Dallas, Texas, which I am proud to represent in Congress. Mr. Perez's record of accomplishment as a letter carrier is truly remarkable. Very few carriers become members of the U.S. Postal Service's Million Mile Club. Only those carriers who have driven 1 million miles, 25,000 hours, or 30 years without a preventable accident can earn induction. While membership in this club is very exclusive, Mr. Perez continues to exceed these expectations, as he joined the club more than five years ago and is still delivering the mail.

Mr. Perez's normal daily routine includes 240 delivery stops with at least six hours of driving. Moreover, most of his delivery vehicles are without air conditioning in what is often a brutal summer Texas heat.

I salute Mr. Perez for his continued service in delivering the mail to the community, and I wish him many more years of great service to the Post Office and its customers. His dedication is unmatched and for this I express my sincere thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. This measure is the first appropriations bill to be considered for fiscal year 2007, and has reached the floor one day after this House passed its budget resolution for the coming year. As such, the procedure for bringing up the measure deserves a brief explanation.

Although the House and Senate have passed their respective budget resolutions, a final conference agreement on the budget has not been completed. Therefore, to proceed with the consideration of 2007 appropriations measures, the House has agreed in effect to ratify the levels in the House-passed budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) as the ones to be enforced in the House. This second con-

firmation of those levels was included in the rule for consideration of this bill (H. Res. 818). With the adoption of the rule, the budgetary levels established under the budget resolution will be enforced in the House as if the resolution were a conference report. More specifically, the appropriations bills will be limited to the budget resolution levels of \$873 billion; and any emergency spending will be subject to the procedures established in the budget resolution House-passed budget resolution.

This bill provides new budget authority [BA] equal to the subcommittee allocation, so is in compliance with the Budget Act provisions regarding consideration of appropriations measures in excess of the suballocation. Further, because this is the first bill considered under the budget resolution, it does not cause a breach of the budgetary aggregates, which would violate the Budget Act.

This measure provides for the resource management needs for our Nation, clearly a national priority. The bill, which is in compliance with H. Con. Res. 376, the concurrent resolution on the budget, provides appropriations for most of the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities, among others.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

H.R. 5386 provides \$25.9 billion in appropriations for fiscal year 2007, which is \$4 million, or less than one percent, below the fiscal year 2006 level. The level is \$411 million over the President's request. The bill complies with section 302(t) of the Budget Act, which prohibits consideration of bills in excess of an Appropriations subcommittee's 302(b) allocation of budget authority and outlays established in the budget resolution.

H.R. 5386 does not contain any emergency-designated BA, which is exempt from budget limits. The bill reduces a National Park Service contract authority account by \$30 million—an account not subject to annual appropriations—thereby offsetting discretionary spending through changes in a mandatory spending program. The contract authority allows the National Park Service to enter in to contracts to purchase lands under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. If this provision were stricken (because it constitutes legislating on an appropriations bill) the measure as reported would exceed its allocation under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act.

The second change in mandatory programs reduces the Coastal Impact Assistance Fund by 3 percent from 2007 to 2010 (\$9 million each year) and spends the money on the Mineral Management Service's Royalty and Offshore Minerals Management Account. The Coastal Impact Assistance fund provides infrastructure and environmental remediation grants to states with oil and/or gas production on Outer Continental Shelf waters adjoining their borders. As a result, transfers to states under the Coastal Impact Fund reduced by an equal amount.

As we enter the appropriations season, I wish Chairman LEWIS and our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee the best in maintaining their admirable pace of bringing bills to the floor.

In conclusion, I express my support for H.R. 5386.