

sense of the House of Representatives that TSA should in accordance with the congressional mandate provided for in implementing recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

I think we have already spoken about why this is important, why we need to move in this area, as we have moved in effectively in the areas of aviation safety and port and marine safety. We cannot leave out any element of our overall programs. And I thank the gentleman from Mississippi, the chairman, for informing me that we should expect to see some action on legislation dealing with the trucking industry, a goal that he and I share.

Madam Speaker, as I have reflected on much of the rail industry, I have noticed that they are powered oftentimes by diesel engines. As I have reflected on mass transit in most of our intercity and intercity communities where we are dealing with buses, I have noted that they have been powered by diesel. In some cases for environmental purposes we have encouraged the use of natural gas.

That is why, Madam Speaker, it is disappointing to see that we have made it more difficult and more expensive for those who operate those buses and operate those trains to continue to operate because of the increasingly high energy costs. I have been informed that my home State of California has a substantial portion of its electricity that is produced by way of natural gas. So when we talk about the need, the demand, it seems to me we should also look at the supply side equation as well.

Not even talking about offshore potential for oil and gas, we should look at onshore oil and gas and the potential for creating more product, American product, for these mass transit systems that we are talking about here today with this bill.

So, if we would just look at total onshore oil and gas, not including oil shale, we would find this: Onshore Federal lands contain an estimated 31 billion barrels of oil and 231 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. I am not misstating that. That is 31 billion barrels of oil and 231 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, those figures according to the Bureau of Land Management. The Federal Government currently denies or restricts by way of congressional mandate, denies or restricts access to 92 percent of this oil and 90 percent of this natural gas.

In other words, we are saying to the American people who want to use these mass transit systems as well as use their own automobiles, that the very source that provides the energy for those modes of transportation, that is oil and natural gas, we are going to deny 28.5 billion barrels of the oil and 207.9 trillion cubic feet of this natural gas.

Now, it is beyond the scope of this bill perhaps to talk about heating. We

are going to be in winter, even though it seems difficult in some of these sweltering summer days or pre-summer days to think about that, but we will be in winter when we are talking about the heating needs of the American people, and we should look at the price of natural gas, as it is going up and on up and up, as are our gas prices.

Only 8 percent, that is 2.48 billion barrels of the oil out of the potential 31 billion barrels of oil, and 10 percent of the natural gas, 23.1 trillion cubic feet of the 231 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, are accessible under standard leasing terms.

So what we have done to the American people by way of congressional action is say that we are only going to allow you to have access to 8 percent of the oil and 10 percent of the natural gas. Or another way of saying it is we are going to lock up 92 percent of the oil and 90 percent of the natural gas, even though you are desperate in terms of the impact of energy price increases on your everyday living.

□ 1215

It's not just at the gas pump, it is as it trickles through or ripples through the entire economy. Every bit of food that we buy today is transported from somewhere else, so the costs of transportation are going to be included in the cost of food to the American people. As we talk to the need for us to enhance our security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our rail and mass transit lines, let's understand the national security implications of denying those very lines, rail and mass transit lines, the energy that they need to move.

Again, I support H. Res. 1150 as a bipartisan product of the Homeland Security Committee, which, I think we can proudly say, works on a bipartisan basis.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1150 sends the right message at the right time. It reminds TSA of the House's continued interest in seeing progress on securing our rail and mass transit systems.

Last year we took steps towards that goal by passing H.R. 1 legislation, that I was proud to author. That landmark Homeland Security law took a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges of securing rail and mass transit, viewing it as a critical infrastructure that is essential to effective operations of our national economy.

Incidentally, with gas over \$4 a gallon, America's reliance on these systems is only going to increase. Today I am proud to stand here and renew the call for meaningful progress and urge passage of H. Res. 1150.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1150, 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.

NATIONAL BOMBING PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4749) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office for Bombing Prevention, to address terrorist explosive threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4749

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 "National Bombing Prevention Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. BOMBING PREVENTION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 210F. OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION.

"(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall establish within the Protective Security Coordination Division of the Office of Infrastructure Protection of the Department an Office for Bombing Prevention (in this section referred to as 'the Office').

"(b) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—The Office shall have the primary responsibility for enhancing the ability, and coordinating the efforts, of the United States to deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States, including by—

"(1) serving as the lead agency of the Department for ensuring that programs designed to counter terrorist explosive attacks in the United States function together efficiently to meet the evolving threat from explosives and improvised explosive devices;

"(2) coordinating national and intergovernmental bombing prevention activities to ensure those activities work toward achieving common national goals;

"(3) conducting analysis of the capabilities and requirements necessary for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to deter, prevent, detect, protect against, and assist in any response to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States by—

"(A) maintaining a national analysis database on the capabilities of bomb squads, explosive detection canine teams, tactics teams, and public safety dive teams; and

"(B) applying the analysis derived from the database described in subparagraph (A) in—

"(i) evaluating progress toward closing identified gaps relating to national strategic goals and standards; and

"(ii) informing decisions relating to homeland security policy, assistance, training, research, development efforts, testing and evaluation, and related requirements;

"(4) promoting secure information sharing of sensitive material and promoting security awareness, including by—

"(A) operating and maintaining a secure information sharing system that allows the sharing of critical information relating to terrorist

explosive attack tactics, techniques, and procedures;

“(B) educating the public and private sectors about explosive precursor chemicals;

“(C) working with international partners, in coordination with the Office for International Affairs of the Department, to develop and share effective practices to deter, prevent, detect, protect, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States; and

“(D) executing national public awareness and vigilance campaigns relating to terrorist explosive threats, preventing explosive attacks, and activities and measures underway to safeguard the United States;

“(5) assisting State, local, and tribal governments in developing multi-jurisdictional improvised explosive devices security plans for high-risk jurisdictions;

“(6) helping to ensure, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the identification and availability of effective technology applications through field pilot testing and acquisition of such technology applications by Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to deter, prevent, detect, protect, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States;

“(7) coordinating the efforts of the Department relating to, and assisting departments and agencies of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, and private sector business in, developing and implementing national explosives detection training, certification, and performance standards;

“(8) ensuring the implementation of any recommendations in the national strategy required under section 210G, including developing, maintaining, and tracking progress toward achieving objectives to reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorist explosive attacks;

“(9) developing, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, programmatic guidance and permitted uses for bombing prevention activities funded by homeland security assistance administered by the Department; and

“(10) establishing and executing a public awareness campaign to inform the general public and private sector businesses on ways they can deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States, that—

“(A) utilizes a broad spectrum of both mainstream and specialty print, radio, television outlets, and the Internet;

“(B) utilizes small and disadvantaged businesses, as defined under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.); and

“(C) ensures that the public awareness messages under the campaign reach and are understandable to underserved populations, including—

“(i) persons with physical and mental disabilities, health problems, visual impairments, hearing impairments, limited English proficiency, and literacy barriers;

“(ii) socially and economically disadvantaged households and communities;

“(iii) the elderly; and

“(iv) children.

“(c) **LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or the Attorney General of the United States.

“(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(B) \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2012; and

“(C) such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

“(2) **AVAILABILITY.**—Amounts made available pursuant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available until expended.

“(e) **ENHANCEMENT OF EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE RESOURCES AND CAPABILITIES.**—To enhance the Nation’s explosives detection canine resources and capabilities the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, by partnering with other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities including historically black colleges and universities and minority serving institutions, and the private sector—

“(1) within 270 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection—

“(A) develop a pilot program that includes a domestic breeding program for purpose-bred explosives detection canines; and

“(B) increase the current number of capability assessments of explosives detection canine units to identify common challenges and gaps in canine explosives detection, to provide for effective domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism, and to inform grant guidance and priorities, consistent with national capabilities database efforts;

“(2) continue development of a scientifically-based training curriculum to enhance consensus-based national training and certification standards to provide for effective domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism through the effective use of explosives detection canines for explosives detection canines; and

“(3) continue engagement in explosives detection canine research and development activities through partnerships with the Science and Technology Directorate and the Technical Support Working Group.

“SEC. 210G. NATIONAL STRATEGY.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop and periodically update a national strategy to prevent and prepare for terrorist explosive attacks in the United States.

“(b) **DEVELOPMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop the national strategy required under subsection (a).

“(c) **REPORTING.**—Not later than six months after the date of the submission of the report regarding each quadrennial homeland security review conducted under section 707, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report regarding the national strategy required under subsection (a), which shall include recommendations, if any, for deterring, preventing, detecting, protecting against, and responding to terrorist attacks in the United States using explosives or improvised explosive devices, including any such recommendations relating to coordinating the efforts of Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, emergency response providers, and the private sector.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210E the following new items: “Sec. 210F. Office for Bombing Prevention. “Sec. 210G. National strategy.”.

SEC. 3. EXPLOSIVES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

“SEC. 318. EXPLOSIVES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in coordination with the Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency, shall ensure coordination and information sharing regarding nonmilitary research, development, testing, and evaluation activities of the Federal Government

relating to the detection and prevention of, protection against, and response to terrorist attacks in the United States using explosives or improvised explosive devices, and the development of tools and technologies necessary to neutralize and disable explosive devices.

“(b) **LEVERAGING MILITARY RESEARCH.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in coordination with the Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, shall coordinate with the Secretary of Defense and the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, military policies and procedures, and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities relating to the detection and prevention of, protection against, and response to terrorist attacks using explosives or improvised explosive devices, and the development of tools and technologies necessary to neutralize and disable explosive devices, are adapted to nonmilitary uses.

“SEC. 319. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in coordination with the Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, shall establish a technology transfer program to facilitate the identification, modification, and commercialization of technology and equipment for use by Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, emergency response providers, and the private sector to deter, prevent, detect, protect, and respond to terrorist attacks in the United States using explosives or improvised explosive devices.

“(b) **PROGRAM.**—The activities under the program established under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) applying the analysis conducted under section 210F(b)(3) of the capabilities and requirements of bomb squad, explosive detection canine teams, tactical teams, and public safety dive teams of Federal, State, and local governments, to determine the training and technology requirements for Federal, State, and local governments, emergency response providers, and the private sector;

“(2) identifying available technologies designed to deter, prevent, detect, protect, or respond to terrorist attacks using explosives or improvised explosive devices that have been, or are in the process of being, developed, tested, evaluated, or demonstrated by the Department, other Federal agencies, the private sector, foreign governments, or international organizations;

“(3) reviewing whether a technology described in paragraph (2) may be useful in assisting Federal, State, or local governments, emergency response providers, or the private sector in detecting, deterring, preventing, or responding to terrorist attacks using explosives or improvised explosive devices; and

“(4) communicating to Federal, State, and local governments, emergency response providers, and the private sector the availability of any technology described in paragraph (2), including providing the specifications of any such technology, indicating whether any such technology satisfies appropriate standards, and identifying grants, if any, available from the Department to purchase any such technology.

“(c) **WORKING GROUP.**—To facilitate the transfer of military technologies, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, and in a manner consistent with protection of sensitive sources and methods, shall establish a working group to advise and assist in the identification of military technologies designed to deter, prevent, detect, protect, or respond to terrorist explosive attacks that are in the process of being developed, or are developed, by the Department of Defense or the private sector.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of

the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following new items: "Sec. 318. Explosives research and development. "Sec. 319. Technology transfer."

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY OF EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CANINE TEAMS.

Section 1307(f) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53; 121 Stat. 395) is amended by striking "utilization" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "utilization of explosives detection canine teams, by the Transportation Security Administration and all other agencies of the Department of Homeland Security that utilize explosives detection canines, to strengthen security and the capacity of explosive detection canine detection teams of the Department."

SEC. 5. REPORT ON CANINE PROCUREMENT ACTIVITIES.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act examining the administration of canine procurement activities by the Department of Homeland Security to deter, prevent, detect, and protect against terrorist explosive attacks in the United States, that includes consideration of the feasibility of reducing the price paid for the procurement of untrained canines, including by utilizing an expanded pool of breeds, procuring canines from domestic breeders, and acquiring canines from animal shelters, rescue societies, and other not-for-profit entities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Explosives remain the preferred weapon of choice for terrorists the world over. Explosives have been used against this Nation abroad and on American soil. Because explosives, be they military grade or homemade, improvised explosive devices are easy to obtain and use, the explosives threat needs a focused, coordinated approach.

In the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attack, a great deal of attention was paid to the emerging threats, such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, needed focus on the explosives threat has been lacking, despite the issuance of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 19, Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States, in February 2007. H.R. 4749, the National

Bombing Prevention Act of 2008, will help fill this gap.

The legislation that the gentleman from Long Island (Mr. KING) and I introduced was considered in committee in May. It was improved at full committee markup with the addition of some key amendments and reported unanimously by our committee.

This is a straightforward bipartisan bill. It establishes the Office of Bombing Prevention within the Office of Infrastructure Protection at the Department of Homeland Security.

As with other bills we have brought to the floor today, I strongly believe that this bill fits well with the priorities found in H.R. 1684, the DHS authorization bill that is pending before the Senate.

The Office of Bombing Prevention, in fact, already exists in the Department. This bill simply authorizes it and sets forth its responsibilities in law. The bill authorizes \$10 million for FY 2009, a little over the administration's budget request.

For fiscal years 2010 through 2012, the bill authorizes \$25 million annually. Then, for each subsequent fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary are provided. The Office is responsible for coordinating the government efforts to deter, detect, prevent, protect against and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States.

To do so, the Office is required to conduct analysis of the Federal, State, local and tribal government capabilities and maintain a national database on the capabilities of bomb squads, explosive detection, canine teams, tactic teams and public safety dive teams around the Nation.

Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop and periodically update a national strategy to prevent and prepare for terrorist explosive attacks in the United States. A national strategy is also required under HSPD 19.

H.R. 4749 also authorizes the Office to support efforts, as well as research, into explosives detection and mitigation. An informed public is a prepared public. In this spirit, the bill directs the Office to develop and implement a public awareness campaign that can reach the private sector as well as ordinary citizens.

Finally, the bill ensures that we understand and enhance bomb detection through the proper training and use of canine detection units. For all these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, June 16, 2008.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 4749, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2008. H.R. 4749 was introduced by Con-

gressman Peter T. King on December 1, 2007, and the bill was subsequently marked up by the Committee on Homeland Security on May 20, 2008.

H.R. 4749 implicates the Committee on Science and Technology's jurisdiction over Homeland Security research and development under Rule X(1)(o)(14) of the House Rules. The Committee on Science and Technology acknowledges the importance of H.R. 4749 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this bill, I agree not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces, or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology, and that a copy of this letter and of your response will be included in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

The Committee on Science and Technology also expects that you will support our request to be conferees during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 4749 or similar legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2008.

HON. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4749, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2008.

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I acknowledge that H.R. 4749 contains provisions that fall under the jurisdictional interests of the Committee on Science and Technology. I appreciate your agreement to not seek a sequential referral of this legislation and I acknowledge that your decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive, alter, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Further, I recognize that your Committee reserves the right to seek appointment of conferees on the bill for the portions of the bill that are within your jurisdiction and I agree to support such a request.

I will ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 4749, the National Bombing Prevention Act of 2008. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I begin I would ask that the RECORD include a letter from the National Tactical Officers Association to Congressman KING and Congressman ROGERS in support of this bill.

NATIONAL TACTICAL
OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,

Doylestown, PA, January 27, 2008.

Hon. PETER T. KING,
Ranking Member of the Homeland Security
Committee, Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Committee Member, Homeland Security and the
House Armed Services Committee, Cannon
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KING AND CONGRESS-
MAN ROGERS: The National Tactical Officers
Association strongly supports Congressman
King's Bill (HR4749) amending the Homeland
Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office
for Bombing Prevention and addressing ter-
rorist explosive threats. We also continue to
support Senator Collins' and Senator
Lieberman's Bill (S2292) to increase funding
for the Department of Homeland Security
Office for Bombing Prevention. Both amend-
ments provide important resources against
the use of terrorist improvised Explosive De-
vices, including coordination of national and
intergovernmental bombing prevention ac-
tivities, requirements, capabilities, gap anal-
ysis and information sharing and awareness.

The Department of Homeland Security Of-
fice for Bombing Prevention coordinates na-
tional and intergovernmental bombing pre-
vention activities in our national bombing
prevention posture and runs information
sharing and awareness programs for State
and local governments, law enforcement,
first responders, the private sector and the
public. As recently demonstrated in Glas-
gow, London and in daily news reports from
Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorist use of IEDs is
a primary threat. We commend you for your
support and your leadership in focusing the
attention of the House and the nation on this
serious issue and on the role of the Depart-
ment of Homeland Security Office for Bomb-
ing Prevention in leading national efforts to
prevent the use of explosives by terrorists in
the United States.

The NTOA is the professional association
for law enforcement personnel, sworn cor-
rectional officers, tactical emergency medical
personnel, military police and special op-
erations personnel who specialize in the resolu-
tion of critical incidents. Since 1983, NTOA
has worked to provide professional edu-
cation, training and research for law enforce-
ment personnel engaged in tactical missions
and currently has over 30,000 members rep-
resenting over 1,600 police agencies. NTOA
has worked with the Department of Home-
land Security Office for Bombing Prevention
to integrate SWAT and bomb squad per-
sonnel and capabilities to protect soft tar-
gets against threats for an armed adversary
using explosive devices, as seen in the 2004
Beslan School attack in Russia. OBP pro-
vides an invaluable resource to State and
local law enforcement through the Tripwire
system which allows responders to access an
unprecedented library of information and
analysis on terrorist IED tactics, techniques
and procedures. TRIPwire provides SWAT
operators with the knowledge needed to
identify explosive hazards, including IED
components and potential terrorist tactics,
during high risk operations.

The Department of Homeland Security's
Office for Bombing Prevention has been an
exemplary partner for its State and local
stakeholders in the bombing prevention and
law enforcement communities. The National
Tactical Officers Association applauds Sen-
ator Collins, Senator Lieberman, Representa-
tive Rogers and yourself for your support
for the bombing prevention community.

Sincerely,

JOHN GNAGEY,
Executive Director.

Madam Speaker, the ranking mem-
ber of Homeland Security, PETER KING

of New York, introduced this bill to au-
thorize the Office of Bombing Preven-
tion within the Department of Home-
land Security. He would obviously be
here were he not attending the family
funeral for Tim Russert, and I am here
in his stead.

The Office of Bombing Prevention
provides the necessary analysis and co-
ordination of our Nation's bomb pre-
vention capability to best protect our
citizens from the threat posed by ex-
plosive materials. We only need to look
at terrorist activities overseas to un-
derstand that conventional and improv-
vised explosive devices, IEDs, are a ter-
rorist's weapon of choice against mili-
tary and civilian targets.

Within the United States, we have
been subject to our own share of explo-
sive attacks, including the 1993 World
Trade Center bombings, the 1995 Okla-
homa City bombing, the Centennial
Olympic Park bombing, among others.
State and local authorities have devel-
oped the capabilities to respond to po-
tential explosive threats and to neu-
tralize them.

As a matter of fact, these are among
the bravest men and women that we
have as our first responders. Yet with-
out the office established in this bill,
there would be no analysis of our na-
tionwide capability to respond to ex-
plosive threats, or where gaps exist in
training, equipment and personnel
against a national baseline.

This analysis will assist State and
local officials in applying for Homeland
Security grants to fill these gaps. As
has been mentioned many times on
this floor, there has been a bipartisan
effort through our committee to ensure
that we take a risk-based approach to
the terrorist threat. It makes the most
sense. It is one that both sides of the
aisle have been committed to, and this
enables that even further.

Furthermore, this legislation will au-
thorize the Office to continue to pro-
mote information sharing and IED se-
curity awareness through advanced
bomb prevention techniques and usable
information. The Office uses a secure
Web site known as TRIPwire to provide
to bomb prevention officials across the
country access to current terrorist IED
tactics, techniques and procedures,
along with expert analysis and reports,
making it a one-stop shop for action-
able information.

As we all know, our troops have had
extensive experience with IEDs in Iraq
and Afghanistan. This legislation in-
structs the Secretary of Homeland Se-
curity to work closely with the Depart-
ment of Defense to take advantage of
what our troops have learned on the
battlefield, both in tactics and tech-
nology, to improve the capability of
our first responders here at home.

Preventing a bomb from going off
should involve more than just those
first responders attempting to neu-
tralize the threat once the bomb has
been placed. Education and awareness
programs regarding the threat of IEDs
are also included in this legislation to

ensure information on explosive pre-
cursors is provided to merchants so
that they can recognize suspicious pur-
chases.

Additionally, this legislation in-
cludes an amendment from our com-
mittee colleague, MIKE ROGERS of Ala-
bama, to improve the canine explosive
detection teams in use around the
country. These canine teams are in-
valuable resources to detect and deter
IED attacks before they occur.

It is important to note that this of-
fice is not designed to replace existing
elements of counter-explosive expertise
already found in the Federal Govern-
ment, but, rather, to assist in coordi-
nating State, local and tribal capa-
bility. In fact, as I said, the National
Tactical Officers Association supports
this legislation in the letter that has
been entered into the RECORD.

The need for this Office of Bombing
Prevention is clear. Therefore, I urge
all of my colleagues to support passage
of H.R. 4749.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the bal-
ance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to
the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL
GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you,
Mr. Chairman, and I also thank the
ranking member.

Madam Speaker, the people of Amer-
ica can be proud today of what this
committee is doing. They can be ex-
ceedingly proud of the bipartisanship
that is being displayed between the
current chairman and the former chair-
man, both of whom have worked tire-
lessly to bring this piece of legislation
to fruition, so I think that today, the
people of Mississippi and the people of
New York should span the chasm and
understand that bipartisanship is alive
and well because of representatives
that they have sent to the Congress of
the United States of America.

I am honored to support and encour-
age my colleagues to support this legis-
lation. It does establish an Office of
Bombing Prevention, and if the truth
be told, whatever amount of money we
spend on this legislation will be money
well spent, money well spent. Pro-
tecting the American people from per-
sons who would perform dastardly
deeds is an absolute necessity of the
government of the United States of
America.

I am honored to say that the ranking
member, without objection, and the
chairman allowed a piece of legisla-
tion, this piece of legislation, to be
amended so that we could have a public
awareness campaign so that the public
could be a part of protecting itself. If
the public is aware of the methodolo-
gies that are being utilized by those
who would perform insidious acts, the
public can help us to defend ourselves.

This legislation requires this public
awareness campaign. It will reach
small businesses, it will reach the very
large businesses. It also will, in an ef-
fort to reach all, make sure people are

reached who are physically challenged, those who are mentally challenged, those who may have some language deficiencies. In fact, in my district the ballot is printed in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. We must make sure that all persons have an opportunity to receive the education and the information that this bill requires that we impart to the public.

To the two outstanding representatives on this committee, the chairperson and the former chairperson, I want to salute you, and I want to thank you for allowing the amendment to go forward, such that it is now a part of the bill.

In closing, I would simply say, as the chairman pointed out, a well-informed public is a well-protected public.

Mr. Chairman, I salute you and I thank you. Mr. Ranking Member, I salute you and thank you as well.

□ 1230

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Does the gentleman have any further speakers?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close after the gentleman from California closes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I support this National Bombing Prevention Act for 2008.

As the gentleman who just spoke from the State of Texas has said, this is a rather inclusive bill. It has a component of operations and training in it; also a component of awareness. And together, they combine to make an excellent bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 4749 is important legislation that will ensure that we are positioned to address explosive threats at all levels of government. We know that explosives are all too often terrorists' weapons of choice.

Under HSPD-19, DHS is tasked with researching, identifying, and communicating "lessons learned and best practices, concerning the use of explosives as a terrorist weapon" to enhance "the preparedness of Federal, State, local, territorial, and tribal government personnel to deter, prevent, detect, protect against, and respond to explosive attacks in the United States."

Passage of H.R. 4749 will put us on a path to enhance the Nation's terrorism response capability and ensure that first responders and first preventers have what they need.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this important homeland security measure.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4749, the National Bombing Prevention Act, introduced by my distinguished colleague from

New York, Representative KING. This important legislation establishes the Office of Bombing Prevention within the Protective Security Coordination Division of the Office of Infrastructure Protection of the Department.

This legislation is a bipartisan bill, whose lead sponsor is the Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Representative KING, and is also cosponsored by Chairman THOMPSON. The function of the Office of Bombing Prevention already exists in the Department, and this bill establishes it in statute. The Office is responsible for coordinating the Government efforts to deter, detect, prevent, protect against, and respond to terrorist explosive attacks in the United States. As we all know, the most likely terrorist threat to our Nation's critical infrastructure and transportation modes is from explosives.

Madam Speaker, we need to ensure that the Office of Bombing Prevention has the protection of being established by the force of law, so the Department can more readily meet the threats to our Nation. This legislation requires the Secretary to develop and periodically update a national strategy to prevent and prepare for terrorist explosive attacks in the United States due 90 days after the date of enactment. The Secretary is further required to report to Congress regarding the national strategy. This strategy is also called for by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-19, Combating Terrorist Use of Explosives in the United States, issued by the President in February of 2007. This legislation also authorizes the Office to support technology transfer efforts as well as research into explosives detection and mitigation.

I did, however, have one reservation with regards to this legislation, regarding canine procurement, which is why I introduced an amendment, which was accepted by the full Committee, to address that issue. Dogs are used to detect illicit and illegal substances every day. They are used to: detect illegal narcotics; find money that is being smuggled out of the country; and locate explosives that may be concealed in cargo, within vehicles, on aircraft, in luggage and on passengers.

There is no doubt that every day, the actions of these dogs and their handlers significantly contribute toward deterring threats and protecting our Nation from terrorists. While the contributions of our canine forces are priceless, they are not without cost. We must place a price on what we are willing to pay for untrained dogs.

The Department of Homeland Security's Inspector General has found that from April 2006 through June 2007, Customs and Border Protection spent \$1.46 million on purchasing 322 untrained dogs—that is about \$4500 per dog. Most of these dogs are purchased in Europe and brought to America. These are not fully trained animals. They are puppies that will be trained to provide valuable service. I think most people would find \$4500 for an untrained dog an exorbitant amount.

However, I cannot deem this amount out of bounds because the Department of Defense pays \$3500 for each untrained dog. The Secret Service pays an average of \$4500 for each untrained dog. Therefore, the price paid by CBP is within the acceptable range of current practice. However, I think that if we are to be good stewards of the American tax dollar, we must change the current practice. When one considers that domestic breeders offer the

same kinds of dogs for \$500–\$2000, we cannot justify what I can only call a puppy tariff.

My amendment would require the Secretary to explore ways to reduce the amount we pay for each dog we purchase by considering the use of different breeds, procuring dogs from domestic breeders and seeking out dogs from animal shelters or rescue groups. If this Department can successfully implement a new method to obtain capable dogs for our homeland security needs, we could begin a trend that would save the American people millions of dollars each year.

With the inclusion of my amendment, I am deeply satisfied with this legislation. I am proud to support this legislation, which brings our great Nation closer to its goal of securing the homeland, and I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4749, 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.

CIVIL AIR PATROL HOMELAND SECURITY SUPPORT ACT OF 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1333) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Air Force to use Civil Air Patrol personnel and resources to support homeland security missions, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1333

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

SECTION 1. CIVIL AIR PATROL STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the functions and capabilities of the Civil Air Patrol to support the homeland security missions of State, local, and tribal governments and the Department of Homeland Security. In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall review the process by which the Civil Air Patrol may provide assistance to the Secretary of Homeland Security, other Federal agencies, and States to support homeland security missions by—

(1) providing aerial reconnaissance or communications capabilities for border security;

(2) providing capabilities for collective response to an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other man-made event, by assisting in damage assessment and situational awareness, conducting search and rescue operations, assisting in evacuations, transporting time-sensitive medical or other materials; or

(3) such other activities as may be determined appropriate by the Comptroller General in the conduct of this review.