

CONGRATULATIONS, PRESIDENT
PATIL, INDIA'S 12TH PRESIDENT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week history was made in India. Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was elected President. On July 25 she became the first woman to serve as head of state, now serving as India's 12th President.

Mrs. Patil was born in 1934 in the western state of Maharashtra and has a distinguished record of public service. Joining the Congress Party in the early 1960s, she spent over two decades in the state legislature. She then went on to participate in national politics and served in both the lower and upper chambers of India's national parliament. In 2004 Mrs. Patil became the first woman governor of Rajasthan.

Congratulations, President Patil, for continued success leading 1 billion citizens.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and co-Chair of the India Caucus, I welcome this achievement. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President George Bush have developed a strategic partnership between India and America. Friendship between the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy have never been better. The future is bright for both India and America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

SUPPORT THE COOPER
AMENDMENT

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, whether you are for or against the upcoming farm bill, you should be able to support the Cooper amendment. It will be brought up next to last this afternoon, and everyone should be able to agree on it.

First of all, the administration is for it because it coincides with administration reforms. And the chairman of the committee himself has a statement in today's National Journal that says he is going to launch a major national investigation of the crop insurance industry starting next week, after the bill passes.

Well, why not start today? Let's clean up this mess today. We can save between 2 and 5 billion of taxpayer dollars that are currently being wasted.

Let's save the American farmer. Let's improve this farm bill. Vote for the Cooper amendment this afternoon.

THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me today that I have to vote against the farm bill, a \$57 billion-a-year bill.

I am compassionate and I care about the farmers in my district, but I must vote "no" and I must vote "no" for two reasons, one of which the gentleman from Tennessee just outlined. The bill calls for a massive tax increase on foreign companies that are doing business in this country. And in the State of Georgia, that is 176,000 jobs, 59,000 of them in the manufacturing sector. The gentleman from Tennessee has a better idea, and I plan to support his amendment.

And, Mr. Speaker, the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirement absolutely hurts innovative businesses, like U.S. Biofuels in Rome, Georgia, that want to convert chicken fat and soy beans to biofuel; and yet these prevailing wages take away all incentive for that.

We kill jobs in this country with this farm bill, and I reluctantly must vote "no" and ask my colleagues to do the same.

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DANIEL
AGAMI

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and honor to Private First Class Daniel Agami from Parkland, Florida, who lost his life this past June while serving in Iraq.

Private Agami was patrolling in a Humvee with four other soldiers when their vehicle was hit by an IED, an improvised explosive device. Unfortunately, all five of these brave troops were killed.

Private Agami was a man of great character, known for his devotion to faith and his country. His presence was so strong and his personality so outgoing that the Army planned to feature Private Agami in an upcoming advertising campaign.

Like me, Private Agami was born in Ohio but later moved to Florida. His parents were surprised by his decision to join the military 2 years ago, but noted that he felt a responsibility to his country, and in the words of his mother, Beth Agami, he "was totally patriotic."

I, unfortunately, never had the opportunity to meet Private Agami, but after hearing about the way he approached life and his devotion to our country, I feel like I know him. He is a role model to me and to all citizens.

To the family of Private Agami, your beloved son made the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country, and those of us in Florida and the Nation are eternally grateful and will never forget his unfathomable service to our country.

CONGRATULATING ZIPPO ON
THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a cause for celebration in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania today. This year marks the 75th anniversary of an American icon, Zippo lighters. In 1932 George Blaisdell developed the first Zippo lighter in a garage in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Today, though most products are disposable or available with limited warranties, the Zippo lighter is still backed by its famous lifetime guarantee: "It works or we fix it for free." A motto of a company that truly believes in its great product.

In almost 75 years and nearly 450 million lighters later, where last year alone 50,000 lighters a day were produced in Bradford, Pennsylvania, Zippo lighters are a legacy of good business, and almost 70 percent of them are exported all around the world.

Today George Duke, Mr. Blaisdell's grandson, owns the company and is chairman of the board. Gregory Booth is Zippo's president and CEO. I know them both and appreciate their resolve to keep Zippo lighters manufactured in America and, more importantly, in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

I commend them for their devotion to the people of Bradford and congratulate Zippo and the Zippo family for 75 years of great business.

DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING TO ENSURE
MORE CHILDREN HAVE
HEALTH CARE; REPUBLICANS
OBSTRUCT

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday both the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Ways and Means Committee began marking up a comprehensive bill that ensures that millions of vulnerable children have access to health insurance through the Children's Health Insurance Program, otherwise known as CHIP. Democrats are proud of this legislation because it allows us to cover almost every child now eligible for the program.

Since it was created a decade ago, CHIP has received strong bipartisan support here in Washington. But that all changed yesterday when Republicans in both committees used every tactic available to them to stall us from moving forward with this legislation.

It's sad that Republicans refuse to engage in a substantive discussion on the future of CHIP. If Republicans were serious about strengthening this important children's health program, they would stop playing games and would allow a constructive debate to occur. These delaying tactics show that Republicans have no interest in

ensuring our children have access to quality health care.

The record is clear. Democrats wants to cover kids; Republicans don't.

THE FARM BILL

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, later this morning the House will take up the farm bill, H.R. 2419, and let me just share a couple of quotes, one from the American Farm Bureau:

"The farm bill is one of our highest priorities. We understand there may be a motion to recommit the bill back to the House Committee on Agriculture. We urge you to oppose this amendment. Without the additional almost \$4 billion in offsets, we cannot adequately fund the nutrition needs in the farm bill." This is signed by the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

And from 24 different commodity groups that affect labor and commodities in America:

"Dear Members of Congress, we support both the underlying farm bill and the additional nutrition spending which gives rise to the need for an offset. For that reason we appreciate the efforts of Members of Congress who have attempted to identify that offset and we would encourage those who are concerned about the offset identified by the Committee on Ways and Means to support H.R. 2419 despite those concerns.

"In any event, we urge the House to move expeditiously to pass H.R. 2419. We remain hopeful that the long congressional tradition of passing farm bills on a bipartisan fashion will not be broken." And it is signed by 24 groups from the American Soybean Association through the U.S. Rice Producers Association.

- American Soybean Association
- American Sugar Alliance
- Arkansas Rice Growers Association
- Missouri Rice Research and Merchandising Council
- National Association of Wheat Growers
- National Barley Growers Association
- National Cotton Council
- National Farmers Organization
- National Farmers Union
- National Sorghum Producers
- National Sunflower Association
- North Carolina Peanut Growers Association
- Oklahoma Peanut Commission
- Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
- South Carolina Peanut Growers Association
- Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
- Texas Peanut Producers Association
- Texas Peanut Producers Board
- Western Peanut Growers
- United Egg Producers
- USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
- USA Rice Federation
- US Canola Association
- US Rice Producers Association

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 574 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2419.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. SCHIFF (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 26, 2007, amendments numbered 1 and 2 printed in House Report 110-261, as well as certain amendments en bloc, had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOODLATTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 110-261.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. GOODLATTE:

At the end of subtitle A of title II (conservation), add the following new section:

SEC. 2409. COMMON EASEMENT AUTHORITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Food Security Act of 1985 is amended by inserting after section 1230 (16 U.S.C. 3801) the following new section:

"SEC. 1230A. COMMON EASEMENT AUTHORITIES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) PROGRAM.—In this section the term 'program' means the applicable program described in paragraph (2).

"(2) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to the terms and conditions of all easements purchased under authorities of this subtitle:

"(A) The wetlands reserve program under subchapter C.

"(B) The farmland protection program under subchapter B of Chapter 2.

"(C) The grassland reserve program under subchapter C of Chapter 2.

"(D) The healthy forests reserve program, sections 501-508 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6571-6578).

"(3) ENROLLMENT.—The Secretary may either directly, or through an eligible entity, obtain an interest in eligible land through—

"(A) a 30-year or permanent easement; or

"(B) in a State that imposes a maximum duration for easements, an easement for the maximum duration allowed under State law.

"(4) HOLDER OF EASEMENT TITLE.—The title holder of an easement obtained under one of the programs described in paragraph (2), in addition to the Secretary, or in lieu of the Secretary, may be an eligible entity.

"(5) ESTABLISHING EASEMENT.—To become eligible to enroll land in the program through an easement, the landowner or eligible entity, as applicable, shall—

"(A) create and record an appropriate deed restriction in accordance with applicable State law;

"(B) provide proof of unencumbered title to the underlying fee interest in the land that is subject of the easement;

"(C) grant the easement to either the Secretary or an eligible entity;

"(D) comply with the terms of the easement and any restoration agreement; and

"(E) explicitly consent in writing to granting a security interest in the land to either the Secretary or an eligible entity.

"(6) WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM DEEDS.—A deed used to record an easement under the wetlands reserve program in subchapter C shall provide for sufficient protection of the functions and values of the wetland or floodplain, as determined by the Secretary.

"(7) DEED FOR OTHER EASEMENT PROGRAMS.—A deed used to record an easement under all programs described in paragraph (2) other than the wetlands reserve program shall be in the form of a negative restrictive deed that—

"(A) is in a format prescribed by the Secretary;

"(B) details the rights obtained by the easement; and

"(C) allows for specific uses of the land, if the use is consistent with the long-term protection of the purposes for which the easement was established.

"(8) ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use contributions of non-Federal funds to carry out the administration or purpose the program.

"(9) MODIFICATION, TRANSFER, OR TERMINATION OF EASEMENT.—

"(A) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary may modify an easement acquired from, or a related agreement with, an owner or eligible entity under one of the programs described under paragraph (2) if—

"(i) the parties involved with the easement on the land agree to such modification; and

"(ii) the Secretary determines that such modification is desirable—

"(I) to carry out the program;

"(II) to facilitate administration of the program; or

"(III) to achieve such other goals as the Secretary determines are appropriate.

"(B) TITLE TRANSFER.—The Secretary may transfer title of ownership of an easement to an eligible entity to hold and enforce, in lieu of the Secretary, subject to the right of the Secretary to conduct periodic inspections and enforce the easement, if—

"(i) the Secretary determines that granting the transfer would promote the protection of eligible land;

"(ii) the owner authorizes the eligible entity to hold and enforce the easement;

"(iii) the eligible entity assuming the title agrees to assume the costs incurred in administering and enforcing the easement, including the costs of restoration or rehabilitation of the land as specified by the owner and the eligible entity; and

"(iv) the eligible entity, except for an eligible entity under section 1238H(a)(1), has a commitment to protect the conservation purpose of the easement and has the resources to enforce the easement.

"(C) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may terminate an easement if—

"(i) the parties involved with such easement agree to such termination; and

"(ii) the Secretary determines that such termination would be in the public interest.

"(10) VIOLATION.—Upon the violation of the terms or conditions of an easement or other agreement entered into under this section—

"(A) the easement shall remain in force; and

"(B) the Secretary may require the owner to refund all or part of any payments received by the owner under the program, with interest on the payments as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(b) EASEMENTS HELD BY SECRETARY.—