

of Defense regulations leave it up to individual elements of the Department to determine on a case-by-case basis whether or not organizational conflicts of interest can be mitigated, and if so, what mitigation measures are required. The conferees agree that additional guidance is required to tighten existing requirements, provide consistency throughout the Department, and ensure that advice provided by contractors is objective and unbiased. In developing the regulations required by this section for cases in which mitigation is determined to be appropriate, the conferees expect the Secretary to give consideration to strengthened measures of organizational separation of the type included in the Senate bill.

TITLE III—ADDITIONAL ACQUISITION PROVISIONS

Awards for Department of Defense personnel for excellence in the acquisition of products and services (sec. 301)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 206) that would direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a program to recognize excellent performance by individuals and teams in the acquisition of products and services for the Department of Defense.

The House amendment contained an identical provision (sec. 206). The conference report includes this provision.

Earned value management (sec. 302)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 207) that would require the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to review and improve guidance governing the implementation of Earned Value Management (EVM) systems for Department of Defense (DOD) contracts.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment that would incorporate the requirements of the Senate provision into section 887 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417), which requires the Secretary of Defense to identify and address shortcomings in EVM systems for DOD contracts.

Expansion of national security objectives of the national technology and industrial base (sec. 303)

The Senate bill contained a provision (sec. 208) that would amend section 2501 of title 10, United States Code, to address critical design skills in the national technology and industrial base and require reports on the termination of major defense acquisition programs.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment requiring that defense capability assessments performed pursuant to section 2505 of title 10, United States Code, consider the effects of the termination of major defense acquisition programs. The outcome of this assessment would be incorporated into the annual reports required by section 2504 of title 10, United States Code.

Comptroller General of the United States reports on costs and financial information regarding major defense acquisition programs (sec. 304)

The Senate bill contained two provisions (sec. 104(b) and sec. 209) that would require reports by the Government Accountability Office on: (1) operating and support costs of major weapon systems; and (2) financial information relating to major defense acquisition programs.

The House amendment contained no similar provision.

The House recedes with an amendment incorporating the two reporting requirements into a single provision.

COMPLIANCE WITH SENATE AND HOUSE RULES

Compliance with rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding earmarks and congressionally directed spending items

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and Rule XLIV(3) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, neither this conference report nor the accompanying joint statement of managers contains any congressional earmarks, congressionally directed spending items, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits, as defined in such rules.

IKE SKELTON,
JOHN M. SPRATT,
SOLOMON P. ORTIZ,
GENE TAYLOR,
NEIL ABERCROMBIE,
SILVESTRE REYES,
VIC SNYDER,
ADAM SMITH,
LORETTA SANCHEZ,
MIKE MCINTYRE,
ELLEN O. TAUSCHER,
ROBERT E. ANDREWS,
SUSAN A. DAVIS,
JAMES R. LANGEVIN,
JIM COOPER,
BRAD ELLSWORTH,
JOE SESTAK,
JOHN M. MCHUGH,
ROSCOE G. BARTLETT,
HOWARD "BUCK" MCKEON,
MAC THORNBERRY,
WALTER B. JONES,
W. TODD AKIN,
J. RANDY FORBES,
JEFF MILLER,
JOE WILSON,
K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
DUNCAN HUNTER,
MIKE COFFMAN,

Managers on the Part of the House.

CARL LEVIN,
EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
ROBERT C. BYRD,
JOSEPH LIEBERMAN,
JACK REED,
DANIEL K. AKAKA,
BILL NELSON,
BEN NELSON,
EVAN BAYH,
JIM WEBB,
CLAIRE MCCASKILL,
MARK UDALL,
KAY R. HAGAN,
MARK BEGICH,
ROLAND W. BURRIS,
JOHN MCCAIN,
JAMES M. INHOFE,
JEFF SESSIONS,
SAXBY CHAMBLISS,
LINDSEY GRAHAM,
JOHN THUNE,
MEL MARTINEZ,
ROGER F. WICKER,
RICHARD BURR,
DAVID VITTER,
SUSAN COLLINS,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Today, I rise to recognize May 17 through May 23 as National Small Business Week. Small businesses are a critical part of our economy. In fact, over 60 percent of all jobs are created by small businesses in our Nation. And, in addition, as a result of the current crisis, we have seen an increasing number of people wanting to start their own businesses or beginning to create their own business.

For example, a recent poll showed that 37 percent of Americans are either running their own business or they're about to create their own business. I believe that innovation and growth in the small business sector is one of the key parts of what they contribute to our economic recovery. To help encourage that recovery, I'm committed to making sure that the Federal Government offers assistance and support to small businesses throughout our Nation.

I'm pleased that today the House will consider H.R. 2352, the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act of 2009. It will provide critical training services to entrepreneurs across our Nation.

THE ENERGY TAX WILL HURT REAL PEOPLE

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. As this Congress debates cap-and-trade, we need to remember that coal is our Nation's most abundant resource, providing 50 percent of this Nation's electricity and 98 percent of the electricity generated in my State.

We all want a cleaner environment, but this cap-and-trade bill is not the answer. The majority's bill is a \$646 billion national energy tax that will hit States like West Virginia the hardest.

It will essentially make the coal-reliant heartland unfairly subsidize our friends on the west coast and in the Northeast. An average energy bill for an average family will go up by at least \$1,500, and those hardest hit will be those that can least afford it.

People in the lower-income bracket will be spending more and more of their income on energy than any other income brackets. By 2020, folks in the lower-income brackets in West Virginia could be spending between 24 percent and 27 percent of their entire income on energy. Manufacturing will also be hit with major cost increases making electricity far more expensive.

As we continue to debate this issue, Congress needs to remember that cap-and-trade has a real cost on real people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. The Senate approved this yesterday by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. I urge my colleagues to give final approval to this bill today and send it to the President for signature.

Consumers shouldn't have to subject themselves to hidden costs and "gotcha" games in order to have access to credit cards. Today's legislation will put an end to some of the most offensive practices. The bill will stop retroactive rate hikes on existing balances. It will also require lenders to credit payments made on the day that they were due as on time.

You wouldn't think that you would have to pass a law to say that payments made on the day that they are due should be credited as on time. But, sadly, that is how bad things have gotten.

The fine print in today's credit card agreements has gotten so complicated and so full of traps, you almost need a lawyer to find all the fees.

This bill won't stop everything, but it is an important step forward. I therefore urge final passage today of the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights.

CAP-AND-TRADE BILL

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

Mr. POSEY. Soon we will be asked to vote on a cap-and-trade bill. Here's what I know about it. In the President's budget, it showed new revenue of \$646 billion from cap-and-trade. The cap-and-trade plan has been estimated to cost American families as much as \$3,000 each per year. The price of everything will go up, from electric bills to gasoline—even food. The availability of jobs will go down, as energy costs force more jobs overseas. And, it won't reduce emissions one iota. It didn't in Europe, and it won't here.

It is simply a moneymaker. Another method of fleecing taxpayers. No less energy will be used. Everyone will just pay more for the energy they do use. It's like paying someone else to go on a diet for you.

I'm convinced when the citizens of this great country find out what has been done to them by cap-and-trade, they will be outraged. No one can say that Congress was never told.

INVITATION TO GEORGE WILL

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. George Will's recent rant attacking Secretary of the Transportation Ray LaHood and my

hometown, Portland Oregon, tells more about him than Secretary LaHood.

As Will glides into his seventies, he has lost track of more than just the facts, although it's staggering that he was off by a factor of 400 times about where biking already is in America, and 8000 times where Portland is with the ratio of cycling.

But this is not about bikes and street cars, or even livability. A younger, principled George Will would have understood why young people, even without jobs, are moving to Portland. It's a rich community with more choices at lower costs. It's about choices that enhance the quality of life.

I invite Mr. Will to bring his bow tie to Portland and debate me on the ground. See why a younger George Will, who may have been put off by all the Democrats and moderate Republicans, could still have admired the freedom that a high quality of life provides.

THE HEALTH BENEFITS TAX

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some taxacrats in D.C. are thinking about taxing health care benefits on people who try to take care of themselves. They want to figure out how to get benefits to people who don't have them. Their solution: Make people who have benefits pay income tax on the value of their health plan.

That tax money would come directly out of their pocket. But it will make health care insurance too expensive for a lot of folks, so they will cancel their insurance and then let the government take care of them on this new nationalized health care plan.

When you wish to solve a problem, it's probably a better idea to come up with something that doesn't make the problem worse. It reminds me of the statement, "If you think the problems government creates are bad, just wait until you see government solutions."

The notion to tax health care benefits punishes people who have planned their lives and their careers with the philosophy that they will be responsible for their own health care and not live off the government.

However, to fund the new French health care system, the administration is proposing to tax people who take care of themselves, so there is money for people who can't or won't take care of themselves. There's something wrong with this picture.

And that's just the way it is.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to stand up for American consumers. Too many families and hard-

working Americans are struggling through this difficult economic recession. Credit card companies that charge unwarranted and unanticipated fees have been hitting Americans hard during our economic hardship. Despite massive government intervention to encourage lending, many credit card companies are still cutting back on credit, imposing new fees and raising rates—even for those who pay on time and never go over the limit. This is unacceptable.

In passing the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights, we will even the playing field by providing critical protections against these unfair, yet all too common, credit card practices. This bill will also provide tough new regulations on credit and companies in order to protect consumers from excessive fees, enormous interest rates, and unfair agreements.

Ending abusive credit card practices that continue to drive America deeper and deeper into debt is a critical element in our economic recovery.

RELEASE OF UYGHUR DETAINEES

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the Financial Times reported that Attorney General Eric Holder's Guantanamo Bay task force has recommended that the President release at least two Uyghur detainees into the U.S.

This planned release comes in spite of ardent objection from the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, who were overruled by Eric Holder and the White House.

These Uyghur detainees are members of the U.S. and the U.N.-listed terrorist group, the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, whose leader, Abdul Haq, was listed as a terrorist by Obama's Treasury Department.

For Eric Holder to do this against the better judgment of the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, and despite Senate Democratic Majority Leader HARRY REID's statement yesterday that this Congress won't tolerate their release, is unacceptable.

It flies in the face of the bipartisan congressional opposition to the release of trained terrorists into the United States, including Republican and Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate. To do so in spite of what is taking place, passing in the House, soon in the Senate, would be unacceptable.

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RECONSIDERING TAXPAYER SUPPORT FOR THE AUTO COMPANIES

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