

I would like to spend a few moments today focusing on how this bill affects our area of south Florida.

Since coming to Congress, I have been committed, along with my Democrat and Republican colleagues, to working to make sure with the Florida delegation and with Members throughout the country that they support Federal Government obligations to restore the incomparable River of Grass, which is known as the Everglades.

I was very pleased that President Obama, in his budget request, met his promise and followed up on that to make Everglades restoration a priority. Although the \$210 million in this bill doesn't quite match the President's request, the fact remains that this bill makes Everglades restoration its biggest construction project.

I commend the chairman and ranking member for keeping Everglades restoration as a national priority. It is historical.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3183's commitment to Florida's priorities are also something to be mentioned. The beaches of south Florida are some of the most beautiful in the Nation, but our coasts are facing a real crisis. They have become seriously eroded, endangering both the personal property and the personal safety of residents and guests. My district in south Florida encompasses over 75 miles of beautiful coastline on the Atlantic, and it has numerous shore protection projects, but many are mired in the Army Corps of Engineers' permitting process.

There are many reasons why the permitting process is not as efficient as it could be, but one problem we can address right here is the understaffing at the Army Corps of Engineers. For example, Palm Beach County, which is one of the counties I represent in south Florida, was forced to pay out of its taxpayer dollars the salary of an additional Army Corps of Engineers staffer to deal with the county's many projects awaiting some Army Corps action. In essence, Palm Beach County became fed up with waiting year after year for the Corps to act on their permit applications, so they are now paying for the extra Army Corps employee to do his job.

Mr. Speaker, this is a ridiculous situation that is unfair to the taxpayers of south Florida, who are paying their fair share here up in Washington. That is why I filed an amendment that was accepted as part of Chairman PASTOR's manager's amendment. This language, combined with increases in the underlying bill, will add \$11.8 million on top of last year's funding level to fund more staff and to support more personnel to help act on a more efficient basis with regard to these permits. This sizable investment will unclog the permitting pipeline that is hurting so many of our coastal communities. They deserve a timely decision so they can determine the best ways to protect their residents and the natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, south Florida and the entire country need greater strategic investment in our Nation's priorities. This particular bill, H.R. 3183, will put us on a path towards energy independence in addition to a number of other bills we've already put on the table and have sent to the President. The only way we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil is to invest in a multitude of technologies and to make these technologies right here in the United States, creating the jobs right here. This bill invests in solar and wind energy in order to make our electricity cleaner. At the same time, it also invests in weatherization and in energy efficiency to bring down costs for consumers and businesses. The bill includes investments in clean coal technology and nuclear energy research so that we can unleash these innovations and create high-quality American jobs.

The bill also makes critical investments in vehicle technology so that our gas tanks get more miles per gallon, which will save us money at the pump. Of course, using less gasoline means we will import less gasoline, and that is an essential national security item because, currently, we are importing 60 percent of our oil from unstable countries around the world that, in many cases, are financing terrorism and drug trafficking with our petrodollars. I believe that a transition to new energy sources will ensure that we do not continue to send billions of dollars to countries that are, at best, not our friends and, at worst, are our enemies. My strongest belief is that we should never again have to make a foreign policy decision based on where the next drop of oil is coming from.

Lastly, H.R. 3183 builds on the recently passed American Clean Energy Security Act and Recovery Act, which has jump-started American investment in this new energy economy I've been talking about. I truly believe this is an historic moment and an extraordinary opportunity to create jobs in south Florida and throughout the Nation and to unleash a new generation of energy technology built right here in America.

I am proud to support H.R. 3183, and I am looking forward to seeing the results on the ground in south Florida.

#### H.R. 3036: BRINGING SUNSHINE TO COSTS OF CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL OVERSEAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, many Members of the House may have seen a recent Wall Street Journal article that documented how existing disclosure requirements allow many of the costs associated with congressional delegation trips overseas, known as CODELS, to go unreported.

Right now, when Members of Congress take foreign trips using commercial airlines, the costs are publicly dis-

closed in reports published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. However, the costs of Members' foreign trips using military aircraft are not. In the past, Members of Congress have used military aircraft even when traveling to exotic locations that are readily served by commercial airlines. Press reports have indicated that the military even maintains a specially outfitted VIP fleet, operated out of Andrews Air Force Base, where aircraft can carry costs estimated at \$10,000 per hour.

When a Member of Congress takes a taxpayer-funded trip overseas, taxpayers have a right to know how much of their hard-earned money is being spent on that travel. For this reason, I recently introduced H.R. 3036.

This legislation would direct the Department of Defense to provide a report on the costs incurred in taking a Member of Congress, an officer or an employee of Congress on a trip outside the United States. It would then require the Member of Congress to disclose those costs, and these costs would be publicly reported online.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that this bill would not apply to any trip for which the sole purpose would be to visit one or more U.S. military installations or to visit U.S. military personnel in a war zone, since there may be varied security reasons for not disclosing the costs of these trips.

With an ever-growing national debt and with our military budget stretched thin, it is more important than ever that Congress acts as a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Bringing sunshine to the costs of Members' foreign travel will help ensure taxpayer dollars are efficiently used.

I am pleased that this legislation has received the support of the National Taxpayers Union, of Eagle Forum and of Public Citizens Congress Watch. It has also been endorsed by the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste. Their letter of support for this bill states:

"Military aircraft is necessary when flying into war zones or U.S. military installations overseas; however, the military fleet is too often used to shuttle Members back and forth to locations served by commercial airliners. Members of Congress should be held accountable for every bill footed by taxpayers."

Again, that statement that I just read is from a letter that the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste wrote to support this legislation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of this letter for the RECORD.

In closing, I hope my colleagues will become cosponsors of H.R. 3036, and will join in bringing transparency to the cost of foreign travel by Members of Congress.

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS AGAINST  
GOVERNMENT WASTE,

Washington, DC., June 29, 2009.

House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Congressman Walter Jones (R-N.C.) recently introduced H.R.

3036, a bill that would bring transparency to taxpayer-funded overseas trips taken by members of Congress. On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

The military maintains a specially outfitted VIP fleet out of Andrews Air Force Base that can cost up to \$10,000 per hour to operate. Members of Congress often take advantage of these military aircraft for overseas travel, even in instances where commercial flights are readily available and more cost-effective. The cost of commercial airline travel is publicly disclosed, but the cost of travel on military-owned jets is not provided.

H.R. 3036 would require the Secretary of Defense to determine and disclose the cost of foreign trips for members of Congress using military aircraft. These costs would then be publicly reported online through the House Clerk's website.

Military aircraft is necessary when flying into war zones or U.S. military installations overseas; however, the military fleet is too often used to shuttle members to back and forth to locations served by commercial airliners.

Members of Congress should be held accountable for every bill footed by taxpayers. All votes on H.R. 3036 will be among those considered in CCAGW's 2009 Congressional Ratings.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. SCHATZ,  
President.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MASSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MASSA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE TRAGEDY OF A SOCIALIST AMERICA AND ITS DESTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, this is not a roadmap. This is the Democrats' new health care plan, all of these white things. Can you believe that? I was just talking to my colleague over there, Mr. POE from Texas.

All of these white things are new agencies of government, new agencies of government that we're going to have to pay for in order to take care of the health of the Nation. Now, this thing is going to cost between \$1 and \$3 trillion over the next 10 years, and I doubt seriously if anybody who is writing this 1,200-page bill, or whatever it is, knows what this stuff does. It's just crazy. Look at all of these agencies. Look at the minefields that people have to go through to get to their doctors down there at the end to take care of their health care needs.

Other countries that have used this kind of an approach ration health care for senior citizens. They ration health care for people who have certain kinds of diseases. They have to wait months and months and months for MRIs and

for other things that we would get very rapidly here in the United States because we have the highest quality of health care in the world, and so we are going to create a government bureaucracy.

I hope my colleagues back in their offices are looking at this, because most of them haven't seen this.

We are creating a government bureaucracy that looks worse than any Federal highway system like in California. I mean you can't even find your way around this thing, but that's not the worst of it.

Since last October, this is how much money we've spent: \$700 billion on the TARP program, which includes \$54 billion for the auto bailout, which we really didn't need to do because they filed for bankruptcy anyhow, so that \$54 billion was wasted. Who cares. That's just taxpayers' money. Then we had \$1.1 trillion, including interest, for the stimulus package, which is not working, because they said that was going to keep unemployment below 8 percent. Now it is 9.5 and is going up like a rocket, so that didn't work. That's \$1.1 trillion. On the omnibus spending bill, we had \$410 billion. The defense supplemental was \$106 billion. Now, there may have been some necessity for that. The SCHIP bill was \$73 billion. The cap-and-trade is going to cost every family in this country between \$1,000 and \$3,000 a year in additional expenses for turning on their lights or for putting gasoline in their cars or for getting gas to heat their homes. Then there's this health care bill, which will be \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion, and I'll tell you: It is going to be a lot more than that.

Let me tell you a little story, my colleagues who may be paying attention. When I was a state senator, the Federal Government came into Indiana and said, If you don't take the Medicaid bill, we're going to withdraw \$2.5 million in Federal highway funds. They were blackmailing the State of Indiana into taking the Medicaid program by saying that we were going to lose \$2.5 million if we didn't take it.

I went up to the Senate floor, and I said, Hey, it's going to cost us 10 times this amount of money if we do take Medicaid. I said it would cost about \$25 million. Do you know how much that costs now? Between \$1 billion and \$2 billion a year. I was so far off it isn't funny.

This thing right here is not going to cost \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion. It's going to cost trillions more than that. It's going to reduce the quality of health care. It's going to cause the rationing of health care, and it's going to ruin the system of health care we have in this country. It's just a tragedy that this is happening.

This administration is moving as rapidly as they can toward a socialistic form of government, and everybody in this country ought to know it. They are trying to control and are controlling the investment business, the bank-

ing business, the automobile business; with cap-and-trade, they're controlling the energy business; and now the health care business. This is really a tragic time for America, and I hope everybody in this country who may be paying attention will really take a close look at this and will call their Congressman if they are paying attention.

I know I can't address them, Mr. Speaker, but if I were addressing the American people, I would say, Contact your Congressman and tell him you don't want this mess passed into law. It is going to jeopardize the quality of your health care here in America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### CALLING FOR BOYCOTT OF STELLA D'ORO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I want to call everyone's attention to something that is happening in my district. It is actually very disgraceful. There is a plant called Stella D'oro. Everyone knows about Stella D'oro, the cookies and the cakes that they make. In fact, for many years I spoke about Stella D'oro with a sense of pride. When I appeared on the Colbert show, I took out a package of cookies, of bread sticks of Stella D'oro's and talked with pride about some of the things that were being made in my district.

The Stella D'oro company was founded in 1932 and was family run until they sold to RJR Nabisco in 1992. RJR Nabisco became a part of Kraft Foods. It was taken over by Kraft. And what happened was, Kraft Foods then sold Stella D'oro to a company called Brynwood Partners. Brynwood Partners really doesn't care about running this place or being fair to its workers. It really only cares about the bottom line. So what they did was they pushed the workers, and they told them that in order to keep their jobs, in order to finance their purchase of Stella D'oro, the workers would have to take a 25 percent pay cut for its 135 workers, many of whom had worked there for decades, were proud of the product