airlines and the flying public by improving safety and mitigating the pilot shortage.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Subcommittee on Aviation, I want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman OBERSTAR, the sponsor this bill.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Fair Treatment for Experienced Pilots Act of 2007.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4343.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. 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 motion will be postponed.

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3986) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3986

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 2(a)(2)(J)(ii) of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)(2)(J)(ii)) is amended by striking ''Public Works and Transportation'' and inserting ''Transportation and Infrastructure''.

SEC. 3. PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM.

The John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 6 the following:

''SEC. 7. PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board is authorized to study, plan, design, engineer, and construct a photovoltaic system for the main roof of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

''(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days before beginning construction of the photovoltaic system pursuant to subsection (a), the Board shall submit a report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate on the feasibility and design of the project.''.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 13 of the John F. Kennedy Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76r) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, AND SECURITY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out section 4(a)(1)(H)—

''(1) $20,200,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(2) $21,800,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

''(3) $22,500,000 for fiscal year 2010.

''(b) CAPITAL PROJECTS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board to carry out subparagraphs (F) and (G) of section 4(a)(1)—

''(1) $23,150,000 for fiscal year 2008;

''(2) $16,000,000 for fiscal year 2009; and

''(3) $17,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.''; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e), and by adding after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board such sums as may be necessary to carry out section 7, with such sums to remain available until expended.''.

SEC. 5. EXISTING AUTHORITIES.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit or affect the authority or responsibility of the National Capital Planning Commission or the Commission of Fine Arts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. 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 therein.

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

There was no objection.

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

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is a national memorial to a fallen President, one of the most loved, respected, and admired Presidents of our history. The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts was initially proposed as a national cultural center during the tenure of President Dwight Eisenhower. It moved its way through the legislative process and took firm root and forward progress during the brief tenure of President John F. Kennedy and then sprang forward under President Lyndon Johnson. It has become an extraordinary cultural center for the Nation.

Our committee has had the good fortune to hold jurisdiction over the physical facility of the Kennedy Center and of its operations, and we have managed that responsibility very thoroughly and very effectively through the tenure of many previous Chairs of this committee. In particular, in the current context I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who is the Chair of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, for her leadership on this bill as well as our ranking member of the full committee, Mr. MICA, and the subcommittee ranking member, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. PETRI who is here today managing the bill on the Republican side, for crafting what has historically been in our committee bipartisan legislation dealing with the operations of the Kennedy Center.

Since opening its doors September 8, 1971, the Kennedy Center has continued each year to gain national and international renown for its performance arts, programming, and for the education programs at the Kennedy Center that reach out across the Nation so that high schools, colleges, and universities can participate by satellite and live performances or recorded performances at the Kennedy Center.

The center has crossed the threshold in the last couple of years by performing over 3,000 performances, hosting millions of theater-goers, visitors, tourists. But of all of those accomplishments, none matches the international outreach of the Kennedy Center under President Michael Kaiser. In the aftermath of the Iraq war, Michael Kaiser personally traveled to Iraq to meet with the musicians of the Iraqi symphony who were, in many cases, without instruments or had somehow sheltered them from the post-invasion trauma, and secured instruments for them and secured funding to travel the Iraqi symphony to the Kennedy Center to perform jointly with the National Symphony Orchestra, an extraordinary gesture of international brotherhood and sisterhood of the arts.

President Kaiser has traveled to Africa, to the Far East, Japan, China to mobilize interest in the arts, joint initiatives with the Kennedy Center, and has actually established programs of arts management in countries well beyond our shores to help particularly Third World countries where arts have fallen well below the threshold of national concerns where people are more concerned about starvation and disease than they are about the arts. President Michael Kaiser has raised the threshold, raised the vision of arts managers in other countries, and created a great future for the arts wherever he has traveled.

Over the past decade, a great deal of work at the Kennedy Center has focused on life safety and accessibility projects. Many of those are completed. The Kennedy Center's capital building plan, which was updated earlier this year, emphasizes facility infrastructure. Over the next several years, the Kennedy Center will focus on replacing mechanical and electrical systems that consist of original equipment that is well beyond its useful life or should be replaced by more efficient equipment, and we provide authority for that work to continue to prevent failure or breakdown of essential equipment.

The bill before us today authorizes appropriations for maintenance and capital projects of the Kennedy Center for fiscal years 2008 to 2010. For maintenance, repair, and security, the bill authorizes $64.5 million over 3 years. For capital projects, the bill authorizes $56.2 million through 2010. Those are numbers derived from the Kennedy

Center's 2006–2007 Comprehensive Building Plan, which has worked its way through the administrative review process within the administration and the Office of Management and Budget.

The bill also authorizes the center to study, plan, design and build a photovoltaic system on the four-acre main roof of the Kennedy Center. That is 140,000 square feet of roof space. A preliminary estimate shows that a photovoltaic system would cost $6 million to build, but would save $10 million over the next 25 years. It is part of the plan of this committee to redirect the energy consumption of our portfolio of Federal civilian office space, for which this committee has responsibility of some 367 million square feet of Federal civilian office space that we can cut down on the electricity bill of $5.8 billion a year at those facilities. We could save the taxpayers a lot of money, and we could save the environment an awful lot of damage by converting to photovoltaic use. A good place to start is with the arts and with the Kennedy Center and with the Department of Energy building in the recently House-passed version of the energy conservation bill.

So this initiative that we require would in itself be a tribute to President Kennedy's longstanding well-known views of environmental protection.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of this measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

H.R. 3986, the John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2007, is a bipartisan bill authorizing appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for 3 years. Additionally, the bill authorizes a photovoltaic system for the main roof of the Kennedy Center.

The Kennedy Center serves an important role in our Nation. Not only is it one of the busiest theaters in the world, hosting millions of patrons each year to its seven stages, but it is first and foremost a presidential memorial for President John F. Kennedy.

Since its founding, the Kennedy Center has become one of the world's premier entertainment venue, featuring award-winning performances.

The funds we are authorizing today will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of the facility. These repairs are in line with the comprehensive building plan maintained by the Kennedy Center and created at the direction of Congress in 1994.

By supporting the regular maintenance and upkeep of the Kennedy Center, we can ensure that the center will continue to be a world-class venue well into the future.

I would also like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairwoman NORTON, for working with us on this legislation. It was important for the Kennedy Center to report back to Congress before construction begins on the photovoltaic project to ensure adequate congressional oversight of the project.

I believe it is important the photovoltaic project be cost effective and appropriate for a presidential memorial. Thank you again for working with us.

I support this measure and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, it is my earnest hope that the other body will act promptly on this legislation. We would certainly like to get the bill enacted before the close of this session of Congress. We intend to pass this bill and send it over to the other body in the hopes that they will simply accept or make such technical or minimal changes as we can accept without the need for a conference with the other body, and send this bill on to the President to get the authorization in place in time for the upcoming budget cycle.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3986, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

OVER-THE-ROAD BUS TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3985) to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3985

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Over-the-Road Bus Transportation Accessibility Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. REGISTRATION OF MOTOR CARRIERS OF PASSENGERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13902(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (B)(iii);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) the accessibility requirements established by the Secretary under subpart H of part 37 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or such successor regulations to those accessibility requirements as the Secretary may issue, for transportation provided by an over-the-road bus; and''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 13902(a)(5) and 13905(d)(1)(A) of such title are each amended by inserting after ''Board'' the following: ''(including the accessibility requirements established by the Secretary under subpart H of part 37 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or such successor regulations to those accessibility requirements as the Secretary may issue, for transportation provided by an over-the-road bus)''.

SEC. 3. OVER-THE-ROAD BUS DEFINED.

Section 13102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(27) OVER-THE-ROAD BUS.—The term 'over-the-road bus' means a bus characterized by an elevated passenger deck located over a baggage compartment.''.

SEC. 4. DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall take necessary actions to implement the changes required by the amendment made by section 2(a) relating to registration of motor carriers providing transportation by an over-the-road bus.

SEC. 5. COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation and the Attorney General shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to delineate the specific roles and responsibilities of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Justice, respectively, in enforcing the compliance of motor carriers of passengers providing transportation by an over-the-road bus (as defined in section 13102 of title 49, United States Code) with the accessibility requirements established by the Secretary under subpart H of part 37 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or such successor regulations to those accessibility requirements as the Secretary may issue. Such memorandum shall recognize the Department of Transportation's statutory responsibilities as clarified by this Act (including the amendments made by this Act).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. 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 H.R. 3985.

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

There was no objection.

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

This legislation will ensure that the motor coach accessibility regulations promulgated by Department of Transportation under the Americans with Disabilities Act are vigorously monitored and actively enforced. A leader in this initiative was our committee colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO). His leadership on this initiative is of long standing, his commitment to the handicapped community is well known, and he has been a forceful and vigorous advocate, as has Mr. PETRI, who is the ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee, and served previously as Chair of the Surface Subcommittee. He is well familiar with the issues presented to our fellow citizens saddled with disabilities.