

member of the House Science Committee, I asked those questions, and the committee collectively, majority and minority, has looked at that issue.

The answer really is that the technology doesn't exist today to communicate in this manner between the surface and folks who are trapped deep underground, and so the effort here and the purpose of this legislation, it's a very narrow piece of legislation, looks at encouraging development of technology that would allow this type of communication to occur in the future.

The thing about this bill that I'm really proud of is the fact that the committee worked so well together, and I really want to thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their extraordinary effort and also the staff, both majority and the minority, for working together to move this bill in a rather quick manner and in a bipartisan manner. Suggestions were taken from folks on both sides of the aisle, and the bill that came out of the committee reflected those discussions and deliberations among everyone involved in the committee.

So I think this is an example where Congress is passing good legislation, a substantive piece of legislation. It's a piece of legislation that is so important for the 1,400 underground mines we have in this country and, quite frankly, the many thousands of underground mines that exist around the world today, where this type of technology, if it is developed, will allow better communication capability and allow an opportunity for perhaps more success in rescue operations.

Now, I want to be clear on a couple of things. The purpose of the legislation is really to accelerate next-generation technology. The legislation will direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communication systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground mines. I think the legislation will foster much-needed research and development in this field of communications to better protect miners.

The time to address this issue is now, before any more accidents leave any additional miner families desperate for word about their loved ones.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise also in support of H.R. 3877, the Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act.

First, I want to take this opportunity to thank Chairman GORDON, Ranking Member HALL, and all of the members of the Science Committee and the staff who worked so hard to bring this important bipartisan legislation through our committee and to the House floor today.

Madam Speaker, every Member of the House hopes to avoid another catastrophe such as the Sago Mine explosion in West Virginia in 2006 or the disaster at the Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah this past August. And I certainly want to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), for introducing H.R. 3877 to address one of the major obstacles to miner safety, and that is, our inability, as he just pointed out, to track miners underground and to communicate with them in the event of such an emergency.

Under the 2006 MINER Act, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, MSHA, and the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety, NIOSH, receive significant funding to lead an interagency program to develop communication, tracking, oxygen supply and refuge systems for mines. To date, this program has invested over \$23 million, and it is steadily progressing towards installation of new, safer communication systems by the year 2009.

As NIOSH and MSHA continue to advance research and development in this area, there was clear bipartisan agreement within the Science Committee that the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, could enhance these efforts by fostering standards for communication equipment in mines and development of those systems through the creation of best practices, measurement services, and research evaluation.

□ 1645

NIST has long been a leader in communications research technology and has the equipment, and it has the expertise to characterize the mine environment and determine what techniques are best suited for these very difficult situations and conditions.

This bill is the product of bipartisan work in the Science Committee, and it creates a basic framework to ensure that the government's research agency works cooperatively, effectively and quickly to improve mine and miner safety.

The world-renowned capabilities of NIST laboratories and the years of study and experience at NIOSH and MSHA can significantly improve implementation of emergency communications and tracking systems in our mines. Improvement in these systems will substantially increase rescuers' ability to find and free miners in the event of a mine catastrophe, as we just outlined, that occurred recently in West Virginia and the great State of Utah.

H.R. 3877 would significantly contribute to the health and the safety of miners by uniting the communications and standards experience of NIST with the ongoing research and the mine environment experience at NIOSH and MSHA.

I want to applaud my colleague, Mr. MATHESON, for addressing this issue that he knows so well that is of such

utmost importance to his constituents in Utah, as well as mining communities across this country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. It will make significant advancements in miner safety.

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

Mr. MATHESON. I thank my colleague. I also want to thank him for making one additional really good point in his remarks, and that is that this legislation is complementary with what we are trying to do at NIOSH and MSHA.

Madam Speaker, Congress these days doesn't have the best reputation of working together on certain things, but this is an example where this committee worked really well in terms of coming up with legislation, where bills were originally introduced, there were some other questions during the committee process. Folks on the minority side of the aisle offered suggestions for a manager's amendment. We approved this bill. It has good bipartisan support. It's the right thing to do.

I again want to thank Dr. GINGREY and everyone on the Science Committee staff for their help in making this legislation work.

I will just close by saying that I visited the Crandall Canyon mine families right after the disaster. They were going through so many emotions that it's difficult for us to even imagine, but to not know where their loved ones were was probably the greatest frustration of all. If this legislation can provide a path to help provide answers to those questions in the future, then, clearly, it's the right thing to do.

I ask for a favorable vote from everybody on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3877, 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 require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish an initiative to promote the research, development, and demonstration of miner tracking and communications systems and to promote the establishment of standards and other measurement services regarding underground communications to protect miners in the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H.R. 3224, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 573, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 747, by the yeas and nays.

The vote on House Joint Resolution 58 will be postponed until tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

DAM REHABILITATION AND REPAIR ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3224, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 102, not voting 67, as follows:

[Roll No. 1010]

YEAS—263

Abercrombie	Brady (TX)	DeLauro
Ackerman	Braley (IA)	Dent
Aderholt	Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.
Alexander	Capito	Diaz-Balart, M.
Allen	Capps	Dingell
Altmire	Capuano	Doggett
Andrews	Cardoza	Donnelly
Arcuri	Carnahan	Doolittle
Baca	Castle	Doyle
Bachus	Castor	Edwards
Baird	Chandler	Ehlers
Baker	Clarke	Ellison
Baldwin	Clay	Ellsworth
Barrow	Cleaver	Emanuel
Bean	Clyburn	Emerson
Becerra	Cohen	Engel
Berkley	Costa	Eshoo
Berman	Courtney	Etheridge
Berry	Cramer	Farr
Biggert	Crowley	Fattah
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Filner
Bishop (NY)	Cummings	Fortenberry
Blumenauer	Davis (AL)	Fossella
Bonner	Davis (CA)	Frank (MA)
Boren	Davis (IL)	Frelinghuysen
Boswell	Davis, Lincoln	Gerlach
Boucher	DeFazio	Giffords
Boyd (FL)	DeGette	Gilchrest
Boyd (KS)	Delahunt	Gillibrand

Gonzalez	Matheson	Ruppersberger
Gordon	Matsui	Rush
Graves	McCarthy (NY)	Ryan (OH)
Green, Al	McCollum (MN)	Ryan (WI)
Hall (NY)	McCotter	Salazar
Hare	McCrery	Sánchez, Linda
Harman	McDermott	T.
Hayes	McGovern	Sanchez, Loretta
Herger	McHugh	Sarbanes
Herseht Sandlin	McIntyre	Saxton
Higgins	McNerney	Schakowsky
Hill	McNulty	Schiff
Hinchev	Meeks (NY)	Schwartz
Hinojosa	Melancon	Scott (GA)
Hirono	Michaud	Scott (VA)
Hodes	Miller (MI)	Serrano
Holds	Miller (NC)	Sestak
Holden	Miller, George	Sherman
Holt	Mitchell	Shimkus
Honda	Mollohan	Shuler
Hooley	Moore (KS)	Sires
Hoyer	Moore (WI)	Skelton
Inslee	Moran (VA)	Slaughter
Israel	Murphy (CT)	Smith (NJ)
Jackson (IL)	Murphy, Patrick	Snyder
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Murphy, Tim	Solis
Johnson (GA)	Murtha	Space
Johnson, E. B.	Napolitano	Stark
Jones (OH)	Oberstar	Stupak
Kagen	Obey	Sutton
Kanjorski	Olver	Tanner
Kaptur	Ortiz	Tauscher
Kennedy	Pallone	Terry
Kildee	Pascrell	Thompson (CA)
Kind	Pastor	Thompson (MS)
King (NY)	Perlmutter	Thornberry
Kirk	Peterson (MN)	Tierney
Kuhl (NY)	Petri	Towns
Langevin	Platts	Tsongas
Lantos	Pomeroy	Turner
Larsen (WA)	Porter	Udall (NM)
Larson (CT)	Price (NC)	Upton
LaTourette	Putnam	Van Hollen
Lee	Radanovich	Velázquez
Levin	Rahall	Visclosky
Lewis (GA)	Rangel	Walden (OR)
Lipinski	Regula	Walsh (NY)
LoBiondo	Rehberg	Walz (MN)
Loeb sack	Reichert	Waters
Lofgren, Zoe	Renzi	Watson
Lowe y	Reyes	Watt
Lucas	Reynolds	Weiner
Lungren, Daniel E.	Richardson	Welch (VT)
Lynch	Rodriguez	Wexler
Mahoney (FL)	Rogers (KY)	Whitfield
Maloney (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Woolsey
Manzullo	Roskam	Wu
Markey	Ross	Wynn
Marshall	Rothman	Yarmuth
	Roybal-Allard	

NAYS—102

Akin	Forbes	McMorris
Bachmann	Fox	Rodgers
Barrett (SC)	Franks (AZ)	Mica
Bartlett (MD)	Gallely	Miller (FL)
Barton (TX)	Garrett (NJ)	Miller, Gary
Bilbray	Gingrey	Moran (KS)
Bilirakis	Goode	Musgrave
Bishop (UT)	Goodlatte	Neugebauer
Blackburn	Hall (TX)	Nunes
Blunt	Hastings (WA)	Pearce
Bono	Heller	Pitts
Boozman	Hensarling	Poe
Boustany	Hobson	Price (GA)
Broun (GA)	Hoekstra	Ramstad
Brown (SC)	Inglis (SC)	Rogers (AL)
Buchanan	Issa	Rogers (MD)
Burton (IN)	Johnson, Sam	Royce
Calvert	Jones (NC)	Sali
Camp (MI)	Jordan	Sensenbrenner
Campbell (CA)	Keller	Sessions
Cannon	King (IA)	Shadegg
Cantor	Kingston	Smith (NE)
Carter	Kline (MN)	Smith (TX)
Coble	Knollenberg	Stearns
Cole (OK)	Lamborn	Sullivan
Crenshaw	Latham	Tiahrt
Culberson	Lewis (CA)	Tiberi
Davis, David	Lewis (KY)	Walberg
Davis, Tom	Linder	Westmoreland
Drake	Mack	Wicker
Dreier	McCarthy (CA)	Wilson (NM)
Duncan	McCauley (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Everett	McHenry	Wolf
Fallin	McKeon	Young (FL)
Feeney		

NOT VOTING—67

Boehner	Green, Gene	Peterson (PA)
Grijalva	Gutierrez	Pickering
Brown, Corrine	Hastert	Pryce (OH)
Brown-Waite,	Ginny	Rohrabacher
Butterfield	Hulshof	Schmidt
Buyer	Hunter	Shays
Carney	Jefferson	Shea-Porter
Carson	Jindal	Shuster
Chabot	Johnson (IL)	Simpson
Conaway	Kilpatrick	Smith (WA)
Conyers	Klein (FL)	Souder
Cooper	Kucinich	Spratt
Costello	LaHood	Tancredo
Cubin	Lampson	Taylor
Davis (KY)	Marchant	Udall (CO)
Deal (GA)	Meek (FL)	Wamp
Dicks	Myrick	Wasserman
English (PA)	Nadler	Schultz
Ferguson	Neal (MA)	Waxman
Flake	Paul	Weldon (FL)
Gohmert	Payne	Weller
Granger	Pence	Wilson (OH)
		Young (AK)

□ 1856

Messrs. COLE of Oklahoma, DUNCAN, SMITH of Texas and CANTOR changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 1010, I am not recorded because my card did not register. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND HELP END THE WORSENING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 366, nays 0, not voting 66, as follows:

[Roll No. 1011]

YEAS—366

Abercrombie	Barrett (SC)	Blackburn
Ackerman	Barrow	Blumenauer
Aderholt	Bartlett (MD)	Blunt
Akin	Barton (TX)	Bonner
Alexander	Bean	Bono
Allen	Becerra	Boozman
Altmire	Berkley	Boren
Andrews	Berman	Boswell
Arcuri	Berry	Boucher
Baca	Biggert	Boustany
Bachmann	Bilbray	Boyd (FL)
Bachus	Bilirakis	Boyd (KS)
Baird	Bishop (GA)	Brady (TX)
Baker	Bishop (NY)	Braley (IA)
Baldwin	Bishop (UT)	Broun (GA)