

Branch Oceanographic can help countries that get assistance through the Tropical Forest Conservation Act program to restore and protect valuable and irreplaceable coral reefs and other marine ecosystems.

This bill is a win-win-win situation. With the passage of this bill, Congress can further alleviate debt in developing countries, provide long-term sustainable financing for environmental conservation and protection for important world ecosystems, and advance medicinal research and increase United States assistance to developing countries and further our credibility overseas. Reauthorizing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act provides numerous benefits to developing nations, to the United States, and to our planet.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as we reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, we take an important and critical new step to help the world preserve and restore its natural resources and vital ecosystems. This reauthorization will continue our efforts to preserve the world's forests, coral reefs, and associated coastal marine ecosystems. The Tropical Forest Conservation Act will create an invaluable debt-for-nature exchange that not only benefits the global economy, but also the global environment.

Protecting our natural resources is a daunting responsibility, and coral reefs present unique challenges to protect and rebuild. They are fragile, slow-growing, and easily damaged by passing ships, changes in temperature, or severe weather. Despite these challenges, they are an integral part of our environment. Corals support economies, protect coastlines, and act as ecosystems for thousands of species of sea life. They may also provide information for the development of new drugs or understandings of human disease.

The Florida Aquarium, a non-profit education and research institution in Tampa, has extensive experience in developing cutting edge technologies and protocols for coral conservation, including how to safely introduce cultured coral onto wild reefs. This facility has pioneered the methods and technology needed to confidently direct a coral health certificate program wherein aquacultured corals are certified as safe for introduction into the wild. Until the Florida Aquarium developed this certification technique for artificially aquacultured coral, there was no acceptable solution for doing so. This made rebuilding reefs time-consuming and expensive, and often led to the destruction of the wild coral that scientists were trying to restore. Today, the Florida Aquarium continues to lead the scientific community as the only institution in the world that can certify aquacultured coral for wild reefs.

Mr. Speaker, developing countries participating in our debt relief initiative could greatly benefit from the Florida Aquarium's technology and expertise. I strongly encourage the coral initiatives under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to seek out the Florida Aquarium as a resource in rehabilitating coral reefs world wide. I am proud to support this important legislation in its effort to preserve our natural resources.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2185, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT RELATING TO REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 405) expressing the strong support of the House of Representatives for implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 405

Whereas, in recognition that any future efforts for a solution of the Cyprus problem need to be carefully prepared, President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan met on February 28, 2006, in Paris, and reiterated that, "the resumption of the negotiating process within the framework of the Secretary General's Good Offices must be timely and based on careful preparation";

Whereas on July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, agreed, under the auspices of United Nations Under Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, to a set of principles to begin a process of bi-communal discussions;

Whereas the set of principles agreed to are—

(1) commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(2) recognition of the fact that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots;

(3) commitment to the proposition that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible, and should not be further delayed;

(4) agreement to begin a process immediately, involving bi-communal discussion of issues that affect the day-to-day life of the people and concurrently those that concern substantive issues, both of which will contribute to a comprehensive settlement; and

(5) commitment to ensure that the "right atmosphere" prevails for this process to be

successful; in that connection, confidence-building measures are essential, both in terms of improving the atmosphere and improving the life of all Turkish and Greek Cypriots; and also in that connection, an end must be put to the so-called "blame game";

Whereas, according to the agreement, technical committees and working groups would be set up to examine and discuss issues that affect day-to-day life of the people of Cyprus and concurrently those that concern substantive issues, thus contributing to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem;

Whereas on March 27, 2007, the United Nations Security Council in a statement on Cyprus indicated that, "the members of the Security Council urge both communities to work with the United Nations to implement the 8 July 2006 agreement, in particular through the immediate creation of bi-communal working groups and technical committees in order to prepare the ground for full-fledged negotiations leading to a comprehensive and durable settlement";

Whereas the United States has long supported fostering the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, and within a process that is led by the United Nations, thereby consistent with the intended aim of the July 8, 2006, agreement, and as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas several meetings have been held between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot members of the coordination committee, consulting on the implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement, but no technical committees or working groups have been set up;

Whereas on June 15, 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1758 which "expresses full support for the July 8, 2006 process, notes with concern the lack of progress, and calls upon all parties to immediately engage constructively with the United Nations efforts, as described in Under Secretary General Gambari's letter of 15 November 2006, to demonstrate measurable progress in order to allow fully fledged negotiations to begin"; and

Whereas on September 5, 2007, President Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat "agreed on the need for the earliest start of the [Gambari] process" and to "continue their contact through the UN and to meet again when appropriate": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions; and

(2) calls upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement in its entirety and without deviation from that process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank our colleague from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) for introducing this important resolution. For years, the United Nations has attempted to reduce the potential for conflict on Cyprus and to heal and reunify that long-divided island.

Last year, Under Secretary of the United Nations Ibrahim Gambari potentially made progress towards resolving this issue. Thanks to his efforts, the Greek and Turkish Cypriots signed an agreement on July 8, 2006, that sets out principles forming the basis for a future permanent agreement.

Mr. Speaker, these important principles include, first and foremost, recognition that the status quo, with a divided island, is unacceptable. They also include a commitment to unification based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation; a commitment to form intercommunal working groups aimed at achieving confidence-building measures to improve daily lives on both sides of the island; and a commitment to promote a positive atmosphere that would allow negotiations to thrive.

All of us hope that the July 8, 2006, agreement between the Greek and the Turkish Cypriot communities will prove to be an important step on the road to reunification of Cyprus as a bizonal, bicomunal federation. The pace of the progress must accelerate. To date, it has been, at best, halting. But both parties have at least renewed their pledge to work towards a negotiated agreement.

Mr. Speaker, U.N. Security Council Resolution 1758 expresses full support for the July 8, 2006, agreement. I hope the Members of this body will reinforce that message by backing this bill, and thereby backing the unification of Cyprus. The resolution before us, H. Res. 405, expresses its support for the immediate implementation of the July 8, 2006, agreement, and it calls on the administration to support it as well.

□ 1700

Mr. Speaker, the people of Cyprus deserve our encouragement and our support in their efforts to prepare for new talks aimed at reunification, and that is exactly what this resolution seeks to do. I strongly support it, and I encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from California for her strong support of H. Res. 405. I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 405, which expresses the strong support of the U.S. House of Representatives for the immediate implementa-

tion of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between President Papadopoulos of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot community leader, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat.

More than 33 years after the invasion and occupation of Cyprus by Turkish troops, the country remains divided and has the longest running peace-keeping force in the history of the United Nations. It is important that there is forward movement on properly preparing the grounds for serious negotiations that will lead to sustainable and lasting peace.

The international community has helped shepherd an agreement on a process, the Gambari process, that points the way forward to comprehensive negotiations that will lead to the reunification of the island, its people, institutions and economy in a bizonal, bi-communal federation.

The United Nations Security Council, the European Union, and the United States have all played key roles in trying to bring a lasting and fair resolution to the division of the island.

On July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Mr. Talat agreed, under the auspices of the United Nations, to the establishment of technical committees and working groups to examine the issues affecting the daily lives of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot people, as well as issues of substance.

H. Res. 405 recognizes the fact that the status quo is unacceptable and that its prolongation would have negative consequences for the Turkish and Greek Cypriots. It also reinforces the proposition that a comprehensive settlement is both desirable and possible and should not be further delayed.

In an effort to jump-start the July 8 agreement, President Papadopoulos invited Mr. Talat to a meeting that took place this year on September 5. The two leaders agreed on the need for the earliest start of the Gambari process and to continue their contact through the U.N. and to meet again when appropriate.

As a member of the European Union, the Republic of Cyprus has proven itself a committed and influential partner in Europe. Despite its forced division, Cyprus's successful social and economic integration into the European Union is a testament to its focus and dedication to democratic values and regional cooperation.

In addition, Cyprus has a long history of working cooperatively with the United States on issues of international defense and security and continues to do so in the global war on terror. Cyprus is also a good friend to this country. In the summer of 2006, Cyprus served as the principal transit for 15,000 Americans evacuating Lebanon. Our citizens were provided with food, shelter, and medical care.

It is now time for Congress to demonstrate its strong support of efforts toward the reunification of Cyprus by passing H. Res. 405, calling for the immediate implementation of the July 8

agreement in its entirety and without deviation from the process.

H. Res. 405 gives a strong message of support for a reunified Cyprus under a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality, and single citizenship with respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots.

I wish to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and all of my colleagues who have co-sponsored H. Res. 405. I thank them for recognizing what a significant step this great representative body is taking by telling the world community that the sad and tragic division of Cyprus should be no longer.

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentlewoman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution of which I am a proud co-sponsor. In the summer of 2006, we witnessed a major breakthrough in the troubled history of this divided island. After years of conflict, both sides committed themselves to the reunification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality. By agreeing to these principles, they recognize the status quo is unacceptable and that continuing it only hurts both the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities.

In connection with this agreement, we are all pleased to see the Cypriot Government take a number of confidence-building measures, demolishing walls and even providing free health care to Turkish Cypriots.

This summer, my family and I traveled to Cyprus and had the pleasure of enjoying the legendary Cypriot hospitality. While I enjoyed the beauty and serenity of the island, I was most struck by the openness and warmth of the people there, who treated my family and me with the greatest regard. It is cruel that such a warm and hospitable people should continue to be subjected to this conflict.

We were simply appalled by the state of the "green line" area. It is a blot on an otherwise breathtaking country. It is time that the Turkish troops remove themselves from this island so that, at our next visit, Cyprus will once again be a peaceful and unified island free of occupation.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for both sides to come together to execute the July 2006 agreement. The principles have been laid out and all that we need now is implementation. I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. SIREN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 405, which expresses strong support for the implementation of the July 8, 2006 agreement between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot

leader. Since the invasion of Cyprus over 30 years ago, the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities have been divided. There have been over 13 million crossings by Greek and Turkish Cypriots into each other's communities without incident. The reunification of Cyprus would improve relations between the communities, commerce, and the everyday lives of Cypriots on the island. It is in the best interest of the Cypriot people, the United States and our allies, Greece and Turkey, to urge the immediate implementation of the July 8th agreement. Both parties must abide by U.N. Security Council Resolutions and move forward with the reunification of Cyprus. I'd like to thank Congressman BILIRAKIS for introducing this resolution and I would urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 405, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### EXPANDING STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 651) recognizing the warm friendship and expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil, commending Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs, and recognizing the importance of the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels cooperation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 651

Whereas following the oil shock of the early 1970s, Brazil chose to reduce its energy vulnerability by choosing sugar-based ethanol to diversify its energy sector and power its automobiles;

Whereas with large private and public investments and support from the World Bank, Brazil greatly expanded the amount of sugarcane it produced and began large-scale construction of alcohol distilleries to process sugar into ethanol;

Whereas decades of state investment have helped Brazil become the world's largest consumer and producer of ethanol from sugar cane;

Whereas ethanol supplies 40 percent of the motor fuel used in Brazil and is extremely competitive with gasoline;

Whereas the transition towards biofuels will have a positive impact on the environment and will help reduce greenhouse gases;

Whereas by the end of 2006, 80 percent of new car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, mean-

ing that they can run on ethanol, gasoline, or any mixture of both;

Whereas Brazil stands out as the leading example of a country that has diversified its energy supply and become a net exporter of energy, in large part by increasing its use and production of alternative energy sources, including ethanol;

Whereas putting the United States on a path toward ending its addiction to oil, as Brazil has done, by investing in clean alternative energy sources is essential in protecting United States national security, the environment, and the stability of the United States economy;

Whereas, on March 9, 2007, the United States and Brazil—the world's two largest ethanol producing countries—signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the United States-Brazil MOU involves technology-sharing between the United States and Brazil, feasibility studies and technical assistance to build domestic biofuels industries in third countries, and multilateral efforts to advance the global development of biofuels;

Whereas the first countries targeted for United States-Brazilian technical assistance are the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, and St. Kitts and Nevis;

Whereas United States President George W. Bush and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva have met twice in 2007 as visible examples of the expanding warm relations and close ties between the United States and Brazil;

Whereas the United States and Brazil are the two largest and most diverse democracies in the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas Brazil—through its leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) in Haiti and other achievements—has emerged as a regional leader in the Western Hemisphere; and

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that the United States looks to Brazil as a "regional leader and a global partner": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the United States and Brazil have arrived at the point of a strategic confluence of interests and urges President George W. Bush to continue to deepen the bilateral relationship between the two countries;

(2) recognizes Brazil's role as a leader in the Western Hemisphere and commends its leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission (MINUSTAH) in Haiti;

(3) commends Brazil for successfully diversifying its energy resources and reducing its dependence on oil;

(4) strongly supports the March 9, 2007, United States-Brazil Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on biofuels as a major step forward in bilateral relations, hemispheric integration, and energy diversification;

(5) commends joint efforts by the United States and Brazil for their commitment to use expertise to provide technical assistance for biofuels industries in third countries, currently including the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, and St. Kitts and Nevis; and

(6) encourages United States and Brazilian officials to quickly identify additional countries in the Western Hemisphere to receive technical assistance related to biofuels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would first like to thank our colleagues, Congressman ELIOT ENGEL and DAN BURTON, for introducing this important resolution. Their leadership on Brazil-related matters is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, Brazil has the largest economy, population, and land mass in South America. It is the fifth most populous country in the world, and its economy is the 11th largest. It is high time we recognize, as this resolution does, the expanding strategic relationship between the United States and Brazil.

We in America are finally waking up not only to Brazil's importance, but to how natural this relationship should be. Brazil is also the right country with which to cooperate on alternative energy sources.

This resolution commends Brazil on successfully reducing its dependence on oil by finding alternative ways to satisfy its energy needs and recognizes the importance of the March 9, 2007, U.S.-Brazil memorandum of understanding on biofuels cooperation.

The agreement promotes greater cooperation on ethanol and biofuels between the world's two largest ethanol-producing countries. Brazil has become the world's largest consumer and producer of ethanol from sugar cane. By the end of 2006, 80 percent of new-car sales in Brazil were flex-fuel, meaning they can run on a mixture of ethanol and gasoline.

Furthermore, ethanol supplies 40 percent of the motor fuel used in Brazil and is extremely competitive with gasoline. We as Americans can learn a great deal from Brazil and they from us as we try to reduce their dependence on oil and diversify our energy resources. The U.S. and Brazil are providing technical assistance to build biofuels industries in Third World countries, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, St. Kitts, and Nevis.

It is also important to note that Brazil, through its leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and other achievements, has emerged as a regional leader in the Western Hemisphere, a role this resolution recognizes for Brazil.

Brazil's leadership in the Americas and throughout the world signals the emergence of a vital partner and friend to the United States. That is why I