

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 824, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ENCOURAGING IRAN TO REUNITE JOSHUA FATTAL, SHANE BAUER, AND SARAH SHOURD WITH THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 45, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 45.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 825]

YEAS—423

Ackerman	Capuano	Engel
Aderholt	Cardoza	Eshoo
Adler (NJ)	Carnahan	Etheridge
Akin	Carney	Fallin
Alexander	Carson (IN)	Farr
Altmire	Carter	Finer
Andrews	Cassidy	Flake
Arcuri	Castle	Fleming
Austria	Castor (FL)	Forbes
Baca	Chaffetz	Fortenberry
Bachmann	Chandler	Foster
Bachus	Childers	Fox
Baird	Chu	Frank (MA)
Baldwin	Clarke	Franks (AZ)
Barrow	Clay	Frelinghuysen
Bartlett	Cleaver	Fudge
Barton (TX)	Clyburn	Galleghy
Bean	Coble	Garrett (NJ)
Becerra	Coffman (CO)	Gerlach
Berkley	Cohen	Giffords
Berman	Cole	Gingrey (GA)
Berry	Conaway	Gohmert
Biggert	Connolly (VA)	Gonzalez
Bilbray	Conyers	Goodlatte
Bilirakis	Cooper	Gordon (TN)
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Granger
Bishop (NY)	Costello	Graves
Bishop (UT)	Courtney	Grayson
Blackburn	Crenshaw	Green, Al
Blumenauer	Crowley	Green, Gene
Blunt	Cuellar	Griffith
Boccheri	Culberson	Grijalva
Boehner	Cummings	Guthrie
Bonner	Dahlkemper	Gutierrez
Bono Mack	Davis (AL)	Hall (NY)
Boozman	Davis (CA)	Hall (TX)
Boren	Davis (IL)	Halvorson
Boswell	Davis (KY)	Hare
Boucher	Davis (TN)	Harman
Boustany	Deal (GA)	Harper
Boyd	DeFazio	Hastings (FL)
Brady (PA)	DeGette	Hastings (WA)
Brady (TX)	Delahunt	Heinrich
Braley (IA)	DeLauro	Heller
Bright	Dent	Hensarling
Broun (GA)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Herger
Brown (SC)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Herseth Sandlin
Brown, Corrine	Dicks	Higgins
Brown-Waite,	Dingell	Hill
Ginny	Doggett	Himes
Buchanan	Donnelly (IN)	Hinche
Burgess	Doyle	Hinojosa
Burton (IN)	Dreier	Hirono
Butterfield	Driehaus	Hodes
Calvert	Duncan	Hoekstra
Camp	Edwards (MD)	Holden
Campbell	Edwards (TX)	Holt
Cantor	Ehlers	Honda
Cao	Ellison	Hoyer
Capito	Ellsworth	Hunter
Capps	Emerson	Inglis

Inslee	McNerney	Sarbanes
Israel	Meek (FL)	Scalise
Issa	Meeks (NY)	Schakowsky
Jackson (IL)	Melancon	Schauer
Jackson-Lee	Mica	Schiff
(TX)	Michaud	Schmidt
Jenkins	Miller (FL)	Schock
Johnson (GA)	Miller (MI)	Schrader
Johnson (IL)	Miller (NC)	Schwartz
Johnson, E. B.	Miller, Gary	Scott (GA)
Johnson, Sam	Miller, George	Scott (VA)
Jones	Minnick	Sensenbrenner
Jordan (OH)	Mitchell	Serrano
Kagen	Mollohan	Sessions
Kanjorski	Moore (KS)	Sestak
Kaptur	Moore (WI)	Shadegg
Kennedy	Moran (KS)	Shea-Porter
Kildee	Moran (VA)	Sherman
Kilpatrick (MI)	Murphy (CT)	Shimkus
Kilroy	Murphy (NY)	Shuler
Kind	Murphy, Tim	Shuster
King (IA)	Murtha	Simpson
King (NY)	Myrick	Sires
Kingston	Nadler (NY)	Skelton
Kirk	Napolitano	Slaughter
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Neal (MA)	Smith (NE)
Kissell	Neugebauer	Smith (NJ)
Klein (FL)	Nye	Smith (TX)
Kline (MN)	Oberstar	Smith (WA)
Kosmas	Obey	Snyder
Kratovil	Olson	Souder
Kucinich	Oliver	Space
Lamborn	Ortiz	Speier
Lance	Pallone	Spratt
Langevin	Pascarell	Stark
Larsen (WA)	Pastor (AZ)	Stearns
Larson (CT)	Paul	Stupak
Latham	Paulsen	Sullivan
LaTourette	Payne	Sutton
Latta	Pence	Tanner
Lee (CA)	Perlmutter	Taylor
Lee (NY)	Perriello	Teague
Levin	Peters	Terry
Lewis (CA)	Peterson	Thompson (CA)
Lewis (GA)	Petri	Thompson (MS)
Linder	Pingree (ME)	Thompson (PA)
Lipinski	Pitts	Thornberry
LoBiondo	Platts	Tiahrt
Loebach	Poe (TX)	Tiberi
Lofgren, Zoe	Polis (CO)	Tierney
Lowe	Pomeroy	Titus
Lucas	Posey	Tonko
Luetkemeyer	Price (GA)	Towns
Lujan	Price (NC)	Tsongas
Lummis	Putnam	Upton
Lungren, Daniel	Quigley	Van Hollen
E.	Radanovich	Visclosky
Lynch	Rahall	Walden
Mack	Rangel	Walz
Maffei	Rehberg	Wamp
Maloney	Reichert	Wasserman
Manzullo	Reyes	Schultz
Marchant	Richardson	Waters
Markey (CO)	Rodriguez	Watson
Markey (MA)	Roe (TN)	Watt
Marshall	Rogers (AL)	Waxman
Massa	Rogers (KY)	Weiner
Matheson	Rogers (MI)	Welch
Matsui	Rohrabacher	Westmoreland
McCarthy (CA)	Rooney	Wexler
McCarthy (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
McCaul	Roskam	Wilson (OH)
McClintock	Ross	Wilson (SC)
McCollum	Rothman (NJ)	Wittman
McCotter	Roybal-Allard	Wolf
McDermott	Royce	Woolsey
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Wu
McHenry	Ryan (OH)	Yarmuth
McIntyre	Ryan (WI)	Young (AK)
McKeon	Salazar	Young (FL)
McMahon	Sanchez, Linda	
McMorris	T.	
Rodgers	Sanchez, Loretta	

NOT VOTING—9

Abercrombie	Fattah	Rush
Barrett (SC)	Murphy, Patrick	Turner
Buyer	Nunes	Velázquez

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1158

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the

concurrent resolution was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on S. Con. Res. 45 I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 790, 798–818, and 823–825. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on votes 790, 798–800, 802–818, and 823–825. I would have voted "nay" on vote No. 801.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2996, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 876, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2996) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 876, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 28, 2009, at page H11871.)

□ 1200

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2996.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

It is my privilege and pleasure to present the fiscal year 2010 Interior, environment, and related agencies appropriations bill to the House today. This very fine bill is the product of many hours of work, always with bipartisan input and excellent participation. I especially want to thank my friend and ranking member, Mr. SIMPSON, for the outstanding participation and cooperation he offered throughout this process.

I want to thank Chairman OBEY for recognizing that the programs funded

through this bill have been chronically underfunded and for providing the allocation necessary to reverse that trend. From 2001 through 2008, when adjusted for inflation, the budget request for the Interior Department went down by 16 percent, the EPA went down by 29 percent, and the non-fire Forest Service accounts were down by a striking 35 percent. This bill invests taxpayers' dollars in our natural resources, and for this investment all Americans will see a great return.

This conference report also contains the continuing resolution which will keep the government running until December 18. It is vital that we pass the Interior conference report to avoid a shutdown of the Federal Government.

This agreement provides focused funding to protect the environment. Clean water and drinking water infrastructure receive \$3.6 billion, enough to provide assistance for more than 1,500 communities throughout the Nation to improve public health and restore ecosystems. We include authority for subsidized assistance to those cities and towns that cannot afford conventional loans.

This agreement invests \$641 million to restore major American lakes, estuaries, and bays. It fully funds the President's request of \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and makes significant investments to protect our great American bodies such as Puget Sound and the Chesapeake Bay.

To address global climate change, this bill provides \$386 million for climate change adaptation and scientific study.

The agreement before us also represents a promising renewal in our Nation's trust responsibility for Native Americans. It provides a \$654 million increase for health care, law enforcement, and education in Indian country for a total of \$6.8 billion. The increases here will help these communities promote the health and safety of our Nation's "First Americans."

This agreement makes a major investment of \$3.37 billion for Forest Service and Department of the Interior wildland fire activities, including the largest non-emergency increase ever for wildfire suppression. We also have included the FLAME Act, which reforms wildfire budgeting and will help create a steady and predictable funding stream for wildfire suppression. This agreement provides \$90 million for the Legacy Road and Trail Remediation program to protect streams and water systems from damaged forest roads.

We have agreed to provide a \$218 million increase for the National Park Service to invest in what Ken Burns has called "America's Best Idea." The National Wildlife Refuge System gains a \$40 million increase, to a level of \$503 million, which will reduce critical staffing shortages, implement climate change strategies, and improve conservation efforts.

We have provided an increase of \$82 million above 2009 for the cultural

agencies supported by this bill. We recommend \$167.5 million for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The endowments are vital for preserving and encouraging America's creative and cultural heritage. They are very important for education.

Finally, I want to thank the dedicated staff who have spent long hours over many months to prepare this bill. For the subcommittee staff, majority clerk Delia Scott, Chris Topik, Julie Falkner, Beth Houser, Melissa Squire, minority clerk David LesStrang and Darren Benjamin. And I also want to thank Pete Modaff and Ryan Shauers on my staff and Missy Small and Megan Milan on Mr. SIMPSON's staff. Additionally, I want to take note that we are losing Greg Knadle after 6 years of loyal service to the Appropriations Committee. We thank him for his work on the Interior Subcommittee and wish him the best in his new endeavors. I think we should give him a round of applause for his good work.

In closing, I am very proud of this bill. It funds programs that cover a wide range of issues: from our cultural and historic heritage to the water we drink and the air we breathe. These programs redeem our trust responsibilities for the First Americans, fight fires, protect public health, and conserve natural resources. The impact of this conference agreement stretches across the Nation and will make a difference to the well-being and the future of every citizen.

We should all be proud of this conference agreement and I urge the House to support it when the vote comes.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would like to begin my comments today by expressing my thanks to Chairman DICKS for the even-handed manner in which he has conducted the business of the Interior and Environment Subcommittee this year. While we may disagree about the need for a 17 percent increase in spending in this conference agreement, our work together has been a bipartisan, collaborative effort. While we certainly don't agree on every issue, when we do disagree, Chairman DICKS and I continue to work very well together.

Of the many things achieved by this legislation, I hope it will be remembered for the effort made to address the long-standing issue of adequately funding our country's fire suppression needs without bankrupting other non-fire accounts. From our hearings earlier this year, we know that almost 50 percent of the Forest Service budget is consumed by the costs of fighting wildfires. In past years, the Forest Service has had to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars from other accounts just to pay for fire suppression.

The President took positive steps this year by proposing a contingency reserve fund for fire suppression. The

House and Senate also acted by approving the FLAME Act in each Chamber with overwhelming bipartisan majorities. Working together, authorizers and appropriators have developed FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Funds, providing both the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service the additional tools they need to combat large, severe fire emergencies.

This conference report also provides needed attention to our Native American brothers and sisters. There are many unmet needs within Indian Country in education, health care, law enforcement, drug abuse prevention, and other areas, and this legislation does a great deal to address these issues. I thank Chairman DICKS for his attention to this important area of the budget.

However, while this conference agreement tackles many challenging issues, it also assumes that more money is the answer to every problem we face. I just don't believe that a \$4.7 billion, or 17 percent, increase over last year makes sense. This additional spending comes on the heels of a 13 percent last year and an \$11 billion infusion from the stimulus bill.

The Federal budget deficit is now a staggering \$1.4 trillion, the highest deficit in history, and three times higher than that of the previous administration. Our current deficit is almost 10 percent of the gross domestic product, a level not witnessed since World War II. Remember, this is before Congress begins tackling the issue of health care, cap-and-trade, and other expensive pieces of legislation.

I believe a better approach would have been to create a balanced bill. This conference report provides a disproportionate level of funding to one agency, the EPA, and creates an imbalance that undermines what could be a very fine piece of legislation.

I question the need for a \$10.2 million budget for EPA, a 35 percent increase from just last year. This is on top of the \$7.2 billion the agency received in stimulus funding and the \$7.6 billion it received in last year's Interior bill. Taken together, the EPA will receive more than \$25 billion in this calendar year. That is about the size of the entire Interior and environment spending bill just 2 years ago.

This package also provides large increases in programs without having clearly defined goals or sufficient processes in place to measure results or the return on our investment. We are making rapid investments in water, climate change, renewable energy, and other areas, all of them worthy endeavors, but with relatively little planning and coordination across multiple agencies and the rest of government.

I look forward to receiving a detailed report from the administration on how and where climate change dollars are being spent, not just within this bill, but across all of government. Spending on climate change programs in this package alone has increased from \$231

million in last year's budget to \$382 million in this year's conference agreement. That is a 66 percent increase in 1 year.

As I said earlier, I have the highest regard for Chairman DICKS and look forward to continuing our work together. I would very much like to support this conference report, but regrettably, I cannot. The bottom line for me is that the conference agreement simply spends too much money.

In closing, I would like to thank both the majority and minority staff for their long hours and fine work in producing this conference report. On the majority side, this includes Delia Scott, Chris Topik, Julie Falkner, Greg Knadle, Beth Houser, Melissa Squire, Pete Modaff and Ryan Shauers. Of the minority staff, I'd like to thank my staff, Missy Small, Megan Milam, Kaylyn Bessey, and Lindsay Slater, as well as committee staffers, Darren Benjamin and Dave LesStrang.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, a person we worked very closely with on all aspects of the bill, my classmate and good friend, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman for yielding, and I rise today in strong support of this Interior appropriations conference report and to congratulate the House and Senate Appropriations Committees for their work on this important funding measure.

In particular, I wish to express my deep appreciation and congratulate my classmate, Interior Subcommittee Chairman NORM DICKS, as well as full committee chairman, DAVE OBEY, on the completion of this conference report. I thank Ranking Members LEWIS and SIMPSON as well.

I am privileged to serve as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Many of the priorities funded in this legislation have long been priorities of the authorizing committee as well.

We often hear Members of Congress express concern about the future of our national parks, our forests, our refuges and public lands. We often hear Members express support for a strong trust relationship with native people. We often hear Members express deep concern regarding wildlife, climate change, and water quality and quantity.

I would say to my colleagues that today is one of those days where Members who say they care about these things can come to the House floor and prove it by voting for this strong conference report.

Last spring, the House approved legislation that I sponsored, the Federal Land Assistance and Management Enhancement Act, or FLAME Act, to authorize a separate funding stream for emergency wildfire suppression. Over

the last decade, wildfires have become increasingly dangerous and destructive, burning more acreage and more property more often. Yet financially, the Federal Government has continued to be ill-prepared to respond to these fires. Time after time, we have seen wildfires rip through communities, while at the same time they burn through the agency's budget.

I moved the FLAME Act through the House because it will give the agencies the money they need to knock down catastrophic fires, while protecting the important funds needed to stop fires from starting in the first place. Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the Appropriations Committee, the FLAME fund is included in this conference report, and for the first time, we are creating a savings account to cover the cost of fighting fires we know are going to happen.

Instead of a "rainy day" fund, it is a fund for fire seasons when we have not had nearly enough rainy days, and I know the communities threatened by these dangerous fires are grateful it is included in this bill.

The conference report also includes funding for increases for our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and public lands, investments in what Ken Burns has reminded us is one of America's best ideas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the chairman.

The conference report also contains significant funding for the land and water conservation fund, a contract we have made with our grandchildren that, as we deplete our offshore energy reserves, we will invest some of the profits in conservation.

Finally, the conference report honors our enduring commitment to native people with significant funding increases for Indian health services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The rates of poverty and illness among native people continue at unacceptably high rates, and sufficient funding for these programs is vital.

Of course, as with all compromises, this conference report is not perfect. It includes several individual provisions I do not support. However, this legislation represents a continued commitment to protecting and preserving that which makes our Nation unique.

I urge Members' support and appreciate the work of the chairman.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

□ 1215

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate my colleagues yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend my good friends, Chairman NORM DICKS and MIKE SIMPSON, for a rather fabulous job of working together on this bill. While I am concerned about the

volume of dollar increases, there is no doubt that this bill represents much of the most positive work on behalf of our country, especially the work of the EPA, I might mention. I want to say to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) that you have reason to be proud of this bill. My wife tells me that she has gotten an inkling from your wife, Susie, that she is very proud of the work you have done here as well, and she welcomes you back home one of these days.

Anyway, moving right along, while I wish to suggest that the money allotted in this bill is more than adequate, I am very hopeful that in organizations like EPA that we will be able to not find ourselves just awash in funding and, thereby, begin to throw funding at programs. In the meantime, there is little doubt that there is plenty of work to be done. The Interior appropriations conference report is important, but it's only the fifth of 12 conference reports that we need to complete. We now find ourselves 29 days into the new fiscal year, and we have fewer than half of our bills done.

Sadly, the most important appropriations bills, the defense bill and the military construction and Veterans Affairs bills, are being put on the shelf, being held for a time and a purpose that causes us all to wonder. There is no better illustration of the misplaced priorities of this Democrat majority leadership than that fact. This leadership chose to send to the President the legislative branch bill for its first bill of the year. Imagine that. While the troops are awaiting our assistance and serious recognition of the challenges they face, the legislative branch bill was first sent to the President's desk—to make sure we've got enough money, I guess, to make sure they keep the lights on while we're talking to the public today. And what kind of a signal does that send to those who are in harm's way at this moment, protecting our freedom?

Mr. Speaker, what kind of signal are we sending, and what is our purpose for holding these bills on the shelf? The House passed the Defense appropriations bill. It contains critical funding for the men and women of our Armed Forces, including over 130,000 troops stationed in Iraq and over 60,000 troops currently in Afghanistan. The \$128 billion provided for the U.S. warfighting efforts is essential to continue our mission overseas and to provide critical resources, as I have said. The defense bill is ready to go today, and it should be moving today. So Mr. Speaker, why the delay?

The military construction-Veterans Affairs bill is also essential. We have all talked about our commitment to our veterans. This legislation contains much-needed funds for military construction, family housing, pension payments for disabled veterans, widows and children, and the veterans medical care and treatment programs across the country. While the Senate has had

over 100 days to complete its work on this bill—that is the preliminary construction VA bill—this bill is still not in conference. Given the importance of each of these bills, why are they being delayed?

Well, reports have indicated that the Democratic leadership may use these bills to carry controversial legislation that could—at least they seem to think—could not be passed as stand-alone measures. What in the world does increasing the national debt limitation or the District of Columbia voting rights bill have to do with our national defense or providing for our veterans? Mr. Speaker, the House has wasted weeks and months on trivial legislative matters, as I have suggested. The Congress is setting a dangerous precedent by holding up these major pieces of legislation rather than acting in an expeditious way. Let's move forward quickly today, pass this bill. I intend to vote against it because of the dollar amounts. But in the meantime, I will listen with care to this discussion.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), the chairman of the Military Construction and VA Subcommittee, who I have enjoyed working with over the years and who is one of the best leaders we have in the House on military construction and VA matters. He has done a great job leading our subcommittee.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish I could yield more time to the chairman, Mr. DICKS, to continue his comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your comments and for your leadership on this legislation, protecting our national parks and our environment and for being a real champion of America's military in our Nation's defense.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2996 because this bill will provide much-needed funding to improve clean and safe water infrastructure for our cities and our rural communities. It will repair and maintain our treasured national parks, and it will protect our environment from pollution and wildfires.

On the issue of natural gas production, one that is important to me and I believe many Americans, it is important that this bill's efforts to safeguard our environment will not infringe upon our Nation's ability to harness clean and domestically produced natural gas.

This bill encourages EPA to do a study on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water. Hydraulic fracturing is a crucial process for natural gas production, and it has been in practice for over 60 years. It is imperative that continued research is conducted, as this bill language report includes, through the best available science, science that is independent and peer-reviewed, while consulting with other agencies and the States, as has been done in the past.

I urge my colleagues to support this strong legislation.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from

California (Mr. CALVERT), a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman DICKS and Ranking Member SIMPSON for their courtesy and openness in the process of putting together this legislation. However, I reluctantly rise today in opposition to the fiscal year 2010 Interior appropriations conference report.

While Americans are cutting their budgets, the Democratic leadership continues the spending frenzy with an increase of \$4.7 billion—that's 17 percent, as was mentioned earlier—over the 2009 levels for the Interior appropriations bill. This increased spending is on top of the \$11 billion included in Interior programs in the stimulus package. That's an increase of \$15.7 billion in 1 year.

This bill does fund certain vital initiatives, such as hazardous fuels reduction, the so-called FLAME Act which was mentioned, in areas that face the highest risk of catastrophic wildfire. Funds to ensure that firefighters have the resources they need to battle fires and diesel emission reduction grants to improve air quality are also included.

Unfortunately, the bill simply spends too much money with too little in return. For example, it includes \$750,000 for yet another study to look at the science behind the federally imposed pumping restrictions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in California. While I certainly have no objections to yet another study, I do believe that it may very well take a number of months to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to merely confirm what I think we already know: that after 4 years of water restrictions in the delta, the delta smelt remains close to extinction, all while farmers and families continue to suffer.

The Democratic leadership in this Congress continues to sit on its hands while the flaws and shortcuts of the Endangered Species Act have tied the hands of judges and water resource planners, creating a man-made drought that is killing jobs in California. Rather than addressing an issue that is creating 40 percent unemployment in some parts of the Central Valley, the majority has ignored yet another opportunity to resolve the problem and, instead, is focused on yet another job killer: cap-and-trade climate change language.

The bill includes \$385 million for climate change initiatives, and earlier this week, Energy Secretary Chu suggested at a Senate hearing that the U.S. is falling behind countries like China in developing green energy because Congress has failed to pass the cap-and-trade legislation. The last time I checked, China has not implemented a cap-and-trade, nor has any intention to enter into a regulatory regime on cap-and-trade, so I was a bit surprised to hear the Secretary point to them as the gold standard.

I believe the statements from the Secretary, like the bill before us, re-

flect a key policy difference. While my friends on the other side of the aisle prefer to achieve results by expanding government, increasing spending, regulating everything, I believe we can achieve results by implementing policies that give hardworking Americans the freedom and basic tools that will enable them to unleash their ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) who is also a classmate and someone who is known in the House of Representatives for his concern about Native Americans and his advocacy on their behalf.

Mr. KILDEE. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2996, the Interior and Environmental Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010. This is a great bill. The conference agreement includes unprecedented funding levels for many of the programs that serve Native American and Alaskan Natives. The conference agreement, among other things, includes \$6.7 billion of total funding to support and improve health care education, public safety, and human services for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives throughout the Nation. These numbers demonstrate an increase of \$705.7 million above FY 2009 and \$91 million above the original request.

The conference report includes unprecedented levels of funding Indian Health Services, at a level of \$398 million, a \$116 million increase from FY 2009. The bill also contains increased levels of funding for BIA Justice and public safety programs of \$328.8 million, a \$58 million increase from FY 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Michigan has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KILDEE. This conference agreement also contains an \$81 million increase for K-12 and tribal college educational programs, including \$50 million to fund tribal colleges to help aid in academic and enhanced curriculum plans.

This is a great bill, and I appreciate it very much.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), another member of the subcommittee.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank my friend for yielding. I want to commend Chairman DICKS and Ranking Member SIMPSON for putting together what I consider to be a fine bill. Like most bills around here, it has some warts, but overall, this is a good bill.

Particularly, I want to highlight what I think is good for the part of the world that I live in. I want to thank the President, President Obama, for putting in his budget request for the first time since I have been here real money for the Great Lakes; \$475 million is included in the conference report. I also need to thank Delia Scott,

the clerk of the subcommittee, for working with us on report language to make sure that that \$475 million, which is primarily given to the Environmental Protection Agency, doesn't get stuck to the sticky fingers sometimes here in Washington and that it actually gets to the Great Lakes to improve water quality, habitat restoration, and things of that great nature.

As we all know, those of us that live near the Great Lakes, it has 20 percent of the world's fresh water. I can remember a couple of years ago when we put real money into the Everglades, and it really was the Great Lakes' turn. The President deserves credit and so do the crafters of this conference report. I am also grateful that included in here are some things that we worked on in a bipartisan fashion, some land acquisition for what used to be called the Blossom Music Center. I'm grateful for that.

I am grateful for the work of the full committee chairman and chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in solving the difficulty that we had with some EPA regulations for Great Lakes shipping, and it was their leadership that, in fact, fixed that. I would just say to my good friend the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, when I was the ranking member on the Coast Guard Subcommittee and this pollution on ships legislation came up last Congress, I said, "I told you so." And now those chickens have come home to roost. But I am grateful for that.

If there were disappointments with this conference report, one is, which I expressed during the conference, in the House bill—there is wonderful water infrastructure in this bill. If you represent an older group of cities, you know that we have pipes in the ground that have been there since 1920, 1930. Water infrastructure is greatly needed.

I was pleased to join with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) in offering an amendment that would have attached prevailing wage requirements for that infrastructure construction. The House bill had it, and it was accepted. But a funny thing happened over in the conference. The Senate said they couldn't do it. So now you have this sort of unique situation where you only have Davis-Bacon protection for fiscal year 2010. Now the EPA says they can handle it. I guess that you could handle it—but this pipe was laid in 2010, this pipe was laid in 2011. I think it's difficult, and I guess I am disappointed that we couldn't prevail on that issue.

The last source of disappointment is that this legislation carries the continuing resolution. I don't object to the fact that there is a continuing resolution. We need to keep the government operating. But the attachment, which has been done in the past—it was done earlier this year, it was done in 2006—to this legislation prevents the minority from having a motion to recommit

on the continuing resolution. And the last time that we had this discussion, I was sort of chastened. The full committee chairman said, Well, you don't necessarily need a motion to recommit; we made in order hundreds of Republican amendments during the appropriations process. So I actually had my staff look at it, and in fact, that's right. There were 714 amendments made in order to the appropriations bills that we considered this year, but sadly, 688 of them were authored by only three Members: Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CAMPBELL or Mr. HENSARLING.

□ 1230

So that means that 26 substantive amendments by everybody else over here are the only amendments that were made in order. That's disappointing. I hope that, if we need another CR, we can have it be free-standing so we at least have the opportunity to make a couple of observations.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished chairman of the Transportation and HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, also a very hardworking and conscientious member of our subcommittee, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER).

Mr. OLVER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank the chairman, Mr. OBEY, for the very good allocation that has been afforded the Interior Subcommittee, which has allowed Chairman DICKS and Ranking Member SIMPSON and their excellent staffs to craft a very good bill.

Madam Speaker, I want to talk about just the funding levels in three particular areas within the bill.

Firstly, this bill provides more than a 12 percent increase in funding for the Indian Health Service, which will greatly improve the quality and the availability of critical health care services to address the many health deficiencies that our Indian people suffer.

Secondly, it provides \$500 million for national wildlife refuges, which is an increase of \$40 million over the last year. This increase will provide critically needed staff, will improve funding for conservation efforts, and will implement strategies to mitigate climate change.

Lastly, the bill provides an increase in funding above \$2.7 billion to restore and help protect the quality of our Nation's air and water.

I urge a "yes" vote on the conference report.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, former President Woodrow Wilson, who was, of course, a considerable scholar of this institution, used to reflect that Congress on the floor is Congress' theater, but Congress in committee is Congress at work.

I want to particularly commend Chairman DICKS and Ranking Member SIMPSON for the manner in which they worked and, more importantly, for how they worked together throughout the process.

We hear a great deal—and there is sometimes considerable truth in it—about the absence of bipartisanship. I just want to make a point as a freshman member of this subcommittee as to how much bipartisanship there was on the subcommittee and as to how well we worked together. Of course, that couldn't happen without the chairman and ranking member setting the example and taking the lead.

You know, like all Members, I look at this appropriations bill, and I come to an undebatable conclusion that it spends too much money on things that I don't care about but not nearly enough on things that I do. Unfortunately, every other Member seems to have a somewhat different opinion about what is important and about what is not, and it has been left to the chairman and ranking member, as best they can, to work through that. Yet where I think there can't be much debate is that this is truly an excellent piece of legislation and funding from a Native American perspective and from the perspective of Indian country.

Madam Speaker, it's a trite but true observation that the First Americans are often the last Americans. They live shorter lives; they are poorer on average; they are less educated; they have less opportunity. This bill makes major steps to try and correct those inequities. It does really revolutionary things, in my opinion, in terms of health care, in terms of law enforcement, and in terms of education.

I want to particularly thank again Ranking Member SIMPSON and Chairman DICKS for taking that into consideration. I want to thank, frankly, every other member of the committee who I found really focused on this issue, and I want to thank the staff, which really did a superb job as well. We had a series of absolutely first-rate hearings, and I think we made good and wise decisions that the American people can be proud of.

It was a privilege to be able to participate on this committee.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I yield.

Mr. DICKS. I want to commend the gentleman.

He was at every single hearing and was especially very helpful to all of us on the Native American issues.

As a Native American, we appreciate your contribution, and we thank you for your good work and for your participation. It made a big difference.

Mr. COLE. Well, the gentleman, as always, is very kind.

Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank the committee, and I want to thank the leadership of the committee. I look forward to the passage of this very important legislation.

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, again, on this question of how much is in this bill, I want to remind people that the Interior budget had been cut by 16 percent, the EPA budget by 29 percent, and the Forest Service budget by 35 percent. So the Obama administration made an increase here, but this is playing catch-up. I mean these budgets have been really stressed over the last 7 or 8 years. We did good things on the Park Service, but many other agencies were cut, and because we didn't have the FLAME Act, we had to borrow money out of the trails and road repair and out of other things which are essential.

So I think this is just a catchup year, and I hope Members will take that into account as they make their decisions on how to vote. I hope that they will vote for this conference report, remembering that the CR is in this, and we don't want the government to come to a screeching halt on Saturday.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to a valuable member of the Resources Committee, the authorizing committee, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I thank the gentleman from Idaho.

Madam Speaker, Homeland Security and our Border Patrol have done a marvelous job in the urban areas of our southern border, which is why the bulk of illegal immigration now coming across our southern border comes through rural lands which are owned by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

According to two uncirculated public reports by the Department of the Interior, we have areas now in the southern part of this country that are public lands which are controlled by the drug cartel from Mexico. We have areas where citizens of America cannot enter those lands without an armed escort, where the land has been devastated, where military training missions have been curtailed, and where citizens of America have simply been attacked and mugged by foreigners on our own soil.

The House recognized this when it passed a motion to recommit by an overwhelming majority on the floor. The Senate also recognized this by including an amendment by Senator COBURN on the floor. Yet the conference committee, behind closed doors, has taken this amendment that dealt with the entire southern border, and they limited it only to the 340 miles where fencing actually exists. In essence, they have eviscerated the amendment and have denied the spirit and the sentiment that was expressed on the House floor as well as on the Senate floor.

Secretary NAPOLITANO has simply said it is a major difficulty when there are multiple public organizations with various interpretations on land policy. More graphically, she said it is difficult for border security when they

have to stop hot pursuit and have to wait until the arrival of horses to continue on.

This is a problem we should be facing directly, not glossing over and ignoring in a conference report. We should recognize that our inactivity by Congress has helped cause this problem, and our further inactivity on this issue cannot solve this problem. It is one of those areas that is a glowing and great error within this particular conference report. Congress should be doing better.

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I just want to make it clear that what we tried to do in dealing with the Coburn amendment was to focus it on the very southern border, itself. We were concerned, that if it weren't focused on the fence area, it could overturn the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the Native American Graves Repatriation Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, and many other laws. So we tried to focus this like a rifle shot.

I went out there myself to visit the border. I think the fence area is working pretty effectively, but I am concerned about the impact on other areas adjacent to the border.

So we have tribes there, and 700 miles of the border are part of Federal lands. This is a very significant problem, and we're taking it very seriously, and we want to make sure that Secretary Salazar and Secretary Napolitano work together.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Will the gentleman yield?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself another 1 minute in order to yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to ask the gentleman a question, if I might, and I very much appreciate his responding to this line of questioning.

The gentleman knows that I worked with the EPA for literally decades, years ago, in writing that legislation which created the Air Quality Management District Act in southern California. They were extremely helpful as we did battle with the executives of our auto industry, as they thumbed their noses at us, as we tried to get them to improve the engines of our automobiles. The EPA was great to work with, so I am impressed by the increase in funding here for the EPA; but because of that, I can't help but ask a couple of questions.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, might I inquire as to the amount of time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Idaho has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Washington has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I will continue this discussion, if you would not mind, with the chairman.

I mentioned the EPA. I worked with the EPA for years, particularly in the field of air quality, and I am a great admirer of their work. Within this legislation there is a very interesting line. It involves the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. I note that there is a 692 percent increase in that funding within this bill.

Now, frankly, the environment that involves the water of the Great Lakes deserves a lot of attention. I don't know just how much it really needs or can handle in a single year; but juxtaposed to that is a bit of language inserted in this bill, in the conference report, that was not in either bill that left the House or the Senate. That language specifically has an exemption for emissions coming from engines of ships doing business on the Great Lakes.

Especially because of my interest in air quality and because of the work that I've done to try to improve the American auto industry, it strikes me as ironic that we are not willing to really put pressure on including changes in emission requirements for those ships on the Great Lakes. There needs to be an explanation of this, and I would very much appreciate our understanding why we should allow these huge sulfur emissions, et cetera, to continue as they are in the Great Lakes Region.

That is the question I have. If the chairman would respond, I would appreciate it.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Before you do that, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest, if the gentleman has questions, I would like to hear what they all are. When he has asked them all, then I will be happy to respond on my own time.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is intriguing to me that the gentleman from California is so concerned about the Great Lakes. I welcome his interest, and I welcome his support for an increase in funding for the removal of bottom sediments that contain toxins, which are getting into the fish and into the food chain. We desperately need the funding. It has been neglected for at least 15 years.

□ 1245

The provision in this bill deals with an EPA emissions rule that was announced in the Federal Register to deal with exhaust emission standards for the largest marine diesel engines used for propulsion on ocean-going vessels. Never in the discussion in the Federal Register nor in the hearings EPA held on the saltwater coasts did they ever mention the Great Lakes. At the end of

the rulemaking process, Madam Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, at the end of the rulemaking process, EPA threw the Great Lakes in.

Now, there are 13 vessels, that range in age of construction from 1906 to 1959, the most recent vessels built on the Great Lakes, that burn this bunker fuel. The combined horsepower of those 13 vessels is less than that of the Regina Maersk, a 6,600 container carrying vessel that plies the saltwater and puts in on east coast ports. Those vessels, those modern vessels, burn bunker fuel at sea, but when they are within the 200-mile economic zone of the United States where they are subject to emissions requirements, they can switch to low sulfur diesel fuel. The older vessels on the Great Lakes do not have that capability.

Never once were our ports, were our lake carriers, consulted in the process of the rulemaking. What the language does in this bill is simply to give our industry time to evaluate various emissions control mechanisms, such as re-engining, such as new shafts, drive shafts, for the vessels. There is a worldwide shortage of drive shaft production. It would take 2 years to build drive shafts for a 1906 vessel, even for the Anderson, which was built in 1952. And we also need time to consider other means of low sulfur, biodiesel fuel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. OBERSTAR. But never once did EPA come and knock on the door and say, you have a problem.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBERSTAR. I will be glad to yield to the gentleman on the limited time I have.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate my chairman yielding.

I must say I have worked with him many, many a year regarding EPA's work, particularly with the automobile circumstance. It took us years and years and years to get Detroit to even respond to this problem, the air quality problem in Southern California. It began to respond to improving engines once the Japanese produced a car that produced much better mileage.

There has been almost a revolution in Southern California. We have been successful with that in no small part because you have helped us raise that pressure, and I would suggest there is a need for pressure now on those who are using these engines that spew sulfur endlessly and are polluting the air in the Great Lakes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Well, there is no hue and cry from any of the ports on the Great Lakes. There isn't any effect on residents in the Great Lakes. EPA never raised this issue in any appropriate fashion for ship owners to offer suggestions or negotiate terms and conditions under which they could undertake the conversion. It was just dropped in their lap.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. I very much appreciate the exchange with my colleague.

I have a letter here from the American Lung Association that I would like to submit at this point in the RECORD, for it speaks to the very question you are asking here.

OCTOBER 7, 2009.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
Chair, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment
and Related Agencies, U.S. Senate, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FEINSTEIN: We are writing to express our strong opposition to any rider on the FY 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill that will weaken, delay or limit the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations that will reduce pollution from new marine compression-ignition engines at or above 30 liters per cylinder. Our organizations have long advocated for the cleanup of these vessels because of the enormous impact they have on air pollution.

EPA has conducted an extensive public process on marine compression-ignition engines. This process includes a November, 2007 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and the 2009 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that was announced on July 1, 2009 with public hearings in New York and Long Beach, CA on August 4 and 6 respectively. The comment period closed on September 28, 2009. All stakeholders have had ample opportunity to participate in this rulemaking.

The need for these rules is urgent. EPA's analysis estimates that the cleanup of these vessels will prevent up to 33,000 premature deaths each year by 2030. Any delay will postpone the health benefits. The impact of pollution from these sources is not limited to communities surrounding the ports but EPA's analysis shows that the impact is felt hundreds of miles inland. We commend EPA for working to address this problem through the pending regulations, but also through the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Annex VI).

Chairman Feinstein, please oppose any rider that will weaken, delay or limit the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations that will reduce pollution from new marine compression-ignition engines at or above 30 liters per cylinder.

Sincerely,
American Lung Association.
Clean Air Watch.
National Association of Clean Air Agen-
cies.
Natural Resources Defense Council.
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

We are in the process of negotiating an international agreement regarding these huge engines that we are worried about. If we find ourselves as those negotiations are coming to a conclusion with an exemption laid out in the law for American vessels, it would seem to me, and I would ask you, don't you think it could put pressure in a negative way on our ability to establish those standards on those international carriers that are under consideration at this very moment?

I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. The International Maritime Organization negotiations

which have been going on for some time will affect oceangoing vessels. These are landlocked vessels. These vessels operate exclusively within the Great Lakes. There is no fuel capability for these old steamers, and we just need time to see if there is a way of converting or maybe retiring those vessels.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Reclaiming my time for just a moment, I would read this first sentence from this letter addressed to Chairman FEINSTEIN:

"We are writing to express our strong opposition to any rider in the Interior and Environment appropriations bill that would weaken, delay or limit the ability of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations that will reduce pollution from new marine compression-ignition engines at or above 30 letter per cylinder. Our organizations have long advocated for the cleanup of these vessels because of the enormous impact they have on air pollution."

They are specifically expressing concern about these engines and the potential loss of life that results from not being able to successfully complete major change for the world of vessels.

Mr. OBERSTAR. If the gentleman would further yield, the rule promulgated by EPA, and which is being negotiated in international maritime councils, applies to oceangoing vessels. These vessels will never set anchor in saltwater. Never.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Madam Speaker, what has occurred here is this: As the gentleman from Minnesota indicates, EPA had been developing a standard for oceangoing vessels for quite some time, but it was not until a very few weeks ago that it was discovered that, belatedly, under their proposed rule, they attempted also to apply that to the Great Lakes. When we discovered that, we reacted with alarm on both sides of the aisle. The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER), for instance, participated in a meeting with EPA, along with Mr. OBERSTAR, myself, Mr. YOUNG from Alaska and several other people.

Out of that came a decision to bring forward the proposal that we have in this bill today. That bill does two things. The bill simply exempts from the rule—it does not delay the rule in any way. In fact, the Canadian Government was opposed to the EPA rule—but what this provision does is to exempt the 13 steamers on the Great Lakes from that regulation, for one very good, simple reason—because if they use the kind of fuel that EPA wants them to use, they have a risk of blowing up, and we think that might be a bit of a problem for people on those ships.

Secondly, the provision simply asks EPA to also consider when they deal

with the question of the diesels on the Great Lakes, we ask EPA to simply do two things: We ask them to do an economic analysis to determine what the impact is on the Great Lakes region; and we ask them to provide, as they do in many other rules, for the possibility of a request for a waiver from the operators of those ships. Whether a waiver is granted is up to the EPA to determine.

The other waiver we asked them to consider putting in the rule is a waiver which would apply if the fuel that EPA wants them to use is not available. That sounds to me to be a perfectly reasonable proposition.

I think EPA thinks it is reasonable, which is why they have issued this statement: "EPA welcomes public input on its Clear Air Act proposal to address emissions from large ships. The agency understands the unique technical and economic challenges that steamships would face if they were required to use lower sulfur fuel. The amendment announced today is consistent with one of several policy options the agency has been considering and would apply to only 13 U.S.-flagged ships, which account for less than one-half of 1 percent of the Nation's particulate matter emissions."

So if someone wants to make a Federal case out of it, be my guest. But I would point out there are two other reasons for the committee action: number one, the EPA rule as it originally was being contemplated would have been a devastating blow to the Midwest. It could have wiped out steel production in the Midwest because it would raise prices on those tankers so high that that region would have been uncompetitive. The result could be that steel production would move from that region of the country and from Canada to China. If you do that, you wind up with much greater emissions, because under the rule if you operate a ship outside of 200 miles from our coast, you can use the old, dirty fuel. But if you ply the Great Lakes, you have to use the new fuel, because on the Great Lakes you are never further than 200 miles away from shore.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. OBEY. I would also point out that if the result is to shift transit on the Great Lakes from ships to trucks or rail cars, you increase, you do not decrease, the emissions, because it takes a Great Lakes ship 18 tons of carbon dioxide to move 1,000 tons of cargo 1,000 miles. If that cargo were shifted to a rail car, it would emit 55 tons of carbon dioxide for the same job, and a truck would emit 190 tons.

So I submit the committee solution is good for the environment, it is good for the jobs in the upper Midwest, it assists the economies of New York, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Indiana, and, in economic times like this, I make no apology whatsoever for doing that.

Mr. SIMPSON. Would the Speaker tell us how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Each side has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I would like to just respond briefly by reading from a communique that came from a person that has been very actively involved in the air quality of the region for years and working specifically with the EPA addressing some of the health questions that somewhat were addressed by my chairman, Mr. OBEY.

"The stakes for human health are enormous, huge, colossal. Weakening the domestic standards will have their own adverse effect, but it is crucial to recognize that doing so could also imperil International Maritime Organization's final consideration of the entire U.S. Emission Control Area application, which was favorably received by the IMO's Marine Environmental Protection Committee in June. The IMO is slated to make a final decision in March. Our nation will weaken the basis for its request that the IMO enable the most protective emissions standards under international law for foreign-flagged ships if we are including domestic vessels."

So weakening standards for our vessels is going to threaten this effort internationally.

"As you know, the stakes for human health are profound—up to 14,000 premature deaths annually are to be prevented by 2020."

It is very important that America speak with a strong and unified voice here. I think that the timing of this exemption itself is most unfortunate.

Mr. DICKS. I yield an additional 1 minute to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, Mr. OBEY.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, two points: First of all, we specifically worked with EPA to assure that there would be no delay in the rule. That is why we did not pursue a wholesale exemption for the Great Lakes, as we originally had requested EPA to consider.

Secondly, I must say I welcome the gentleman from California's belated interest in the health of the Great Lakes.

□ 1300

But I wonder, is this the same gentleman from California who, years ago, when chairing the appropriations subcommittee, brought to the floor a bill which contained some 17 riders to gut virtually every environmental protection you could find which, for instance, exempted the oil refinery industry from air toxic-emission standards, which would have allowed 1 million tons of hazardous waste from cement kilns to be exempted from air toxic requirements, which would have prohibited EPA from protecting any of the

Nation's remaining wetlands and would have stopped all work on the Great Lakes Initiative, for which this bill provides \$500 million?

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, when will the insanity stop, the runaway spending, the debts, the deficits? The American people are saying enough is enough.

Now we have a Department of the Interior and environment conference report that contains a 17 percent increase over last year's spending. I assure you the family budget that has to pay for this Federal budget, their budget didn't increase 17 percent. People want to know why is Federal spending out of control?

In addition, now we have a continuing resolution attached to this conference report. Why are we voting on it? We are voting on it because this Congress and this President have spent too much money, and now they want more.

Already this President and this Congress have passed a \$1.1 trillion government stimulus plan which, by the way, since it passed, over 3½ million of our fellow countrymen have lost their jobs. We have the highest unemployment rate in our Nation in a generation. That stimulus plan weighed in at \$9,745 per household. I would suggest to you, Madam Speaker, the American people didn't get their money's worth.

Next, this Congress and this President passed and signed into law an omnibus spending plan costing \$410 billion, weighing in at \$3,511 per household.

Then under this administration and Congress the bailouts continue: another \$30 billion for AIG, almost \$36 billion for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$60 million for GM and Chrysler. Now the news today is the administration wants to hand GMAC another \$12 billion.

What has it all brought us? The Nation's first trillion-dollar deficit, a spending plan that will triple the national debt in the next 10 years. On top of that, we have the announcement of the trillion-dollar government takeover of our health care.

How can you raise the cost and decrease the quality all at the same time? This Congress apparently has figured it out. Under this spending plan, the American people cannot afford it.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished vice chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, who knows more about endocrine disruptors than any other Member.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I thank the very distinguished chairman of our subcommittee from Washington State who is also my good friend.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a good bill. The Federal Land Management

Agency gets the resources they need to meet their stewardship responsibilities.

The EPA gets the resources they need for the first time in more than a decade to better protect the environment and our public health. It brings us closer to meeting our treaty obligations with America's first residents.

I am proud to say that this bill moves us from an emphasis on unsustainable resource extraction and towards conservation of those resources. Offshore royalty fees are reformed and the oil and gas industry will be reimbursing the Federal Government closer to the actual cost that the government bears in permitting drilling operations on the public's land.

Now, finally, on Indian reservations, we are taking the right steps after decades of neglect, equipping trained nurses and law enforcement with the tools that they need to end the epidemic of violence committed against Native American women.

I thank the chairman for his very good work.

This bill begins to address a backlog of needs. It responds to the current challenges we face. It deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. SIMPSON. I would inform the gentleman from Washington that I am ready to close whenever the gentleman is.

Mr. DICKS. I still have some speakers.

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

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to Mr. HOLT from New Jersey, who is very concerned and one of our best environmental supporters in the House.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, Chairman DICKS may hesitate to blow his own horn, so I will say it. This is the best Interior appropriations bill we have seen.

Where do I begin praising it—\$453 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, more than a third up from last year, doubles the State matching grants. LWCF is an issue I have worked on since I first came to Congress. This robust funding for Federal agencies and States to preserve open space is critically important.

The bill's \$385 million for climate change mitigation, a large increase over the last year, including \$17 million for establishing a national greenhouse gas registry that my colleagues Representative BALDWIN, Representative INSLEE and I have advocated.

It includes a good increase for our national parks to preserve these national treasures for the enjoyment of future generations.

It includes a real increase for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The arts and humanities play a crucial role in our society in enhancing creativity, quality of life and, yes, improving local economies. I could go on—EPA, land management, Native Americans and more.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), who has been a very hardworking Member and very concerned about the issues in this bill.

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2996, the Interior appropriations conference report.

I congratulate the Chair, Mr. DICKS, for a fine piece of legislation.

I want to thank Chairman OBEY for the work he did with the Environmental Protection Agency so that they would strike the appropriate balance between the Great Lakes economy and its environment.

In my district I have three of the five Great Lakes. I have over 1,600 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. And on October 9, the International Maritime Organization adopted new rules to control exhaust emissions of oceangoing ships. The EPA then decided to apply these oceangoing ship standards to Great Lakes ships.

The EPA was completely unaware that the proposed limitation to sulfur emissions from oceangoing ships would ensnare a distinct segment of our Great Lakes shipping fleet. Great Lakes members have raised these concerns with Chairman OBEY and others about the EPA's proposal.

What this conference report really does is fixes this problem in two ways: The 13 steamships of the Great Lakes fleet that cannot switch to the new proposed fuel, these older ships that we talked about, would be exempt. These 13 ships combined emit less than what one oceangoing vessel emits.

The larger category 3 diesel ships would still comply with the final EPA rule, provided that the new fuel does not increase the cost of shipping by water so much that it would make shipping by land cheaper and cause more pollution.

Without these changes, Great Lakes shipping, the economic shipping that we see through waterborne commerce of coal, steel, iron ore, paper and farm commodities, would come to an end.

Mr. SIMPSON. I will close. Again, I want to thank Chairman DICKS and the staff for the tremendous job they have done and the bipartisan way in which they have worked with us in trying to solve some problems.

Madam Speaker, I don't think there is anybody on this side of the aisle that actually disagrees with the various programs that are going on in this appropriations bill. The disagreement comes that we just believe it's too much money; a 17 percent increase on top of the \$11 billion that was received during the stimulus package I think is too much, given these economic times and the hardship that is being felt by Americans all across this country.

I think that's where the main opposition comes. It's not about any particular program. We have done a tremendous job in a lot of different areas that I think all of us agree with. There

are specifics that I think if I were king for a day would probably be a little different, and this bill would probably be a little different if you were king for a day.

We realize it's a compromise, and we try to work out those differences between both the majority and the minority and between the House and the Senate. I think Chairman DICKS has done an admirable job of doing that. In fact, I don't even disagree with the discussion that was going on here earlier about the Great Lakes shipping. I don't disagree with what Chairman OBEY was trying to do here. I understand the impact that it would have on the economy in the Great Lakes and what is going on there.

All we ask oftentimes is that when we have those same types of issues relative to mining or timber or industries in our part of the country, that people will be sensitive to the impact that some of the regulations that are imposed by the EPA and other agencies are going to have on those, and we are only seen as trying to gut those regulations when, in fact, we are trying to do oftentimes the same thing that's being done here. I don't disagree with what you are trying to do, and I understand it. I support what you are trying to do.

While I would like to tell the chairman that I could support this bill, because I think we have done some good work here, unfortunately, I can't, just because of the spending level. I would encourage my Members to vote "no" on this appropriations bill.

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

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

I again want to point out that over the last 8 years, Interior's budget has been cut by 16 percent. The EPA has been cut by 29 percent, and the Forest Service by 35 percent. This budget does provide a significant increase, but it's only catchup because these agencies have been severely damaged. The Forest Service has a huge backlog of work on infrastructure, on roads, on trails. The Park Service has billions of dollars of requirements. Christine Todd Whitman, the first EPA administrator under President Bush, said there is a \$662 billion backlog on infrastructure for clean water and wastewater treatment in this country, which are fundamental to the health of the American people.

I am a little bit amazed to hear all this concern about the EPA when at the same time they are saying let's vote, give the EPA less money. That doesn't add up. That doesn't make sense. If you are concerned about the EPA, you need to know that they need those resources to do the enforcement work that's necessary.

This is an extraordinarily good bill. I have been on this committee for 33 years. This is the best Interior bill we have ever presented. The money here for Native Americans is long overdue. This is a catchup bill.

I urge the House to vote for it and to reject the negativity of the other side.

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on the Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010. This bill will fund many vital activities over the coming year that protect our public lands and our environment and that support our cultural heritage and contribute to the vibrant artistic life of the Nation. This bill also will have a major impact on the future energy development for our country.

It is in the best interests of our Nation to become energy independent and to reduce our reliance on foreign oil. No country can remain a leading player in the community of nations if it must increasingly rely on other nations for one of the bedrock elements of its economy. We must do everything we can to effectively increase our domestic supplies of energy in the most responsible manner possible.

As we all know, there are many things that we can do to facilitate the production of domestic energy including tapping of vast resources of clean-burning fuels such as natural gas. According to recent reports, the United States now holds as much as 1,800 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, almost one-third of which is in shale reservoirs. This is perhaps equivalent to over 300 billion barrels of oil, more than even the energy reserves of Saudi Arabia.

Hydraulic fracturing is one key and very important technique to help us tap the potential of our domestic oil and gas resources. Since the first commercial hydraulic fracturing operation was conducted in 1948, the use of this technology has become routine and often essential in the production of oil and natural gas. In fact, over 95 percent of new wells in unconventional formations such as tight sands, shales and coalbeds are hydraulically fractured. Hydraulic fracturing has literally unlocked vast supplies of natural gas in our country and has allowed us to produce natural gas in areas where it was never before possible.

States have effectively regulated hydraulic fracturing for many years and are fully capable of continuing to do so without unnecessary federal oversight. The key state organizations with the most significant involvement in oil and gas regulation—the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) and the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC)—have both strongly reaffirmed the adequacy of state regulation of hydraulic fracturing. In fact, after analyzing the oil and gas regulations of 27 states, including the regulation of hydraulic fracturing by these states, the GWPC recently concluded that existing state oil and gas regulations were “adequately designed to directly protect water resources.”

A number of studies have confirmed that these state regulatory programs are effective in protecting sources of drinking water. It was only a few years ago, in 2004, that EPA issued a report concerning its study of the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing of coalbed methane wells on underground sources of drinking water. At the time EPA stated that its report was the most comprehensive study ever undertaken of hydraulic fracturing. The Agency concluded that hydraulic fracturing of CBM wells—which was thought to represent a worst case scenario since coalbeds tend to be shallower and therefore closer to drinking

water aquifers than other types of formations such as shales—posed little to no risk to underground sources of drinking water. EPA also found that there were no confirmed instances in which hydraulic fracturing had contaminated a drinking water well, despite the fact that the technology had been in use for over 50 years and hundreds of thousands of wells had been hydraulically fractured during that time.

Since its publication some have sought to discredit this EPA report based largely on the allegations of a single EPA employee who disagreed with the methods by which the report was created. However, the study was and remains both valid and credible. In fact, since EPA issued the report state regulatory officials have reiterated on numerous occasions that they are aware of no instances in which hydraulic fracturing has contaminated drinking water supplies.

The evidence clearly indicates that there is no need for further study of hydraulic fracturing. Rather than spend additional resources, EPA's Office of Drinking Water should be addressing activities that actually pose a significant risk to drinking water supplies. Nevertheless, the conference report we are considering today calls for EPA to undertake another study of hydraulic fracturing.

Under these circumstances we must ensure that any further study is guided by some key, well-recognized principles. First and foremost, any new study should be conducted in a very comprehensive, scientific, credible and transparent manner. To achieve this goal, it would be extremely prudent for this study to be conducted in accordance with applicable Agency quality assurance guidance and should be guided by recognized principles of risk assessment that consider hazard assessment, exposure pathways, and exposure levels. This work also should be based on substantiated information that is developed in accordance with fundamental scientific protocols. This approach will allow EPA to conduct a high quality study that focuses on the actual risks to public health, if any, that hydraulic fracturing entails.

In addition, another key point is that this study should be based on a phased approach in order to conserve resources and to avoid undertaking investigative activities that are not warranted. As part of this approach, EPA should first review and consider any existing studies, particularly the studies by the Groundwater Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, who have already undertaken considerable efforts in this area, and other related information concerning hydraulic fracturing and its potential impacts and determine specific areas that might deserve further review.

In addition, the study should be conducted with the involvement of a variety of key participants. For example, the study should be conducted in consultation with the Department of Energy and the U.S. Geological Survey and should include the participation of key state regulatory officials as well as the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Ground Water Protection Council. Interested stakeholders should certainly be involved at key stages of the study, and the public should have an opportunity to comment on the proposed design of the study and should be allowed to review and comment on a draft of any study report. The study also should be subject to an appropriate peer review process consistent with standard Agency guidance.

Finally, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. Any study by EPA should certainly take into account the Agency's prior 2004 study of hydraulic fracturing and the conclusions reached in that study. At the same time, the study should take into account the impacts of current state and federal regulatory programs covering hydraulic fracturing. Finally, it might be prudent to give proper consideration to an appropriate role for the National Academy of Sciences, an independent body of distinguished experts, in developing the study.

Madam Speaker, I am confident that if EPA embraces these principles as it further studies hydraulic fracturing, this study will properly address this issue in the detail that it deserves. This approach will help us then move forward in developing our nation's energy resources in the most effective manner possible.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the conference report on H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2010.

This legislation provides a 17 percent increase over FY09 levels for critical programs that protect our public health and environment.

Among other provisions, the legislation provides \$605 million for the Superfund program which will assist sites across the country clean up hazardous substances, including potentially the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site.

It also provides \$3 million to fund four new centers of excellence to study toxin and chemical impacts on children.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to highlight two important projects I requested funding for in this bill, but unfortunately, did not receive mention in the final conference report.

The first is the Mickey Leland National Urban Air Toxics Research Center to continue air quality public health research on air toxics in urban areas as directed by the U.S. Congress. The Center is a 501(c)(3) institution authorized by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

The individual FY2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations bills approved by both the House and Senate included language recognizing the significant contributions made by the Center in the understanding of the human health effects due to exposure to air toxics. Further, the House legislation encouraged EPA to consider allocating funding for the Center in EPA's budget. The EPA has gone through a deliberative process during the past four months to review the qualifications and research contributions to-date made by the Center and as a result, has recommended that funding for the Center be included in the agency's FY2011 budget. Funding air toxics research through the Center is consistent with the congressional intent and supports the Administration's stated objective of expanding research and efforts to address the human health effects of air toxics.

I am concerned the final conference report did not reaffirm the importance of the Center's work to our country. Americans want to know whether they are at risk from pollutants in the air that they breathe. People who live near sources of air toxics such as major roadways, industrial facilities, or small businesses, are often especially concerned about their risk.

The Center is conducting The Houston Exposure to Air Toxics Study, HEATS, which is an ongoing project designed to study the relationship between personal exposures—the air

people breathe as they go about their daily activities—and fixed site monitored concentrations of air toxics by measuring personal, residential indoor, and outdoor concentrations.

Federal support for the Center is critical to ensure this research continues and I hope to continue working with the chairman, EPA, and OMB to get funding for this research in the budget as Congress intended when it created the Center.

We also sought funding funding for a 6-year Capital Improvement Project that will rehabilitate and upgrade the city of Baytown, Texas's wastewater and water infrastructure to comply with federal and state regulations, maintain its condition and reliability and save costs. The city has implemented an asset management program to assess equipment condition, optimize work practices and ensure funding remains in place to sustain infrastructure improvements over time.

The funding we requested under the State and Tribal Assistance Grant would help rehabilitate portions of the Central District Wastewater Treatment Plant to include elevation of redesign of critical components to reduce the storm surge impacts suffered during Hurricane Ike. These include the influent lift station, blower building, administration/laboratory building, and grit removal process. The internal piping needs to be replaced to improve energy and operating efficiency, along with the chlorine contact basin and plant pumping/transfer systems. Installation of post-storm emergency power systems are also a part of this effort.

This is an important project to help Baytown recover from damage caused by Hurricane Ike, and overall to upgrade their wastewater system, and I look forward to working the Chair as we move forward to find assistance for this project.

I also want to express some reservation and guidance to EPA as it works to carry out a study in the bill "on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water, using a credible approach that relies on the best available science, as well as independent sources of information."

I understand the concerns and desire to adequately protect the environment when developing our domestic resources. Hydraulic fracturing is a well-tested technology that has been used to develop energy for over 60 years.

First used in 1947, hydraulic fracturing has become a standard practice for improving the process of natural energy extraction. The practice involves the pumping of fluid into wells at high pressure to create fractures in rock formations that allow for complete production of oil. Hydraulic fracturing is responsible for about 30 percent of our domestic recoverable oil and natural gas. About 90 percent of currently operating wells use this technology. Hydraulic fracturing, as used to produce natural gas from shale formations, has created new opportunities for clean energy and employment without causing environmental damage.

Recent studies on fracturing conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2004 found no confirmed evidence of contamination of drinking water. The study concluded that the injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids poses "little or no threat" to humans or the environment, EPA. The EPA did not find a single incident of the contamination of drinking water wells by hydraulic fracturing fluid injection.

Just like EPA's prior study, the new study in H.R. 2996 should be conducted using a systematic, scientific approach that assures transparency, validity and accuracy. The study should be based on accepted quality assurance guidelines in order to ensure that the information on which the study is based is of sufficient quality to support the study's conclusions. It should be properly peer-reviewed by qualified experts in accordance with standard practices, and should also draw on the expertise of those both inside and outside the Federal Government who can contribute relevant information to a high quality study. These contributors should include the Department of Energy and the U.S. Geological Survey as well as the state regulators who have many years of experience with hydraulic fracturing. This study should eventually be made available for review and comment by interested members of the public prior to being finalized.

At the same time, since we have already studied hydraulic fracturing, it would be prudent for any proposed study to fully take into account other studies that have already been undertaken by Federal or State governmental agencies, councils, commissions or advisory committees. For example, given the significant effort associated with the Agency's prior 2004 study, it would certainly be prudent to fully consider this study in undertaking any further examination of hydraulic fracturing.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the study should be based on well-recognized principles of risk assessment to determine whether there is any realistic risk that individuals may be exposed to substances used in the hydraulic fracturing process at levels that could possibly be considered harmful.

Madam Speaker, I believe that a targeted study of hydraulic fracturing is the most efficient way to use our resources to accomplish the goals of this study. We need to continue to develop our domestic energy resources, including clean-burning natural gas. A focused approach to the study will allow us to address concerns about hydraulic fracturing while facilitating the continued use of this critical technology.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2996, the Interior Appropriations bill.

This legislation provides critical support for redevelopment of the Great Lakes and includes \$475 million to jumpstart restoration activities in our freshwater rich region. For the past decade, our region has been carefully assembling a comprehensive restoration strategy, and for the first time, this bill begins to fund that restoration.

With 84 percent of our Nation's fresh water, over 40 million people living on the Great Lakes and over 20 percent of the world's freshwater, America must implement a restoration strategy that empowers the basin to use this freshwater resource to promote sustainable growth. As we are constantly reminded, freshwater is becoming a scarce resource.

This has been a watershed year for the Great Lakes. With the inclusion of this language in the budget resolution and now the full fledged commitment of the Appropriations Committee and Congress, America takes a significant step to restore the landscape on which over 40 million Americans rely.

In addition to this historic commitment for the Great Lakes, this bill provides nearly \$3.6

billion for sorely needed drinking water and wastewater investments, and significant increases for the National Park Service. This legislation supports activities by the Forest Service to more effectively deal with invasive species that have destroyed the tree cover by bugs such as the Emerald Ash Borer which have killed as many as 40 million trees in the Midwest. Our region alone will lose 10 percent of its tree cover as a result of a bug that came into our country from imported material.

Let me congratulate the chair of the full committee, the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY and the chair of this subcommittee, Mr. DICKS, the gentleman from Washington who have done yeomen's work in shepherding through this legislation which protects the environment and allows Great Lakes shipping to continue. U.S.-flag Great Lakes fleet already burns cleaner fuel than that used by many of the world's ocean going vessels.

The useful lives of the 13 U.S.-Flag steamships to 2020, will be extended when the .5 percent sulfur standard is implemented worldwide. Ships burn less fuel and produce fewer emissions than trains and trucks. It would take 1.1 million trucks or 290,000 railcars to replace their carrying capacity. We all win when we keep these cargos on vessels working the Great Lakes.

Let me thank all the conferees for their hard work.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, the nation's current debt ceiling is \$12.1 trillion, and the Congress is going to have to act to raise that ceiling in the next month or so. Let me be clear—the spending path we are on is unsustainable, and we cannot have 17% spending increases on appropriations bills as standard operating procedure. I would warn the majority that we should not make these large increases a regular practice.

That being said, I am willing to support the Conference Report for the Interior and Environment Appropriations bill because of the tremendous positive impact it will have on the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes are one of the world's unparalleled natural resources. They are wholly 1/5 of the planet's fresh water supply. They are home to a tremendously diverse ecosystem. They represent the identity and economic prowess of the region, and my home state of Michigan.

Throughout my career at the local, state, and federal levels of government, I have promoted efforts to clean up our precious Great Lakes, which have suffered from severe pollution—partly out of ignorance and partly out of indifference. Improper sewage discharges, industrial pollution, and invasive species have wrecked havoc on the Great Lakes over the decades. It takes tremendous coordinated efforts at all levels to deal with these problems.

It is the legislation before us today that gives us an opportunity to embark on a new chapter in restoring the Great Lakes. This Congress and this administration have stepped up to the plate and provided full funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—a \$475 million effort that will combat invasive species, reduce non-point source pollution, and remove contaminated sediment. Through this measure, we will begin to undo the damage that has occurred, and we can take a big step forward in preserving the Great Lakes for future generations.

This conference report also includes an important policy provision that will help protect

thousands of jobs in the Great Lakes Region. Late this summer, the EPA proposed a rule that would have the effect of eliminating up to half of the U.S. flag vessels on the Great Lakes. In addition to the maritime jobs that these vessels support, the cargo on these vessels is critical for commerce including the steel and automobile industries. Losing these vessels would have meant higher costs for consumers and lost jobs for many in the Great Lakes region.

I want to commend Chairman OBEY and Chairman OBERSTAR for their hard work on this issue. As a result of their efforts, the conference report includes language that will grandfather in 13 of these affected vessels, and provides a waiver for other vessels if economic hardships can be shown. We all want cleaner air, but the EPA went about this the wrong way by targeting these small ships that collectively produce fewer emissions than one large ocean-going vessel.

Because of the importance of this legislation to the Great Lakes environment as well as the jobs of those who live in the region, I will support this conference report and I urge my colleagues to join me.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 876, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the conference report will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules on H. Res. 783.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 247, nays 178, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 826]

YEAS—247

Abercrombie	Cleaver	Foster
Ackerman	Clyburn	Frank (MA)
Adler (NJ)	Cohen	Fudge
Altmore	Cole	Giffords
Andrews	Connolly (VA)	Gonzalez
Arcuri	Conyers	Gordon (TN)
Baca	Cooper	Grayson
Baldwin	Costa	Green, Al
Barrow	Costello	Green, Gene
Bean	Courtney	Grijalva
Becerra	Crowley	Gutierrez
Berkley	Cuellar	Hall (NY)
Berman	Cummings	Halvorson
Berry	Dahlkemper	Hare
Bishop (GA)	Davis (AL)	Harman
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Hastings (FL)
Blumenauer	Davis (IL)	Heinrich
Boccieri	Davis (TN)	Herseth Sandlin
Boren	DeFazio	Higgins
Boswell	DeGette	Himes
Boucher	Delahunt	Hinchee
Boyd	DeLauro	Hinojosa
Brady (PA)	Dicks	Hirono
Braley (IA)	Dingell	Hodes
Brown, Corrine	Doggett	Holden
Butterfield	Doyle	Holt
Cao	Driehaus	Honda
Capps	Edwards (MD)	Hoyer
Capuano	Edwards (TX)	Inslee
Cardoza	Ellison	Israel
Carahan	Ellsworth	Jackson (IL)
Carney	Engel	Jackson-Lee
Carson (IN)	Eshoo	(TX)
Castor (FL)	Etheridge	Johnson (GA)
Chandler	Fallin	Johnson, E. B.
Chu	Farr	Kagen
Clarke	Fattah	Kanjorski
Clay	Filner	Kaptur

Kennedy	Moore (WI)	Scott (GA)
Kildee	Moran (VA)	Scott (VA)
Kilpatrick (MI)	Murphy (CT)	Serrano
Kilroy	Murphy (NY)	Sestak
Kirk	Murtha	Shea-Porter
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Napolitano	Sherman
Kissell	Neal (MA)	Shuler
Klein (FL)	Oberstar	Sires
Kosmas	Obey	Skelton
Langevin	Oliver	Slaughter
Larsen (WA)	Ortiz	Smith (NJ)
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Smith (WA)
LaTourette	Pascarell	Snyder
Lee (CA)	Pastor (AZ)	Space
Levin	Payne	Speier
Lewis (GA)	Perlmutter	Spratt
Lipinski	Peters	Stark
LoBiondo	Peterson	Stupak
Loebuck	Pingree (ME)	Sutton
Lofgren, Zoe	Platts	Tanner
Lowe	Polis (CO)	Teague
Lujan	Pomeroy	Thompson (CA)
Lynch	Price (NC)	Thompson (MS)
Maffei	Quigley	Tierney
Maloney	Rahall	Titus
Markey (CO)	Rangel	Tonko
Markey (MA)	Reichert	Tsongas
Marshall	Reyes	Van Hollen
Massa	Richardson	Velázquez
Matheson	Rodriguez	Visclosky
Matsui	Ross	Walz
McCarthy (NY)	Rothman (NJ)	Wasserman
McCollum	Roybal-Allard	Schultz
McDermott	Ruppersberger	Waters
McGovern	Rush	Watson
McIntyre	Ryan (OH)	Watt
McMahon	Salazar	Waxman
McNerney	Sánchez, Linda	Weiner
Meek (FL)	T.	Welch
Meeks (NY)	Sanchez, Loretta	Wexler
Melancon	Sarbanes	Wilson (OH)
Michaud	Schakowsky	Woolsey
Miller (MI)	Schauer	Wu
Miller (NC)	Schiff	Yarmuth
Miller, George	Schrader	
Mollohan	Schwartz	

NAYS—178

Aderholt	Duncan	Luetkemeyer
Akin	Ehlers	Lummis
Alexander	Emerson	Lungren, Daniel
Austria	Flake	E.
Bachmann	Fleming	Mack
Bachus	Forbes	Manzullo
Baird	Fortenberry	Marchant
Bartlett	Fox	McCarthy (CA)
Barton (TX)	Franks (AZ)	McCaul
Biggert	Frelinghuysen	McClintock
Bilbray	Gallegly	McCotter
Bilirakis	Garrett (NJ)	McHenry
Bishop (UT)	Gerlach	McKeon
Blackburn	Gingrey (GA)	McMorris
Blunt	Gohmert	Rodgers
Boehner	Goodlatte	Mica
Bonner	Granger	Miller (FL)
Bono Mack	Graves	Miller, Gary
Boozman	Griffith	Minnick
Boustany	Guthrie	Mitchell
Brady (TX)	Hall (TX)	Moore (KS)
Bright	Harper	Moran (KS)
Broun (GA)	Hastings (WA)	Myrick
Brown (SC)	Heller	Neugebauer
Brown-Waite,	Hensarling	Nye
Ginny	Herger	Olson
Buchanan	Hill	Paul
Burgess	Hoekstra	Paulsen
Burton (IN)	Hunter	Pence
Calvert	Inglis	Perriello
Camp	Issa	Petri
Campbell	Jenkins	Pitts
Cantor	Johnson (IL)	Poe (TX)
Capito	Johnson, Sam	Posey
Carter	Jones	Price (GA)
Cassidy	Jordan (OH)	Putnam
Castle	Kind	Radanovich
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Rehberg
Childers	King (NY)	Roe (TN)
Coble	Kingston	Rogers (AL)
Coffman (CO)	Kline (MN)	Rogers (KY)
Conaway	Kratovil	Rogers (MI)
Crenshaw	Kucinich	Rohrabacher
Culberson	Lamborn	Rooney
Davis (KY)	Lance	Ros-Lehtinen
Deal (GA)	Latham	Roskam
Dent	Latta	Royce
Diaz-Balart, L.	Lee (NY)	Ryan (WI)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lewis (CA)	Scalise
Linder	Linder	Schmidt
Lucas	Lucas	Schock

Sensenbrenner	Sullivan	Wamp
Sessions	Taylor	Westmoreland
Shadegg	Terry	Whitfield
Shimkus	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Shuster	Thornberry	Wittman
Simpson	Tiahrt	Wolf
Smith (NE)	Tiberi	Young (AK)
Smith (TX)	Turner	Young (FL)
Souder	Upton	
Stearns	Walden	

NOT VOTING—7

Barrett (SC)	Murphy, Tim	Towns
Buyer	Nadler (NY)	
Murphy, Patrick	Nunes	

□ 1339

Messrs. TURNER and MOORE of Kansas changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. TANNER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCING THE PASSING OF FORMER GOVERNOR DAVE TREEN

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I announce to the House the passing of a former Member of this body, a former Governor of the State of Louisiana, Dave Treen, who passed away this morning at East Jefferson Hospital. He was 81 years old.

He served in this Chamber from 1973 until 1980 and then served as Governor of the State of Louisiana from 1980 until 1984. He was the first Republican Governor elected from Louisiana since Reconstruction. A man who is considered by all on both sides of the aisle as probably one of the people who had the most honor and integrity of anybody in the history of Louisiana politics, somebody who truly set the bar for integrity in public service. Dave Treen is somebody who truly is respected by people all across Louisiana as one of the truly most honorable men to serve in public service.

He also joins his wife, Dodi, whom he loved dearly. He's a proud father, a proud grandfather, a brother as well, and somebody who will dearly be missed in Louisiana.

I yield to my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON).

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, whether serving in Congress or as Governor or working as a private citizen, Dave Treen always put Louisiana first. Dave was bipartisan, a middle-of-the-road compromiser who never forgot that there were greater principles worth fighting for beyond party and politics. He will be remembered fondly by all of us who knew him as a warm, wonderful person and a committed reformer.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Having been a Kappa Sigma, that was one of the places where we had common interest and bond. Dave Treen will