

Madam Speaker, this is a bill that has had a number of hearings and on which we have focused a great deal of attention in our committee. Having had the privilege recently to travel internationally and to meet with science leaders around the world, I know personally of the importance.

I also want to acknowledge that President Obama mentioned the importance of scientific exchanges and collaboration in his recent speech in Cairo and in other recent speeches as has his head of OSTP, John Holdren.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman BERMAN, Chairman GORDON, Dr. EHLERS from Michigan, and Mr. CARNAHAN for their work.

I want to, at this point, insert an exchange of letters between Chairman BERMAN and Chairman GORDON into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009.

This bill contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to mark up this bill. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. I would ask that you place this letter into the Committee Report on H.R. 1736.

I look forward to working with you as we move this important measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BERMAN: Thank you for your May 21, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction in H.R. 1736. A copy of our letters will be placed in the legislative report on H.R. 1736 and the Congressional

Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hardworking staff who contributed to this legislation, namely Dahlia Sokolov on the majority staff, Mele Williams on the minority staff, and also my personal staff as well. They have done an outstanding job on this piece of legislation.

H.R. 1736 is a good bill. It doesn't cost anything. It just makes sure we apply our existing activities and resources as wisely as possible to the benefit of our security and prosperity. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1736.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, looking around, I have no further requests for time on my side of the aisle.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Having no further requests, again, I thank the gentleman, and urge passage of the bill.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1736, the international Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009. This bill would, formally establish a committee on the President's National Science and Technology Council to identify and support opportunities to strengthen U.S. foreign policy through cooperation in the fields of science and technology. The President recently announced new initiatives to promote science and technology partnerships between the United States and Muslim-majority countries. I applaud these efforts, and I would note that an across-the-board commitment to integrating science into our diplomatic portfolio would reap enormous benefits.

We should marshal the scientific and technical capacity and expertise in our federal agencies to contribute more directly to our foreign policy goals. In conversations with experts like Dr. Norm Neureiter of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I have found strong support for a NSTC committee dedicated to planning and coordinating these kinds of interagency efforts. Such a committee would be a critical component in effectively implementing a broader vision of U.S. engagement in international science and science diplomacy. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration to more fully develop robust and lasting capacity in these areas.

Mr. BAIRD. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STEM EDUCATION COORDINATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1709) to establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education activities and programs of all Federal agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1709

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 "STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "STEM" means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education, including at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and all other Federal agencies that have programs and activities in support of STEM education.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—The committee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate the STEM education activities and programs of the Federal agencies;

(2) develop, implement through the participating agencies, and update once every 5 years a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, which shall—

(A) specify and prioritize annual and long-term objectives;

(B) specify the common metrics that will be used to assess progress toward achieving the objectives;

(C) describe the approaches that will be taken by each participating agency to assess the effectiveness of its STEM education programs and activities; and

(D) with respect to subparagraph (A), describe the role of each agency in supporting programs and activities designed to achieve the objectives; and

(3) establish, periodically update, and maintain an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs and activities, including documentation of assessments of the effectiveness of such programs and activities and rates of participation by underrepresented minorities in such programs and activities.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall encourage and monitor the efforts of the participating agencies to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (b)(2) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the strategic plan are met.

(d) REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a report annually to Congress at the time of the President's budget request describing the plan required under subsection (b)(2). The annual report shall include—

(1) a description of the STEM education programs and activities for the previous and current fiscal years, and the proposed programs and activities under the President's budget request, of each participating Federal agency;

(2) the levels of funding for each participating Federal agency for the programs and activities described under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and under the President's budget request;

(3) except for the initial annual report, a description of the progress made in carrying out the implementation plan, including a description of the outcome of any program assessments completed in the previous year, and any changes made to that plan since the previous annual report; and

(4) a description of how the participating Federal agencies will disseminate information about federally supported resources for STEM education practitioners, including teacher professional development programs, to States and to STEM education practitioners, including to teachers and administrators in schools that meet the criteria described in subsection (c)(1) (A) and (B) of section 3175 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381j(c)(1) (A) and (B)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1709, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BAIRD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, over the past decade, report after report has come out highlighting the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math, so-called STEM education, to our Nation's competitiveness in the rapidly changing 21st century economy.

The National Academy's report "Rising above the Gathering Storm" sent up a red flag that our Nation's standing as a global leader is at risk if we do not improve STEM education in the country. The first and highest priority recommendation of the Gathering Storm report was to "increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education."

My colleagues and I on the Science and Technology Committee are passionate about this issue. Over the course of the last 2 years, under the leadership of Chairman GORDON, the committee held several hearings with STEM educators and agency representatives to explore what role the Federal

Government can play in improving STEM education. A key recommendation that came up time and time again was the need for the interagency coordination of Federal STEM education activities and to improve the dissemination of these activities to practitioners. It will undoubtedly require strong commitment and leadership at the local and State levels to address the shortcomings of our Nation's science and math education system.

The Federal Government also has a role to play because of the richness of the S&T resources in our Federal agencies. There are already many valuable programs being funded through the Federal agencies that could play an important role in sharing knowledge and passion for STEM with students, teachers, and with the general public. Unfortunately, many of the agencies have had difficulty in evaluating their programs and in building an awareness of those programs among teachers.

In order to make the most effective use of our Federal investment in STEM education, it is crucial that the agencies have a forum where they can come together to discuss tools for improved dissemination, to share research findings, and to create common metrics for evaluation.

H.R. 1709 would establish a committee on STEM education under the National Science and Technology Council at the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This committee would be charged with coordinating the STEM education programs and activities being funded through the Federal R&D mission agencies. This bill also requires that the committee establish and maintain a comprehensive inventory of federally sponsored STEM education activities. This will be a valuable database that will help STEM educators across the country learn of the resources the Federal Government has to offer.

This is a strong, bipartisan bill. I want to commend Chairman GORDON, Mr. HALL, Dr. LIPINSKI, and Dr. EHLERS for introducing it and for their continued leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Chairman MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee for working with us to bring this bill to the floor.

I would like to insert an exchange of letters between Chairman GORDON and Chairman MILLER at this time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,

Washington, DC, June 1, 2009.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the Committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Education and Labor takes this action only with the under-

standing that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and would appreciate your support if such a request is made. Finally, I ask that you please include this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1709 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, June 1, 2009.

HON. GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your June 1, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor. I acknowledge that by waiving rights to further consideration of H.R. 1709, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Education and Labor has jurisdiction in H.R. 1709. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

It is also important to acknowledge the hard work of staff on this bill. I would like to thank Dahlia Sokolov and Bess Caughran on the majority staff and Mele Williams on the minority staff. I would also like to thank the former staff director of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, Jim Wilson, for his important work on this topic before he retired last year.

H.R. 1709 has the support of many scientific societies, businesses, and education organizations, including the National Science Teachers Association, the Business-Higher Education Forum, the American Chemical Society, and the Triangle Coalition.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. I rise in support of H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague in supporting H.R. 1709, the Federal STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. With this bill, Congress is basically elevating a subcommittee within the National Science and Technology Council to a full committee to ensure that STEM education activities within the Federal Government are getting the attention they need.

In addition to coordinating all Federal STEM education programs, this committee will be responsible for developing a strategic plan and for maintaining an inventory of all Federal STEM education programs. I believe this is appropriate and important. It is just as imperative that we will be able to identify those STEM programs in the Federal Government that are effective and that could serve as models for other agencies as it is for us to eliminate those programs that are duplicative and wasteful.

Ranking Member HALL and Dr. EHLERS, the ranking member of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, are original sponsors of this measure and have worked closely with Chairman GORDON and Mr. LIPINSKI on this legislation. I join them in support of H.R. 1709, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), a valuable member of the committee who has been particularly concerned about STEM education.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. I would like to thank Chairman GORDON as well as my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me for its passage.

There is no doubt that being a leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM education, is essential for our Nation to be an economic leader in the 21st century. Our Nation already has the world's premier institutions of higher education, and my district in Colorado is home to some of the most prestigious leaders in research. The climate change research done at NCAR and at NOAA and the renewable energy research done at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory have been great sources of pride for our community, as well as economic drivers for our State and our Nation.

In order to build upon these achievements, we must ensure that young Americans choose to and are given the tools to build careers in science. It is vital that our young people are exposed to STEM education early on. Early exposure, particularly for underrepresented groups, including women and minorities, will help spark a life-long interest in education in these fields. STEM education, just like the arts and athletics, is critical to a broad-based education that gives students the analytical skills that will ensure that the American labor force, whether one becomes a climatologist, an architect, or even a Member of Congress, is the smartest and most productive in the world.

□ 1430

STEM education makes communities across the Nation more self-reliant in

rural and urban America alike. By removing barriers to STEM education, it will help all communities have a reliable, highly skilled workforce. We have the technology and the educators to bring knowledge to every corner of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, what we have lacked is the will. Today, we have the opportunity to vote on a bill that will help every community prepare the next generation of leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The long-term economic benefits of this action are clear. But so, too, is the sense of pride when communities raise and graduate their own engineers who will design their own roadways and scientists who ensure that their next crop is healthy.

I would like to once again thank Chairman GORDON and the committee and his staff for bringing this terrific bill to the floor.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent and yield as much time as he can consume to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I'm a scientist, a medical doctor; and I believe wholeheartedly in science education. Whether this bill is a good idea or not remains to be seen. Whether it will pass or not, I think that it probably will.

The thing that concerns me is the education of the American public about not only the money they spent on this—which we don't have—but the money that is going to be spent and taken out of their pockets for what is called cap-and-trade here in this House of Representatives and in the Congress of the United States.

This administration, the leadership in the House and the Senate, are forcing upon the American people a policy that is going to increase taxes on every single household in America over \$3,100 per family—that's rich, poor, and between. The people on limited incomes, the retirees, are going to be hit the hardest because experts agree that they spend more of their income on energy-related sources than any other thing.

It's also going to run up the cost of food, medicine, things that everybody buys. In fact, every good and service in this country is going to go up because of this tax-and-cap, as I call it—or cap-and-tax, cap-and-trade legislation that is being brought to this floor, and it's going to be forced down the throats of the American people.

The President himself said that it was going to increase electricity costs for all Americans. The President also said that it's about revenue. It's not about the environment. He said if this is not passed, then he won't have the money to force the socialized medicine program that he's trying to introduce in this Congress and wants to pass by the August break. The American people need to be educated about how bad this policy is. We've got to stop it.

Republicans have offered many alternatives to a non-stimulus bill. Our alternatives were not heard. To a housing crisis, our alternatives were not heard; to a banking crisis, our alternatives were not heard. Over and over again, Republicans have offered alternatives that the leadership in this House have been obstructionists and not allowed those things to be heard.

The American people need to understand that. We're headed down a road of socialism, of communism, of greater control of people's lives and the loss of the control of your money and your freedom. And the American people need to stand up and say "no." I do believe in science and education, but the American people need to educate themselves to the bad policy that the leadership in this Congress are forcing upon them, shoving down their throats as a steamroller of socialism that's being forced down the throats of the American people that's going to slay the American economy.

It's going to kill jobs. This cap-and-tax legislation is estimated to cost somewhere between 1.7 to 8 million jobs. The President says it's going to create green jobs. Well, in Spain, their cap-and-tax has, for every job created, they've lost 2.2 jobs.

It's wrong for America; it's wrong for the working people; it's wrong for the poor people; it's wrong for the retirees. It's absolutely the wrong thing, and the American people need to be educated about that. Stand up and say "no" to cap-and-trade legislation.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I would just recognize myself for just a brief comment.

The gentleman from Georgia has repeatedly in the Science Committee and on the floor of the House demonstrated the urgent need to improve STEM education in this country, and I thank him for that.

I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I see no one on my side of the aisle requesting time. So I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1709—the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. As a former Member of the Science Committee, I commend my colleague from Tennessee—Chairman BART GORDON—for his leadership in crafting this thoughtful legislation that was reported to the House on a broad bipartisan basis.

As a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in Chemistry, I know how important it will be that there is a continued focus on STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—education in order for our future workforce to be competitive in a global, technology-based, economy. Unfortunately, we are simply not graduating enough students in these critical fields of science and engineering compared to the rest of the world. According to a recent study, 50% of students in China receive their undergraduate degrees in natural science or engineering; in Singapore, that number is 67%, and 38% of South Korea's graduates fall

into these fields. Unfortunately, the United States is lagging behind with a mere 15% of graduates in natural science or engineering.

During the 110th Congress, I was proud to work with my colleagues on the Science Committee to pass the America COMPETES Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on August 9, 2007. This legislation took a good first step in addressing our shortcomings in STEM education, but we still have a large gap to close in this area.

H.R. 1709 would establish a committee at the National Science and Technology Council through the Office of Science and Technology Policy that would coordinate the federal programs that support STEM education across the country. I believe that this legislation will help further the progress and efforts that have been made by the America COMPETES Act. Furthermore, I commend all of my colleagues on the Science Committee for working in a bipartisan manner to move this important legislation forward.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1709.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my support of H.R. 1709—the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are critical subjects that are related to our national competitiveness.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, I support the work of the Committee on Science and Technology as it developed and refined the bill.

During committee consideration of the bill, I offered several amendments that passed unanimously. One such amendment was designed to strengthen the role of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in monitoring quantifiable progress of federal STEM education programs across the agencies. The amendment specified that the committee within the National Science & Technology Council shall determine common metrics to assess progress toward achieving the objectives in its STEM education strategic plan.

In addition, the committee accepted an amendment added a responsibility of OSTP: to encourage and monitor the agency efforts to ensure that the strategic plan is executed effectively. Finally, I offered an amendment that required that the annual report submitted by OSTP should include a description of the outcome of any program assessments completed in the previous year.

Better coordination of our federally-funded education programs for STEM is needed. H.R. 1709 aims to achieve that goal, so that good programs can be supported and refined. It is my belief that a more competitive America will come as a result of stronger, better-coordinated STEM education programs. I support this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I am honored and pleased by the action we are taking today on H.R. 1709, the “STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009,” to ensure coordination of federal science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education activities by elevating an existing committee under the National Science and Technology (NSTC).

H.R. 1709 focuses on the coordination of the federal government’s STEM education activities. Providing this coordinating mechanism for the federal STEM education programs is critical to ensuring America remains innovative

and competitive in the 21st century global economy.

According to the Academic Competitiveness Council’s (ACC) report, in 2006 the U.S. sponsored 105 STEM education programs at more than a dozen different Federal Agencies. These programs devote approximately \$3.12 billion to STEM education activities spanning pre-kindergarten through postgraduate education and outreach. The report notes that many of these Agencies do not share information or work collaboratively on similar programs. The ACC found that “coordination among agencies could be improved to avoid, for example, grants to numerous projects that support the same sorts of interventions... there appears to be a lack of communication among the agencies about the work they are funding and the results that are being generated . . . agencies are often uninformed by the results of earlier projects.”

H.R. 1709 is similar to the one of the sections of the “Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (E-STEM) Act of 2009”, H.R. 2710 which I recently reintroduced. The E-STEM Act establishes a comprehensive approach to improving coordination and coherence of STEM education activities and stimulates collaboration at both the federal and state levels throughout the nation. My legislation provides federal agencies and states with the infrastructure required to work collaboratively, establish national STEM education goals, coordinate STEM education initiatives, and to avoid unnecessary duplication among these efforts. In addition the E-STEM Act would require the NSTC committee to create a coordinated inter-agency STEM education budget and a five year projection of the STEM workforce.

Strengthening STEM education is important for our nation to remain innovative and ensure our future prosperity. During a time of rapid technological and scientific advance, scientific literacy is increasingly important for full participation in our Democracy. I want to thank Chairman GORDON, Representative BAIRD, and Ranking Member EHLERS for bringing this legislation to the floor and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. I would also invite my colleagues to cosponsor the E-STEM Act to encourage similar coordination among States and improve the dissemination of promising practices and STEM education resources.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, with no other speakers, I urge passage of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1709, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SUPPORTING HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 492) supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 492

Whereas the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition has declared the week of June 15 through June 19, 2009, as “High-Performance Building Week”;

Whereas the House of Representatives has recognized the importance of high-performance buildings through the inclusion of a definition of high-performance buildings in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40 percent of the primary energy and 70 percent of the electricity in the United States annually;

Whereas buildings consume about 12 percent of the potable water in this country;

Whereas the construction of buildings and their related infrastructure consume approximately 60 percent of all raw materials used in the United States economy;

Whereas buildings account for 39 percent of United States carbon dioxide emissions a year approximately equaling the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and elderly;

Whereas high-performance buildings promote higher student achievement by providing better lighting, a more comfortable indoor environment, and improved ventilation and indoor air quality;

Whereas high-performance residential and commercial building design and construction should effectively guard against natural and human caused events and disasters, including fire, water, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism;

Whereas high-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic, and total societal impact, result from the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles—a paradigm change for the built environment; and

Whereas the United States should continue to improve the features of new buildings, and adapt and maintain existing buildings, to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy efficiency, and usability by all segments of society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week;

(2) recognizes and reaffirms our Nation’s commitment to High-Performance Buildings by promoting awareness about their benefits and by promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to information;

(3) recognizes the unique role that the Department of Energy plays through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s Building Technologies Program, which works closely with the building industry and manufacturers to conduct research and development on technologies and practices for building energy efficiency;