

Lehtinen/Sherman/Manzullo Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 that the House passed in May.

It authorizes the Department of the Navy to transfer surplus U.S. Navy vessels to friendly countries which Congress does on an annual basis. It strengthens the vital security relationship with our close friends and allies, South Korea and Israel. Building on the work of Representative ROYCE, U.S. law will now add South Korea to the list of countries in the Arms Export Control in the same way as NATO, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. This is a significant symbolic recognition of the critical importance of South Korea to U.S. national security and to peace and stability throughout East Asia.

It also requires the administration to empirically assess on an ongoing basis the State of Israel's "Qualitative Military Edge," we call it QME, against conventional or nonconventional security threats, to report that assessment to Congress every 4 years, and to use that assessment when reviewing arms exports to other countries in the Middle East.

Every President since Lyndon Johnson has affirmed the U.S. commitment to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge against potential enemies. But unfortunately it has become clear the administration uses subjective judgment when evaluating Israel's QME. The State and Defense officials have admitted there is no objective empirical method for evaluating this critical measure of whether or not Israel maintains a qualitative superiority over potential threats to its security.

It is also clear that by such subjective evaluations are performed sale by sale and country by country without clear, overall consideration of the balance of capabilities possessed throughout the region that conceivably affect Israel's security.

This provision would remedy this glaring lack of a robust mechanism to make security and export decisions that could undermine the security of one of the most important friends and allies that we have in the Middle East. The bill also authorizes security assistance to Israel, including implementing the recent U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Security Assistance.

It is fitting that on the 60th anniversary of Israel, the U.S. renews and strengthens its relationship with a most important friend in the region. It deserves all the support we can muster.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank my good friend, the chairman of our committee, HOWARD BERMAN. It is a delight to work with him in a bipartisan manner, and I appreciate the close cooperation that we've enjoyed in these months.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7177, a measure to authorize certain naval vessel transfers, to strengthen U.S. security assistance to Israel and to upgrade the foreign military sale status of our allies in the Republic of Korea. Mr. Speaker, this bill contains many provisions identical or similar to those contained a bill previously passed by this House this spring, H.R. 5916, the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008.

The bill before us strengthens the U.S. commitment to the security of our dear friends in Israel by requiring an objective analysis of Israel's military capability with respect to conventional and unconventional threats while authorizing an increase in U.S. foreign military financing that is consistent with the August 2007 U.S.-Israel memorandum on military assistance. These provisions are of vital importance because as we all know, Israel is surrounded by a number of threats which threaten its very survival.

Thus, the provisions in this bill enhancing our relationship with Israel are critical to Israel's security but also to our vital interests in the region.

This legislation also upgrades the Foreign Military Sales status of our staunch ally, the Republic of Korea. Elements of this provision were included in H.R. 5443 which passed the House earlier this week. This upgrade is an important symbol of a renewed and transformed U.S.-ROK alliance. It reaffirms that South Korea continues to be a close and a much-valued strategic ally of the United States in a relationship that is, and must remain, a bedrock of stability in Northeast Asia.

Mr. Speaker, our actions here tonight will help to advance a new strategic framework for the alliance, not only for the purpose of managing a range of North Korea contingencies, but also to cement a common, democratic partnership for the 21st century.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the grant of surplus Navy vessels. According to our Secretary of the Navy, these proposed transfers would improve our political and military relationship with these countries.

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The United States would also incur no cost in transferring these vessels, as the recipients would be responsible for all costs associated with the transfers.

I urge support for this important measure, Mr. Speaker.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I simply want to express my deep appreciation to my ranking member. We have been working together now for 7 or so months. We are not always perfect in our dealings, but it is a lot more good than bad, and getting better. I am grateful for her support and understanding of all the different shifts in these kinds of things, and I am glad to have her support for this bill.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to reiterate the warm friendship and great cooperation that we have gotten from our chairman, both as Members and as members of our staff coordinate these sometimes thorny bills, controversial measures, and we are able to compromise and come to an agreement and understanding and help the House develop a good foreign policy for this greatest nation in the world, the United States of America. It is an honor for me to work with Chairman BERMAN.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7177.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WEBCASTER SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7084) to amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction and performance of sound recordings by webcasters, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7084

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. AGREEMENTS ON BEHALF OF WEBCASTERS.

Section 114(f)(5) of title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking "small commercial" each place it appears and inserting "commercial";

(B) by striking "during the period beginning on October 28, 1998, and ending on December 31, 2004" and inserting "for a period of not more than 11 years beginning on January 1, 2005";

(C) by striking "a copyright arbitration royalty panel or decision by the Librarian of Congress" and inserting "the Copyright Royalty Judges"; and

(D) in the second sentence, by striking "webcasters shall include" and inserting "webcasters may include";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "small commercial" and inserting "commercial";

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking "Librarian of Congress" and inserting "Copyright Royalty Judges";

(B) by striking "small webcasters" and inserting "webcasters"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: "This subparagraph shall not apply to the extent that the receiving agent and a webcaster that is party to an agreement entered into pursuant to subparagraph (A) expressly authorize the submission of the agreement in a proceeding under this subsection.";

(4) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking "the Small Webcasters Settlement Act of 2002" and inserting "the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008"; and

(B) by striking "Librarian of Congress of July 8, 2002" and inserting "Copyright Royalty Judges of May 1, 2007"; and

(5) in subparagraph (F), by striking "December 15, 2002" and all that follows through "2003" and inserting "February 15, 2009".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7084, the Webcasters Settlement Act of 2008, which grants authority to relevant parties to negotiate an alternative royalty rate for the use of music on Internet radio stations under the existing government compulsory license.

This license gives webcasters the privilege of using copyrighted recorded music at a government-mandated rate determined by the Copyright Royalty Judges.

The recent government rate was determined on March 2, 2007. After considering voluminous written submissions and 48 days of trial testimony that filled 13,288 pages of transcript, the Copyright Royalty Judges determined fair, marketplace-based rates, averaged over a 5-year rate period. The judges followed their authorizing statute and carried out their duties in a fair and impartial manner. Both sides were able to present thorough cases and the judges came to a fair result based on the evidence presented.

Since that determination, certain webcasters have requested that copyright owners enter into negotiation to offer an alternative rate for webcasters who meet unique conditions, and requested that the Committee on the Judiciary facilitate such negotiations. These negotiations have been proceeding in earnest over the past 2 months, and the parties are making considerable progress.

Because the parties will not be able to finish their negotiations before Congress recesses, however, and because authority by Congress is required for a settlement to take effect under the government compulsory license, we are pushing this legislation that will grant such authority and hope the negotiations will continue in a positive direction for both sides.

I might add that the issue of broadcasters who are doing or want to do webcasting negotiations in that area also will be starting in the immediate future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. BERMAN. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

It is an important principle that negotiations are more appropriate before the copyright royalty proceeding. However, these conversations that have taken place under the committee's auspices are occurring in unique and extraordinary political and business circumstances and are unlike typical marketplace negotiations.

This bill provides that any alternative private deal-making or any private deal regarding an alternative rate would not be precedential, unless, of course, the parties agreed that it should be. Some of the rates that are being discussed represent a large discount, a huge discount from what independent decisionmaking bodies have found to be marketplace rates, and less than what I understand many webcasters have been paying since the judges reached their decision.

Neither this deal nor this bill should be understood as a criticism of the judges' decision, and I would expect marketplace rates to be higher and at least a reflection of what the judges decided absent the distinct circumstances that apply here.

I hope this legislation will make it easier for more music to be performed online by paying services, and also that there will be an increase in compensation to creators.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7084, the Webcasting Settlement Act of 2008, grants limited statutory authority to SoundExchange, the government designated entity responsible for disbursing webcasting royalties. Specifically, the bill gives SoundExchange the ability to enter into and negotiate agreements with webcasters for the performance of sound recordings over the Internet.

As background, the Copyright Royalty Board last year issued its final rate determination in a webcasting proceeding. That decision, which was the product of a lengthy and extensive adjudicatory process open to all parties, has withstood all legal challenges in the D.C. Court of Appeals.

In issuing its final ruling, the CRB established the market rates and terms for the performance of statutorily licensed Internet streamed music for a 5 year period that ends December 31, 2010.

Preferring voluntarily negotiated settlements to the continuation of adversarial legal proceedings, SoundExchange and representatives from both the commercial and non-commercial webcasting operators have been attempting to craft a compromise that might end this litigation and provide certainty to sound recording copyright owners and webcasters alike.

While progress has reportedly been made, the law does not permit a successfully negotiated agreement to be given effect after the CRB has issued its final ruling. To provide the needed flexibility, the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008 provides a limited window of time to enable the parties to try and reach a voluntary accord.

In supporting this legislation and approach, I believe it is particularly important that SoundExchange reach out and expand the number of webcasting representatives with whom they have been meeting. This will ensure all legitimate points of view are considered in negotiating settlements. This authority will accomplish little in the long run if the interests of the public and all significant stakeholders are not carefully weighed and reflected in the final agreements.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I note this proposal is similar to the manner in which Congress resolved a webcasting royalty dispute in 2002.

While there are significant differences between H.R. 7084 and the earlier law, this bill is needed at this time. If this authority is utilized properly, it will benefit the public.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7084.

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

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), the author of this legislation. The gentleman has been very focused on this issue since the time the Copyright Royalty Board came down with what I view as a just decision, but which others may have a different opinion of.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to be here tonight to help pass the Webcaster Settlement Act of 2008. The reason is I really do believe the upshot of this legislation will be the survival of webcasting as we know it in the United States, to really allow our consumers and our constituents to continue to enjoy tremendous opportunities to listen to great music and great news over the Internet, and allow the continued development of businesses around the business model of webcasting.

I am very appreciative of Chairman BERMAN and his efforts to facilitate discussions to help resolve this difficult issue and to the ranking member, Mr. SMITH, who is a cosponsor of this legislation. This really is a bipartisan effort to find a resolution to a difficult issue.

As Mr. BERMAN indicated, there is a wide divergence on what the right royalty to pay is. Certainly a lot of businesses were jeopardized by this decision. I just note one that led to this relief. Big R Radio, it is actually in the State of Washington where I hail from, under the CRB decision that gave rise to this issue, it would have caused Big R Radio to exceed by 150 percent of their revenues what they would have to pay in royalties.

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We have heard many businesses would be in that situation.

We have been engaged now for some period of time, discussions to try to find a resolution and agreement between those who are webcasters, who have big dreams, and providing tremendous music to allow them to continue.

We hope that those will succeed. We think that we are close to a successful resolution of those discussions. Mr. BERMAN has been very helpful in that regard.

But to get there, we need to have this bill to make sure that when an agreement is reached, that it has, in fact, the sanction of the United States. This bill is really kind of simple. It just basically says that the parties, if they can reach an agreement, Uncle Sam will not get in the way. Certainly that makes sense from all standpoints on both sides of the aisle.

I just want to note how important it is. I know many people have been interested in this in the last few days to encourage Congress to pass this legislation. Webcasting really has become a fabric of people's daily lives.

I want to read one quote from Luis Jimenez, who is involved in Live365 network. He is from Frederick, Maryland. This is a quote:

"Internet radio gave me the freedom to put together my own format station without having to be a cookie-cutter station. Listeners and musicians love it because of the variety of music and the fact local and independent artists are played." That's a quote from the Frederick News Post.

This is really why our constituents love this service. We want to find a business model where webcasting can thrive, where consumers can listen, and, at some point, terrestrial broadcasters who will be able to simulcast under this the legislation, they will be able to access the benefit of this legislation, and they will be involved in negotiations to find a right, appropriate level.

I am delighted by the passage of this, and I thank all involved in this effort.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) for his comments.

I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) who is now serving as the ranking member of the Administrative and Commercial Law Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7084, the Webcasters Settlement Act of 2008.

I want to thank my friend, Chairman BERMAN, for his tireless work on this issue, as well as Mr. INSLEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SMITH.

Since the CRB's ruling in March of 2007, the stakeholders, including the Digital Media Association, NPR and

RIAA, have been negotiating for a lower rate to preserve the existence of Internet radio as we know it.

We know that the rates set by the CRB would have killed Internet radio, and today we stand on the cusp of a major breakthrough after months of difficult negotiations between the private parties. This bill does nothing to affect the scope of performance rights or make any other changes to the underlying copyright law. It clearly does not affect broadcasters. They will not be bound by any settlement, negotiated settlement or settlement agreement.

This bill simply clears the path for the private negotiations to continue while Congress is in recess. I have long opposed congressional mandates and other government impositions on private parties.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It simply gives the webcasters and copyright holders the freedom to continue the negotiation process.

Without this legislation, negotiation could not continue, and all parties would be bound by the CRB decision.

Mr. Speaker, this is likely to be the last time I address the House, at least for some time, and I would like to take a moment to thank the Judiciary Committee staff, and the majority staff, and minority staff, for their tireless work, and for the floor staff of both the majority and minority parties who have been amazingly good at keeping things moving here.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful clerical staff who keep things moving and have made this such a pleasant and wonderful place to do business. I think I should also like to add thanks to our security for the floor for the wonderful support they have been.

Mr. BERMAN. I have great admiration and respect for the previous speaker, Mr. CANNON, who will be moving on from this body soon.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize a key person in all of this process on webcasting rates, a member of our subcommittee, a very active member of our subcommittee, the gentlelady from California, for as much time as she may consume.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Webcaster Settlement Act. Since the Copyright Royalty Board announced its decision dramatically increasing royalty rates for webcasters, Internet radio has really been in serious jeopardy. In some cases, fees under the ruling actually exceeded the revenue, obviously a business model that is impossible to sustain.

Because the demise of Internet radio is absolutely in no one's interest, not in the stakeholders, Members of Congress have worked very hard to reach a negotiated compromise that would supersede the CRB decision and preserve the continued viability of Internet radio.

I particularly want to commend Representative BERMAN for his work in

bringing the parties together. They were very far apart, and his personal attention to this has been a key element for this progress.

This act buys some time for the negotiations to continue, removes the statutory impediment to implementation of a negotiated compromise, and I am very hopeful that we will achieve what we wish.

The alternative to this legislation would be a court-imposed solution that would drive many of the newest and most promising innovators like Pandora, located in Alameda County, out of the marketplace. It's not just the providers of content, it's the American public, indeed the world, that is able to use the digital world for access to content. We don't want, any of us, to stand in the way of that.

I just want to take a minute here, because this may be the last time that I have an opportunity to work on a bill on this floor with Congressman CANNON, who will not be returning to the 111th Congress.

I just want to say, if you look at Congressman CANNON's record and mine, you will find very different records, one of the most conservative Members of Congress, and I am not.

But I will say that working with Congressman CANNON is a tremendous honor, because he is a very smart guy and he is very focused. There are never any games working with him. It's always what can he see that's in the public's interest. When you can work with someone like that, even though it's a conservative and a nonconservative, you can make progress.

It's just been an honor to work with Congressman CANNON. He has served his district, his State and his country with tremendous distinction. I just want to thank him for all he has done. I know he will have many other things to contribute in the private sector, but it's really been an honor to work with him.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I too want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), my colleague on the Judiciary Committee, for his service to this institution and to our country.

CHRIS CANNON has served, while he has been on the Judiciary Committee, both as the chairman of the Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee, and as ranking member, a position he holds right now.

The gentleman from Utah has brought to that position an incredible knowledge and expertise and commitment to so many issues that impacts so many Americans in this country today.

He has, in my judgment, that rare blend of a sense of humor and a seriousness of purpose that make him an ideal Member of Congress. Those talents and those skills and his dedication to Congress and to our country will be missed, but we look forward to staying in touch with him and wish him well in his next adventure.

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

Mr. BERMAN. I am pleased to yield again to the sponsor of this bill an additional minute.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I do also want to express my great respect for the previous speaker, Representative CANNON. He is a fellow of such great heart and cheerful countenance, it has been a pleasure to serve with him. He and I now belong or shortly will belong to an elite group. He will be joining the Former Members of Congress. I am also a member of the Former Members of Congress.

I just want to relate to him that many of us who are not serving at one time, it is a respectful and honorable position to be in. I want his family to know how much we respect his service. We know he is going to go on to do great things for his community and his family.

Congressman, I would like to tell you how much we respect you. Hope you come by and say hello on occasion. Congratulations.

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

I just want to take a moment, the irony of both Mr. SMITH and Mr. CANNON being on the floor at the same time. For so many years, I was on Ethics Committee with Mr. SMITH as chairman during a big part of that time, on the Immigration Committee with Mr. SMITH being chairman for a part of that time, and on Intellectual Property, when Mr. SMITH was chairman for a serious part of that time.

I hate to say this in front of the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, but with the gentleman from Utah, with whom I worked so closely on so many different aspects of the immigration issue, I will sorely miss you.

We didn't agree as much on all the intellectual property issues as we did on the immigration issues. But the other side of the coin is, I didn't agree with the ranking member of Judiciary on the immigration issues as much as I did on the intellectual property issues.

But in both cases it has really been a delight to work with both of you, and particularly you, Mr. CANNON, because at least for now you won't be back here next year. I will miss both your person and your work on these issues, and we shall prevail.

Mr. CANNON. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. BERMAN. I do.

Mr. CANNON. This is an amazing, actually, pass. Mr. INSLEE and I, of course, have worked on the Natural Resources Committee together and differed sharply on many issues, but never unpleasantly.

This is an amazing pass where people of such divergent views are together on the same issue. It's a nice send-off. I appreciate your kind comments and those of the gentlelady from California and the gentleman from Washington and the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to say that we have before us legislation that is supported by

the DMA association, the Digital Media Association and the Sound Exchange, the collection agency, as well as their component memberships, including the labels, the performers, the musicians, the backup singers, National Public Radio, the small webcasters. I should report, based on the conversations and an amendment that extends till February 15 the deadline, this bill does not have the opposition of the National Association of Broadcasters.

I urge the passage of H.R. 7084 and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7084, 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.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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HISTORIC MOMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, you know, people often come up and say we are at an historic moment. Every moment is a part of history because at some time what we are doing is going to be recorded but we really are at another defining moment in American history here this week and this weekend.

And the American people need to know that House Republicans are fighting for the right values and for what 99 percent of Americans have been telling us for the past week. I am also happy to report that most House Republicans agreed with their constituents even before they began hearing from their constituents, and that's a good thing for the American people to know because that means our resolve is even stronger than it would have been if some of our Members had been of a different mind but changed their mind once they started hearing from their constituents.

House Republicans are fighting to ensure that the rescue bill, the economic rescue bill doesn't give a blank check to Wall Street at the expense of taxpayers on Main Street. People have been calling me all day today. I had a call just before I came on the floor asking me are we all right. I am here to reassure the American people that from our side of the aisle we are all right. We are doing fine, and we are standing strong. And I think it is very important that we say that.

But I think also we need to say what some of the specific things we are fighting for and we are fighting against. We are fighting to make sure that we don't slide into socialism in this country. And we are fighting against the special interests, the pork barrel and the very groups that helped get us into the situation that we are in now. I want to say that we are working hard to get out of any bill that is presented here that has pork barrel provisions added by the Democrats, that would reward the people who support them and give them all their money.

Let me talk about three of those groups. Number one, the trial lawyers. Believe it or not, the Democrats have figured out a way to put into this economic recovery bill a great gift to the trial lawyers, and that is something that is called around here a cram down provision.

It would allow people who don't think their mortgage rate is fair to go to a bankruptcy judge and ask that bankruptcy judge to change the conditions of their mortgage. That is an abomination. But what it would do is give a lot of work to trial lawyers. We have said there is a marker here, we will not vote for any economic recovery plan that is going to do that because it would undermine the effectiveness of any economic recovery effort by making it even harder to value these securities.

There is another gift in the draft presented by the Democrats to big labor. This gives Washington's powerful big labor bosses a big handout by having them have "say on pay" or proxy access provisions that the Democrats have added to this.

And then a group that people have asked me about ACORN. There is a big gift in here to that group. It includes a giveaway that would force taxpayers to bankroll a slush fund to a discredited ally of the Democratic Party. ACORN's fraudulent voter registration activities on behalf of Democratic candidates are well known.

This bill that the Democrats have presented would return any profits made in the long term from the economic rescue package partly back to ACORN. In fact, the first part of it would go to ACORN for their often-illegal help in helping Democrats get elected.

I have, Mr. Speaker, a long list of their most recent scandals and unlawful activities. Seven ACORN workers