

contribute over \$33 billion to the American economy annually.

In my state of Minnesota, there are over 866,000 registered boats—the third largest number of boats of any state in the country. In fact, Minnesota has the most boats per capita of any state: there is one boat for every six people.

Whether it is on the river, a lake, along the ocean, inter-coastal or intra-coastal waterway, recreational boaters support and depend on over 12,000 marinas all across the United States.

Recreational boating is an American pastime. It is a family activity that appeals to all age groups and is a constructive outlet for entertainment. Whether water skiing, snorkeling, fishing, or just relaxing on the water, boating is a perfect reason to turn off the television and put away the video games and to bring families and friends closer together. For these reasons, July 1, 2009, should be established as National Boating Day.

I support H. Res. 410, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 410, 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. LARSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 410.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL PIPELINE SAFETY DAY

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 484) expressing support for designation of June 10th as “National Pipeline Safety Day”.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 484

Whereas there are more than 2,000,000 miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines in this country operated by over 3,000 companies;

Whereas these pipelines play a vital role in the lives of people in the United States by delivering the energy we need to heat our homes, drive our cars, cook our food and operate our businesses;

Whereas in the past decade significant new pipelines have been built to help move North American sources of oil and gas to refineries and markets;

Whereas, on June 10, 1999, a hazardous liquid pipeline ruptured and exploded in a park in Bellingham, Washington, killing two 10-year-old boys and a young man, destroying a salmon stream, and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and economic disruption;

Whereas in response to this June 10th pipeline tragedy Congress passed significant new pipeline safety regulations in the form of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 and

the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006;

Whereas in the past decade the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, with support from a diverse group of stakeholders, has instituted a variety of important new rules and pipeline safety initiatives such as the Common Ground Alliance, pipeline emergency training with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, and the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance;

Whereas even with all these new pipeline safety improvements, in 2008 alone there were still 274 significant pipeline incidents causing over \$395,000,000 in property damage and uncounted economic disruption;

Whereas even though pipelines are the safest method to transport huge quantities of fuel, pipeline incidents such as the 1994 pipeline explosion in Edison, New Jersey that left 100 people homeless, the 1996 butane pipeline explosion in Texas that left 2 teenagers dead, the 2000 pipeline explosion near Carlsbad, New Mexico, that killed 12 people in an extended family, the 2004 pipeline explosion in Walnut Creek, California, that killed 5 workers, and the 2007 propane pipeline explosion in Mississippi that killed a teenager and her grandmother are still occurring;

Whereas these millions of miles of pipelines are still out of sight and therefore out of mind for the majority of individuals, local governments, and businesses, leading to pipeline damage and general lack of oversight;

Whereas greater awareness of pipelines and pipeline safety can improve public safety;

Whereas a “National Pipeline Safety Day” can provide a focal point for creating greater pipeline safety awareness; and

Whereas June 10, 2009, is the 10th anniversary of the Bellingham, Washington, pipeline tragedy that was the impetus for many of the above-mentioned safety improvements and would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Pipeline Safety Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Pipeline Safety Day;

(2) encourages State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote pipeline safety;

(3) encourages all pipeline safety stakeholders to use this day to create greater public awareness of all the advancements that can lead to even greater pipeline safety; and

(4) encourages individuals across the Nation to become more aware of the pipelines that run through our communities and do what they can to encourage safe practices and damage prevention.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 484.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to ask the House of Representatives to support the designation of June 10, tomorrow, as National Pipeline Safety Day. There are more than 2 million miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines in our country. Pipelines play a vital role in the lives of the American people by delivering the energy we need to heat our homes, to drive our cars, to cook our food, and to operate our businesses.

In the past decade, significant new pipelines have been built to help move oil and gas to refineries and to markets. These pipelines are invisible to most people and, therefore, are out of sight and are out of mind. This can lead to pipeline damage and to a general lack of government oversight.

On June 10 of 1999, a pipeline leak caused a massive explosion in my district in Bellingham, Washington. The rupture released more than a quarter of a million gallons of gasoline into Whatcom Creek. The gasoline ignited, sending a fireball racing down the creek, which killed two 10-year-old boys and an 18-year-old man. The two boys—Stephen Tsiorvas and Wade King—were playing in the creek on a summer day, near their homes, and 18-year-old Liam Wood had just graduated from high school and was fly fishing for trout.

□ 1845

Previous generations certainly ask themselves, Where were you when President Kennedy was shot? But in my district, people literally ask the question and know the answer to, Where were you when the pipeline exploded? It had that much of an impact in my district.

In response to this tragedy and several other pipeline explosions across the country, Congress passed legislation to strengthen pipeline safety regulations. The 2002 Pipeline Safety Improvement Act increased penalty fines, improved pipeline testing timelines, provided whistleblower protection, and allowed for State oversight. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the 2002 law by passing the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act, or the PIPES Act. Since that day in June, we've made significant progress in ensuring the safety of our Nation's pipelines. The frequency of so-called “high-consequence events” to pipelines has diminished almost 35 percent in the last 10 years. Due to the integrity management program required by the new law, pipeline operators have made extensive repairs to their pipelines that otherwise would have led to future accidents.

The 811 One-Call program now provides a number that people can call before they dig to make sure that they won't hit a pipeline when they do dig. “Call 811, the One-Call program.” And Congress has significantly increased the number of pipeline inspectors in

the field. However, we must remain vigilant. That's why I have introduced House Resolution 484, a resolution to recognize tomorrow, June 10, 2009, the 10-year anniversary of the Bellingham pipeline explosion, as National Pipeline Safety Day. My resolution encourages individuals, State and local governments, and pipeline safety stakeholders to use this day to create greater public awareness of pipelines and pipeline safety. It has the support of Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire, the Whatcom County Council, the Pipeline Safety Trust, the Pipeline Association for Public Awareness, the American Gas Association and the American Public Gas Association.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I do encourage my colleagues to support House Resolution 484.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to express my support for House Resolution 484, designating June 10 as National Pipeline Safety Day, and yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for his generosity with the time.

I rise in support of this resolution, designating National Pipeline Safety Month. Mr. Speaker, pipelines obviously play an important role in our society through the operation of our homes, our businesses, and the delivery of energy to drive our cars, to cook our food, to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It is an undeniable reality that energy affects all aspects of our lives, and all Americans need it and depend on energy.

That's why it's unfortunate that some in the majority and in the administration, frankly, are proposing this cap-and-trade legislation that many are calling cap-and-tax legislation that would dramatically increase the cost of energy for all Americans, every single American. Estimates say that this bill could increase a cost to a family of four close to \$3,000 a year, \$2,937 a year, to be exact, and raise electrical rates on families by 90 percent after adjusting for inflation, boost gasoline prices by 74 percent on American families, and natural gas prices by 54 percent. If that were not bad enough, it would also put American businesses at a huge competitive disadvantage with their competitors from other countries that don't pursue that kind of legislation, be it China or India.

Now let's take a look at what some key players in the administration have recently stated about this legislation, some facts. For example, Peter Orszag, as CBO director and currently as the OMB director, testified to the Ways and Means Committee on September 18, 2008. He said, "Decreasing emission would also impose costs on the econ-

omy. Much of those costs will be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices for energy and energy-intensive goods."

Mr. Orszag's written testimony stated that the average annual household cost was \$1,300. That's for a 15 percent cut in CO₂ emissions, which, by the way, happens to be 80 percent less than the cut sought by this administration.

Another fact. On March 17, 2009, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, testifying before the Science Committee said, "The cap-and-trade bill will likely increase the cost of electricity."

Another fact I would like to bring up today, Energy Secretary Steven Chu said advocating adjusting trade duties as a "weapon" to protect U.S. manufacturing, because otherwise, again, U.S. manufacturing would be put at a huge disadvantage. He said establishing a carbon tariff would help "level the playing field" if other countries haven't imposed mandatory reductions in carbon emissions; again, referring to the fact that it would put our industry at a huge, huge disadvantage. Again Mr. Chu said, "If other countries don't impose a cost on carbon, then we will be at a disadvantage," and he went on to say, "and we would look at considering duties to offset that cost." But the legislation doesn't have those in the bill.

Again, what we are looking at then is, the United States will impose a self-inflicted wound to put our industry and our country at a huge disadvantage, increasing costs of energy to all consumers in this great country of ours at a time in particular when everybody is hurting.

Last month on May 21, the current CBO director testified before the House Budget Committee and said, "CBO has been very clear that a cap-and-trade system or a carbon tax would raise the price of carbon emissions, and the cost would ultimately be borne by households." Again, it's not rocket science, Mr. Speaker. And again, "It's also widely understood that if we raise the price of carbon emissions and our trading partners do not, then that creates an additional challenge for carbon-emitting industries." Those are his words. I added that part about the rocket science, to be fair; but those are his words.

So it's fitting that we are now here talking about pipelines and energy. I just hope that we don't forget the big picture as well and that we don't impose this huge cost on our consumers and those who use gasoline and turn on lights, like everybody does, that manufactures using energy, like every industry does, that we don't put them at a huge disadvantage.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the parents of the three young men who died in the explosion would be very interested to hear the thoughts of the gentleman from Florida on energy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I believe this resolution highlights the need to

properly maintain pipelines and encourages the development of pipeline safety programs. I support the passage of this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. PETRI and Mr. MICA as well as Mr. YOUNG, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Ms. BROWN for all their help in putting this resolution together and getting it to the floor today. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 484.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 484, introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), which expresses support for designating June 10th as "National Pipeline Safety Day".

Pipelines have a critical place in our national infrastructure. The national pipeline network of over 2.2 million miles efficiently delivers gasoline, natural gas, oil, and other essential energy products across the country each day. However, because of the volatile nature of the products they deliver, if pipelines are not properly cared for, or they are carelessly tampered with, there can be serious consequences.

That is what occurred in 1986 in Mounds View, Minnesota, when a Williams pipeline ruptured. Vaporized gasoline combined with air and liquid gasoline flowed along neighborhood streets. About 20 minutes after the accident occurred, the gasoline vapor was ignited when an automobile entered the area. Fire spread rapidly along the path of the liquid gasoline, killing a woman and her daughter and severely burning another victim. According to accident investigators, there were known deficiencies in the cathodic protection applied to the first 10 miles of the pipeline and Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 484, introduced by the corrosion to the weld seams. Employees also had failed to shut-off the manually operated gate valve until one and half hours into the spill.

According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), had the valve been remotely operable or had remote-operated valves been installed on the line at the time of the accident, the pipeline could have been shut down by the dispatcher soon after the failure was detected, thereby decreasing substantially the amount of product released into the neighborhood. Ignition of the fuel may not have been prevented; however, the extent and severity of the damage could have been reduced.

The NTSB first identified the need for rapid shutdown of failed pipelines to limit the release of product following a pipeline rupture in a 1970 study, entitled "Effects of Delay in Shutting Down Failed Pipeline Systems and Methods of Providing Rapid Shutdown". Since then, a number of accidents that highlight the need to reduce the release of hazardous gases or liquids have occurred. In 1995, the NTSB recommended that the Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) expedite requirements for rapid shutdown of failed pipeline segments on high-pressure pipelines in high-consequence areas.

However, RSPA failed to act on the NTSB's recommendations, opting instead to further study the issue. That prompted Congress to pass the Accountable Pipeline Safety and

Partnership Act of 1996 (P.L. 104–304), which required the Secretary of Transportation to assess the effectiveness of remotely operated valves and to prescribe standards, within two years of enactment, for installation of the valves based on that assessment. The regulations were not issued until 2001—too late for the victims of the 1999 hazardous liquid pipeline explosion in Bellingham, Washington.

The June 10, 1999, explosion caused the release of about 237,000 gallons of gasoline into a creek that flowed through Whatcom Falls Park in Bellingham, Washington. The gasoline ignited, sending a fireball about 1.5 miles down the creek, which took the lives of two 10-year-old boys, Stephen Tsiorvas and Wade King, and an 18-year-old young man, Liam Wood. Eight additional inhalation injuries occurred, a single-family residence and the city of Bellingham's water treatment plant were severely damaged, and the wildlife in Whatcom Creek was completely destroyed.

Investigators found, among other things, that Olympic Pipe Line had no remote-operated shut off valves on the line, which could have prevented the release of hundreds of thousands of gasoline and the loss of three young lives. Following the Bellingham accident, RSPA ordered the pipeline company to install an automatic check valve just downstream of the rupture location so that the volume of product released would be limited in the event of a future pipeline rupture in that area. Again, a case of too little, too late.

Pipeline accidents, such as the ones in Mounds View and Bellingham, are not isolated incidents. According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), which now oversees the safety of our nation's pipeline infrastructure, 2,888 significant pipeline incidents occurred between 1999–2008, resulting in 173 fatalities, 632 injuries, and \$2.7 billion in property damage.

In response to these incidents, Congress passed the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (P.L. 107–355), which increased penalties for violations of safety standards; developed qualification programs for employees who perform sensitive tasks; strengthened pipeline testing requirements; required government mapping of the pipeline system; established a public education program for communities that live around pipelines; and enhanced whistleblower protections.

In 2006, Congress furthered these pipeline safety efforts by passing the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act (P.L. 109–468), which required development of an integrity management program for distribution pipelines; implemented long-standing NTSB safety recommendations on the installation of excess flow valves, development of hours-of-service standards for pipeline employees, and adoption of safety standards for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems; and increased pipeline inspection and enforcement personnel.

Despite these significant measures, much work remains to be done. PHMSA has not implemented many of the mandates from the 2006 Act. Over the next several months, as we look to reauthorization of the pipeline safety program in fiscal year 2011, we will work with PHMSA to ensure full implementation of the Act.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 484.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. 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. LARSEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 484.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 502) recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 502

Whereas the month of June is recognized as National Homeownership Month;

Whereas the people of the United States are one of the best-housed populations in the world;

Whereas owning a home is a fundamental part of the American dream and is the largest personal investment many families will ever make;

Whereas homeownership provides economic security for homeowners by aiding them in building wealth over time and strengthens communities through a greater stake among homeowners in local schools, civic organizations, and churches;

Whereas creating affordable homeownership opportunities requires the commitment and cooperation of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments;

Whereas homeownership can be sustained through appropriate homeownership education and informed borrowers; and

Whereas affordable homeownership will play a vital role in resolving the crisis in the United States housing market: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) fully supports the goals and ideals of National Homeownership Month;

(2) recognizes the importance of homeownership in building strong communities and families; and

(3) reaffirms the importance of homeownership in the Nation's economy and its central role in our national economic recovery.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation which recognizes June as National Homeownership Month. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, I am indeed committed to good public policy that will assist citizens to realize the American dream of homeownership. I would like to thank Representative GARY MILLER for his continued leadership on ensuring that this resolution comes to the floor every year. This is the seventh time that he has introduced this resolution, and I appreciate his commitment to America's homeowners. Preserving homeownership is more important today than ever before, with foreclosures reaching record levels and millions more Americans struggling to stay in their homes. Homeownership has historically been the single most important wealth-building tool available to families in this country. However, homeownership, as we know it, is at risk. The foreclosure crisis has all but erased the gains we have made in increasing homeownership rates, especially for minorities; and the gains those families thought they had achieved through increases in home equity have also diminished as now 20 percent of homeowners owe more on their homes than they are worth.

The combination of unemployment, unsustainable and predatory mortgages, and uncooperative mortgage servicers has created a perfect storm of record rates, of loan defaults and foreclosures. According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, a record 12 percent of mortgages are either in default or in foreclosure. According to the Center For Responsible Lending, 6,500 foreclosures occur each day in the United States. By the end of 2009, there will be 2.4 million families in foreclosure. We must keep families in their homes, and this Congress and the administration have developed programs to do just that. For example, the Making Home Affordable program, announced by President Barack Obama in March, builds on legislation I introduced at the beginning of this Congress to end this unending avalanche of foreclosures.

Despite the commitment from the administration and Congress to reduce foreclosures, mortgage servicers have been reluctant to modify troubled loans. In fact, NeighborWorks recently found in its survey of housing counseling agencies that servicers are generally uncooperative. They take up to 60 days to respond to requests and frequently lose important documents. In order to be true to the spirit of National Homeownership Month, I call on all mortgage servicers to fully participate in the Making Home Affordable program and to work with families to maintain their ownership.

Vulnerable homeowners are also threatened by scam artists who offer to