

America will emerge stronger than ever before.

PMA SCANDAL

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, later today or tomorrow, the House will be voting again on a privileged resolution to look into the matter of the PMA scandal. There is an outside investigation by the Department of Justice into PMA, a powerhouse lobbying firm that will close its doors at the end of the month because of suspect contributions to Members of Congress, Members of Congress who secured no-bid contracts on behalf of that firm.

Mr. Speaker, several years ago we had the Jack Abramoff scandal. The leadership at that time was slow to recognize that scandal, and it kept spreading until it got worse and did damage to the reputation of this body. Let's not make that same mistake today. This scandal promises to be far larger if we let it go. So let's have the investigation go on by the Ethics Committee. We have an obligation to uphold the dignity and decorum of this body and we are not exercising it yet.

I urge a vote not to table the resolution, and let the Ethics Committee investigate this scandal.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Safe Place Week, the organization and the critical services it provides to young people in need.

Of the more than 1 million youth who experience homelessness annually, some are born without homes, but most run away to escape abuse; and with no hope in sight, one-third attempt suicide. Thankfully, National Safe Place recognizes that in each of these young people is hope for the future, a chance to succeed, and an opportunity to become productive members of our communities.

In the 26 years since National Safe Place began in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, it has served nearly a quarter million disconnected youth nationwide, 100,000 in Kentucky alone. In 40 States and 1,400 communities across the Nation, Safe Place has provided the services and support to help a child's potential become a reality. No wonder Safe Place is the largest recipient of funding through the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act, which we just reauthorized with legislation I authored with my colleague, JUDY BIGGERT.

Time after time, adolescents devoid of hope have traveled a path that seems sure to dead end, only to find themselves in front of one of 1,600 stores, restaurants, and businesses bearing the Safe Place logo. Inside,

they find a new path that begins with the support every child needs and ends with a chance that every child deserves.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Safe Place Week.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE BACK TAXPAYER MONEY FROM AIG

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hardworking families of my district and the State of Pennsylvania who, like me, are shocked and outraged by recent actions taken by the insurance company, AIG.

Mr. Speaker, the current economic downturn has been especially difficult for my constituents. Traveling across my district, I have heard the same story from far too many middle-class families about how they are bearing the brunt of our faltering economy. Paychecks can't stretch far enough anymore to make payments on the mortgage, buy groceries, and pay the utility bills. In fact, many of my constituents who have worked hard and played by the rules have had to take a pay cut simply to keep their jobs.

My constituents work hard and meet their responsibilities every day, and they don't have the benefit of government bailouts or multimillion-dollar bonuses. However, they have seen their hard-earned tax dollars go to bail out companies like AIG, whose own greed and recklessness are responsible for the economic downturn in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to understand why AIG executives think they have earned bonuses in the first place; but, more importantly, how dare AIG use tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to reward themselves for bad behavior. How can they justify this outrage to taxpayers who are keeping their company afloat?

I say enough is enough. And that is why I am supporting legislation that will safeguard the taxpayers' money and hold AIG executives accountable once and for all.

CHANGING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for a President that believes in the American people. I thank him for his budget, thank him for his outrage regarding outrageous AIG employees receiving bonuses, thank him for recognizing the 47 million plus that are growing who need health care reform, and thank this leadership that is beginning to open the discussion on American health care reform that is so very important.

I happen to believe a single-payer system is a health care payment system, not a health care delivery system.

Health care providers will be in a fee-for-service practice and will not be employees of the government. Therefore, it is not socialized medicine. Single-payer health care is not socialized medicine any more than the public funding of education is socialized education or the public funding of the defense industry is socialized defense.

What we simply want is the ability for that single payer to negotiate prescription drug prices, hospital prices, nursing home prices. We simply want the ability to give the American people the insurance on health care that they and their children need.

Interestingly enough, polls show that 60 to 75 percent of Americans believe in this type of system. But the most important aspect is, we have a leader—and the leadership in this Congress—that says Americans count. Let us change the health care system today, not pay AIG employees bonuses.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. TIBERI. Ladies and gentlemen, in the coming weeks, we are going to debate the budget for the United States of America for the next 10 years, for next year and beyond. This budget clearly taxes too much, spends too much, and borrows too much from the American people. In fact, not only does it do that, but for someone like my mom and dad who are on fixed incomes, seniors, this will cause their taxes to go up every time they fill the tank of their 14-year-old car, turn on the lights of their 35-year-old house, or turn up the thermostat to heat or turn it down to cool their home.

This is a huge tax on American consumers, particularly from my State in Ohio, with this cap-and-tax issue that is within this budget, a debate that we're going to have in this House this month and next month.

Americans deserve better. They deserve better solutions. Republicans in the minority here are willing to be part of those better solutions. I hope that the Speaker and the leadership of the House will be partners with us for those better solutions.

□ 1030

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDITS

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding leadership, and we will be judged in this House by two measures, by action or inaction, and whether what we do in this House is going to put our economy and our people back on track.

And let me tell you, while some of my colleagues stand with their arms

extended and say “no,” we stand here today and say “yes,” that America can and will recover from this great economic downturn.

I found a Member on the other side of the aisle who would stand with me to make permanent research and development tax credits that will invest in energy programs that will benefit Ohio and put our Nation on the road to recovery. I talk about a tax credit that will help companies like the EBO Group in my district that's studying plug-in hybrids and batteries that can make our cars more efficient, or the Rolls Royce Corporation in my district with the research and development tax credit that will give them the wherewithal to invest in fuel cell technology so we can move away from our dependence on foreign oil.

My friends, we will be judged as leaders or blockers. Are we going to say “yes” or are we going to say “no”? Are we going to act or are we not? This is the time we need to invest in America, in her greatest time of need.

TAX CUTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget cuts taxes for 95 percent of America's workers and their families. It cuts spending, nondefense discretionary, over 10 years to its lowest level as a percentage of the economy in nearly half a century. The President's budget also cuts the deficit in half over 4 years. It grows nothing but jobs. And creating American jobs means making quality health care affordable. It means powering our economy with clean American energy. And it means modernizing our education system.

Mr. Speaker, we have had 8 years of slow growth and actually a loss of jobs under President Bush, under the previous administration. The failure to reform and invest produced those 8 years of slow growth and loss of jobs. We need to turn that around, and that's what President Obama's budget will do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1512) to amend the Inter-

nal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1512

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TAXES FUNDING AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND.

(a) FUEL TAXES.—Subparagraph (B) of section 4081(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “March 31, 2009” and inserting “September 30, 2009”.

(b) TICKET TAXES.—

(1) PERSONS.—Clause (ii) of section 4261(j)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “March 31, 2009” and inserting “September 30, 2009”.

(2) PROPERTY.—Clause (ii) of section 4271(d)(1)(A) of such Code is amended by striking “March 31, 2009” and inserting “September 30, 2009”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on April 1, 2009.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 9502(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “April 1, 2009” and inserting “October 1, 2009”, and

(2) by inserting “or the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2009” before the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (A).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 9502(e) of such Code is amended by striking “April 1, 2009” and inserting “October 1, 2009”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on April 1, 2009.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 48103(6) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$1,950,000,000 for the 6-month period beginning on October 1, 2008,” and inserting “\$3,900,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

(b) PROJECT GRANT AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of such title is amended by striking “March 31, 2009,” and inserting “September 30, 2009.”.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

(a) Section 40117(1)(7) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “April 1, 2009,” and inserting “October 1, 2009.”.

(b) Section 44302(f)(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “March 31, 2009,” and inserting “September 30, 2009,”; and

(2) by striking “May 31, 2009,” and inserting “December 31, 2009.”.

(c) Section 44303(b) of such title is amended by striking “May 31, 2009,” and inserting “December 31, 2009.”.

(d) Section 47107(s)(3) of such title is amended by striking “April 1, 2009,” and inserting “October 1, 2009.”.

(e) Section 47115(j) of such title is amended by striking “2008, and for the portion of fiscal year 2009 ending before April 1, 2009,” and inserting “2009.”.

(f) Section 47141(f) of such title is amended by striking “March 31, 2009,” and inserting “September 30, 2009.”.

(g) Section 49108 of such title is amended by striking “March 31, 2009,” and inserting “September 30, 2009.”.

(h) Section 161 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 47109 note) is amended by striking “made in” and all that follows through “under chapter 471” and inserting “made in fiscal year 2009 under chapter 471”.

(i) Section 186(d) of such Act (117 Stat. 2518) is amended by striking “2008, and for the portion of fiscal year 2009 ending before April 1, 2009,” and inserting “2009.”.

(j) The amendments made by this section shall take effect on April 1, 2009.

SEC. 6. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k)(1)(E) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$4,516,364,500 for the 6-month period beginning on October 1, 2008,” and inserting “\$9,042,467,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

SEC. 7. AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.

Section 48101(a)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$1,360,188,750 for the 6-month period beginning on October 1, 2008,” and inserting “\$2,742,095,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

SEC. 8. RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT.

Section 48102(a)(13) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$85,507,500 for the 6-month period beginning on October 1, 2008,” and inserting “\$171,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to give Members 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on House bill 1512.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 1512, the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2009, extends the financing and spending authority for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

The trust fund taxes and spending authority are scheduled to expire on March 31, 2009. This bill extends these taxes at current rates for 6 months, through the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

Failure to act on this bill would mean that the taxes expire and the trust fund would lose revenues that are necessary to finance future airport construction projects and updates to the air traffic control system. It would also prevent the FAA from spending funds that are already in the trust fund, shutting down the Airport Improvement Program and critical airport construction projects around the country.

I know the importance of our air transportation system. The Hartsfield-