

small businesses who are being pummeled day in and day out by soaring energy prices.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support the passage of this bill, but I call on the Speaker and the Democratic leadership to bring for a vote bills, among them the American Energy Act introduced last week by the House Republicans, to explore for more oil and to lower the cost of energy in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to get us back to H.R. 6576, the Reducing Information Control Designations Act, I urge its passage.

I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Sires). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6576, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

OPTIONAL ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6073) to provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6073

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

SECTION 1. ELECTRONIC PAY STUBS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Personnel Management shall take such measures as may be appropriate to ensure that all employees who receive their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “electronic funds transfer” has the meaning given such term by section 3332 of title 31, United States Code;

(2) the term “employee” means an individual employed in or under an Executive agency; and

(3) the term “Executive agency” has the meaning given such term by section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H.R. 6073 would require the Office of Personnel Management to allow Federal employees to receive electronic pay stubs. Most Federal employees receive their pay electronically, which is faster and less costly than using paper checks. This bill helps extend that cost savings to the rest of the payroll process.

More than a decade ago, Congress passed a law requiring that almost all Federal employees be paid by electronic funds transfer, commonly known as direct deposit. Electronic funds transfer is more secure and costs less than printing and distributing paper checks. Employees also have access to their funds sooner, because they do not have to deposit or cash their checks. However, many Federal agencies still print and distribute paper pay stubs for their employees, limiting the gains in efficiency from using electronic funds transfer.

This bill will encourage agencies to handle their entire payroll process electronically. The Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget have no objections to this bill. It's a commonsense measure that will help make payroll faster and more efficient, and I want to commend and thank Representative FOXX for introducing it. I appreciate her work in helping us get this bill to the floor and all of her work on the committee.

I also want to thank Chairmen WAXMAN and TOWNS and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS for their support for the bill and urge its swift adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank Chairman WAXMAN, Ranking Member DAVIS, and Mr. DAVIS from Illinois for their assistance in bringing this bill out of committee and to the floor. I think it is our responsibility as Members of Congress to seek every way possible to save money for the taxpayers of this country, and I appreciate the fact that we're moving this bill along because it is an excellent way for us to save the taxpayers of this country some money.

There are currently 2.7 million Federal employees. Many of these 2.7 million Federal employees have the option of accessing their leave and earnings statement, pay stubs electronically rather than the paper version which we receive in our mailboxes. But there are still executive branch agencies that do not offer this option to their employ-

ees. H.R. 6073 would direct the Office of Personnel Management to take such measures as they see appropriate to ensure that all executive agency employees have the option of receiving their pay stub electronically.

The reason that H.R. 6073 affects only the executive branch agencies and not the legislative branch or the judicial branch is because each branch of the Federal Government has different rules and means of payment regulations. Currently, there are 17 executive branch agencies that do not offer their employees the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically. H.R. 6073 would give these employees the option of having access to their pay stubs electronically. This is not a mandate.

Finally, this sensible legislation will save millions of taxpayer dollars and immeasurable amounts of paper.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

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Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, again I want to thank the folks who have helped bring this bill to the floor.

I am pleased, again, that we have the potential for saving taxpayers much money, but I hope that by the end of this week we're also going to vote on legislation that would bring down gas prices and save much, much more money on behalf of the American people. I think that we need to do that as responsible Members of this Congress.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6073.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PAPERWORK ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6113) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require each agency to include a contact telephone number in its collection of information, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6113

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 "Paperwork Assistance Act".

SEC. 2. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION REQUIREMENT.

Section 3506(c)(1)(B)(iii) of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subclause (IV) by striking "and" at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(VI) contact information for the agency, including a website and a telephone number, by which a person may obtain a specific contact person responsible for answering questions about the information collection and other information to assist in responding to the information collection; and".

SEC. 3. REPORT BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall include in the report required by section 3514(a)(1)(B) of title 44, United States Code, covering fiscal year 2010 the following:

(1) The status of implementation by agencies of the requirement in section 3506(c)(1)(B)(iii)(VI) of such title 44, as added by section 2 of this Act.

(2) A description of how each agency has responded to complaints made to the agency related to the agency's compliance with such requirement.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by section 2 shall apply to new or revised collections of information approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the author of this legislation, Representative BOYDA.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Thank you so much, Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. Speaker, it shouldn't be difficult for Americans to interact with their government. But most citizen interaction with their government is through filling out forms, both paper and online, that are required to be filled out in order to receive grants, tax refunds, passports, and so many other things.

With so many forms, questions about what information is actually needed are bound to arise, but finding the right office to call is difficult. And to get the answers that people need in an orderly manner is, quite frankly, very, very difficult, and it shouldn't be that way. That's why I've introduced bill.

And it's very simple. Any form that the government uses to collect information from Americans also has to include contact information—a phone number or a Web site—in which a person can obtain specific information on who to talk to about that form. Hopefully, when they call, a real live person will be at the other end of that line.

This bill also requires the Office of Management and Budget to report to Congress on implementation and a description of how the agencies are responding to complaints about it.

This bill is especially important to small businesses and owners, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses is a strong supporter of my bill. In fact, the idea for this bill came from some of the small businesses right there in Kansas, the good constituents that I get to represent. They were responding to a survey that was distributed to NFIB members in which they overwhelmingly supported legislation to help them get answers to questions about all the government paperwork that they have to fill out. And yes, getting that government paperwork reduced is certainly our first priority, but in the meantime, let's just get an access number so people can call and find out how to fill these forms out efficiently.

I've said time and time again that democracy is a team sport, and this is a perfect example of everyone working together to make our government more responsive. I would like to thank Mr. TOWNS and Ms. WATSON for their assistance in getting this important legislation to the floor. And I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this very, very commonsense bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, every year the government asks Americans to provide many kinds information. These forms can often be confusing and complicated. It would be better if we could find a way to reduce the total number of information requests the government makes to the public, but failing that, we ought at least to make sure someone is available to answer questions from people who are trying to comply with these requirements.

H.R. 6113 amends the Paperwork Reduction Act to require agencies to provide contact information for the agency on information collection. I am happy to support this legislation, and I look forward to the day when we actually cut the number and size of information requests generated by this government.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6113, the Paperwork Assistance Act, is aimed at making it easier for people to fill out government paperwork. I commend Representative BOYDA for her leadership in introducing this bill, and Representa-

tive TOWNS for his work on this bill during committee consideration.

The bill would require each agency to include contact information for the agency on its forms. Under this bill, a person filling out a government form would be able to go to the agency and get in touch with the person who is responsible for answering questions about the form.

Based on a suggestion by Representative DIANE WATSON, language was added to the bill during committee consideration to require the Office of Management and Budget to report to Congress on how well agencies are implementing this legislation. This is what one would have to call a good, commonsense piece of government work. It is a good government bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this bill is aimed at making the Federal Government more friendly and responsive to citizens who interact with the government. How sad that we are not responding to what Americans are asking for right now and what is most on their mind. And I'm quoting a Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll released last week revealed that 75 percent of Americans and 66 percent of Democrats support immediate oil and gas exploration here at home. According to a CNN poll, 73 percent of Americans favor more exploration of deep ocean energy resources far off American shores. A Reuters/Zogby poll conducted in June shows that 75 percent of Americans support drilling for oil offshore, and 59 percent support drilling in ANWR.

A Rasmussen survey from June showed 67 percent of Americans support deepwater energy exploration, with 64 percent expecting it will lower gas prices. And a recent IBD/TIPP poll shows 64 percent of Americans surveyed support offshore drilling, 65 percent support oil shale development.

We could bring down the price of gas by voting to create more oil supply, but the Speaker, Senator REID, and Senator OBAMA are blocking such votes. It's a shame that very wealthy people who are out of touch with average Americans are blocking the ability to bring down the price of gas.

I'm in favor of doing everything we can to make the Federal Government more responsive to our citizens, including this bill, and I certainly do support it, but I think we need to do more. We need to vote to drill and to create more energy and help the American public.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she might consume to the author of this legislation, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Thank you again, Mr. DAVIS.

When I went home to Kansas this weekend, I went to a couple of county fairs. And everybody was in a very, very festive mood, it's county fair

time. Clearly, there are many things that are challenging the American people and the Kansas people right now, but we have to rejoice that finally we started to see the price of this oil come down. And I think oil has come down by \$25 now. Hopefully, today it's continuing to fall more.

I personally believe that that's for a couple of reasons: One, the Agriculture Committee last week—and I serve with Representative FOXX on that committee—we passed through the committee and will bring to the floor legislation that's going to really bring the light down on this speculation and manipulation. And I think we've basically called the bluff of the speculators and the people who are manipulating here, and that's having a real impact for which I'm very, very grateful.

But secondly, I think the thing that's having an impact—and the people of Kansas are grateful to see it come down, and yes, it needs to come down much more—is, quite honestly, we've called the oil companies' bluff and we've said "drill." You have millions and millions of acres to drill. And we're not only asking you to drill, we're going to tell you if you don't drill, we're going to tell you to give those leases up and to give them to companies who will go out there and do it.

Unfortunately, as Ms. FOXX and I heard about a month ago in the Agriculture Committee, the oil companies do not have the drilling equipment. And I'm sure she was as surprised as I was a month ago to hear the American Petroleum Institute say with a totally straight face that they don't have any more equipment to drill onshore or offshore. They can barely keep up with the leases that they have now. And we're not expected to have any more for at least one, and probably two more years.

So we have seen the price of oil come down. We have to increase the supply of energy in this country, and I think we all agree on that. And I would reach across the aisle to my good friend and colleague on the House Agriculture Committee and say, let's work together to bring this price down. And yes, drilling will absolutely be a part of that, I think the American people and the Democrats understand that. I look forward to working together with the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) on that as we've been working on the Agriculture Committee. And I think some of the things that we've been doing have really made a difference.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to get us back to H.R. 6113, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require each agency to include a contact telephone number in its collection of information in order to assist people with filling out government forms, I urge passage.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6113, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE APPLE CRUNCH AND THE NATION'S DOMESTIC APPLE INDUSTRY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1143) supporting the goals and ideals of the Apple Crunch and the Nation's domestic apple industry.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1143

Whereas October is National Apple Month and is the only national and brand generic apple promotion conducted in the United States;

Whereas each year the Penn State Hershey Center for Nutrition and Activity Promotion, in its mission to encourage individuals to live a healthy lifestyle, promotes the Apple Crunch nationwide;

Whereas the Apple Crunch, held on October 29, 2008, is an event that focuses on healthy food choices, particularly apples, for students, schools, and communities;

Whereas during National Apple Month and the celebration surrounding the Apple Crunch, schools of all levels voluntarily participate in serving apples and apple products as part of cafeteria menus and as snacks in the classroom;

Whereas schools that participate in the Apple Crunch can integrate apples into classroom lessons, or have a State or local apple representatives visit the school;

Whereas community businesses voluntarily support the efforts of schools to celebrate the Apple Crunch by providing apples to employees and customers, featuring apples on restaurant menus, and voicing support for healthy food and beverage choices in schools and communities; and

Whereas 2008 is the second year that the Apple Crunch will be expanded to include schools throughout the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Apple Month and the Apple Crunch.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to stand in support of H. Res. 1143, which recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of the Apple Crunch and the Nation's domestic apple industry.

□ 1430

H. Res. 1143 was introduced by our colleague Representative TODD PLATTS of Pennsylvania on April 23, 2008, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on July 16, 2008. The measure has the support of 52 Members of Congress and gives us a chance to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the apple and apple growers of our country and their impact to our economy. Whether it's "as American as apple pie" or the fact that "an apple a day keeps the doctor away," one thing we do know is that the apple is core to the American way.

Therefore, I would urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Nation's apple industry and the annual Apple Crunch event by agreeing to H. Res. 1143.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Apple Crunch and the Nation's domestic apple industry.

In an era that sees food serving sizes skyrocketing and in an America that is quickly forgetting the meaning of the phrase "a la carte," it is important to continually encourage children to eat healthily. The goal of the Apple Crunch is just that, to promote healthier snacking by America's youth.

First established in Pennsylvania, the success of Apple Crunch has spread. Apple Crunch, the pinnacle of the celebration of Apple Month in October, is now in its 2nd year as a national practice, with schools and communities across the country joining in festivities.

During the 2006-2007 school year, more than 930 schools and 495,000 citizens in Pennsylvania alone came together to celebrate Apple Crunch. Schools, families, local communities, grocery stores, and the domestic apple industry all join together to encourage adding more fruits and vegetables to our everyday diets. Many schools have gone far past simply featuring apples on the dining menu, integrating apples into classroom lessons and even scheduling field trips to local farmers' markets.

The focus on promoting healthy eating in our schools is vital to the health