□ 1045

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3165, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009.

My home State of Nebraska is sixth in the Nation in wind energy potential, yet lacks in transmission capacity and development for additional generation. As this legislation made its way through the Science and Technology Committee, we adopted my amendment, which will allow for research and development into ways to efficiently and cost effectively create high-voltage transmission for renewable energy.

America needs a comprehensive national energy plan. An all-of-the-above approach to our energy policy, one which includes offshore oil and gas production, as well as the advancement of technologies to develop alternative sources of energy such as wind power, needs to be on the table.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to grow our dependency on wind power to meet this Nation's energy needs, it is important, critically important that we move forward aggressively with all efforts towards energy efficiency. This measure will do that. I strongly encourage our colleagues to support H.R. 3165.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 447) recognizing the remarkable contributions of the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service to the engineering industry and the Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 447

Whereas the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and its thousands of member firms are celebrating the Council's 100th anniversary in 2009;

Whereas the ACEC is the oldest and largest business association of America's engineering industry, representing more than 5,000 engineering firms that employ 500,000 professionals, engaged in a wide range of practices that propel our economy and ensure a high quality of life for all people in the United States;

Whereas the ACEC represents engineers in private practice, who design the infrastructure, energy, and technological projects that ensure our Nation enjoys the highest standard of living in the world and continues to compete successfully in the 21st century economy;

Whereas the ACEC member firms have been responsible for many of the Nation's most significant achievements over the past 100 years, including the roads, bridges, subways, airports, buildings, industrial facilities, and water systems that are the most advanced in the world; and

Whereas the ACEC member firms have also been at the forefront of the environmental movement, cleaning up hazardous waste sites and incorporating sustainable solutions in infrastructure works: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. 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 House Resolution 447, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 447, recognizing the remarkable contributions of the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service to the engineering industry and our Nation. I also want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. SHULER) for introducing this resolution.

The American Council of Engineering Companies is the oldest and largest business association representing America's engineering industry. It represents more than 5,000 engineering firms that employ more than 500,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, scientists and others. Its members engage in a wide range of engineering work, including designing the infrastructure, energy and technological projects that contribute to our economy and our quality of life.

The American Council of Engineering Companies traces its roots back to 1909, when a group of engineers in private practice established the American Institute of Consulting Engineers. Today, the American Council of Engineering Companies is a large federation of 51 State and regional councils representing a large section of America's engineering industry.

I congratulate the American Council of Engineering Companies on its 100 years of service and urge passage of House Resolution 447.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today, of course, in support of House Resolution 447, recognizing the very remarkable contributions of the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service to the engineering industry and to the Nation. ACEC is a large federation of 51 State and regional councils representing the great breadth of America's engineering industry. This includes one of the largest councils serving 325 firms in my home State of Texas.

ACEC represents more than 5,000 engineering firms that employ more than 500,000 engineers, architects, land surveyors, scientists and other specialists responsible for more than $100 billion of private and public works annually.

It's an effective and growing advocate for advancing the practice of consulting engineering and the promotion of private enterprise, working to further the business interests and opportunities of the world's most respected engineering companies, those that design and build the roads, the bridges, the subways and the airports, industrial facilities and water systems of America. These buildings and infrastructure have truly been the backbone of American commerce and industry during the last 100 years. The ACEC member companies that have helped to construct them will no doubt be on the front lines of the economic recovery that lies ahead of us.

I commend ACEC and its member companies and employees for the immeasurable service and contribution to the country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 447, which recognizes the significant contributions of the American Council of Engineering Companies during its 100 years of service.

The American Council of Engineering Companies, or ACEC, represents more than 5,000 engineering firms across the Nation who work to enhance and safeguard America's quality of life. These companies are involved in every aspect of our economy, from highways and infrastructure to drinking water to new technologies. In 1909, a loosely organized group of engineers in private practice established the American Institute of Consulting Engineers, AICE, the forerunner of ACEC.

Since then, the organization has grown to encompass member firms that employ more than hundreds of thousands of engineers, architects, land surveyors, scientists and other specialists

responsible for more than $200 billion of public and private works annually.

There are now 51 State and regional ACEC counsels, including a chapter in my State of Arkansas. The 2008–2009 Arkansas chapter president, Jerry Martin; vice president, Matt Crafton; treasurer, Barry McCormick; and state director, Brent Massey, all are doing a tremendous job. I can attest firsthand to the Arkansas chapter's hard work and the tremendous job that they have done in contributing to the State of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, the American Council of Engineering Companies' mission is to contribute to America's prosperity and welfare. I believe they do just that, and I commend the Council and their members for 100 years of outstanding service to the United States and urge adoption of H. Res. 447.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to Representative EARL BLUMENAUER of the State of Oregon. He is an outspoken voice for energy and environment matters and understands the role of engineers in that entire process.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his leadership.

If you spend a little time around here and work on a variety of issues, occasionally the various awards and honorary memberships come your way. Well, I am pleased to be an honorary fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Nothing gives me more pride.

In the fight to rebuild and renew America, the American Council of Engineering Companies is in the forefront. ACEC provides, as referenced by my colleagues on the floor, the technical know-how to plan, develop design projects and help manage them through construction. These companies are at the heart of the essential building blocks of the built environment, the bridges, roads, water, sanitation, transit, rail, buildings, environmental protection and cleanup. They are leaders in the policy areas as well.

We have watched the engineering profession provide leadership and insight, counsel and advice in dealing with the reauthorization of our transportation bill, dealing with the recent legislation we have offered for a water trust fund, and with the reinstitution of the Superfund, the accountability that the ASCE has provided with an invaluable report card on the State of American infrastructure. They have done the study on a repeated basis, most recently issuing a new report that showed that we are still rated about a ''D'' in all the different categories. They do this on an ongoing basis to provide information that policymakers, businesses, the media can rely upon. Nobody else does it as well and as systematically.

For years, Congress has ducked the tough questions of accountability and finance. Here again, ACEC is in the forefront.

There are lots of jokes about engineers and the pocket-protector crowd, but I am deeply appreciative of how the American Council of Engineering Companies, and their thousands of engineers across the country, are playing a critical role in rebuilding and renewing America and making sure our communities are more liveable, our families are safer, healthier and more economically secure.

I hope our Members not only celebrate this 100th anniversary, but maybe use this as an opportunity to take the time to look at the resources that ACEC gives to us to help us do our job better.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan, Dr. EHLERS.

Mr. EHLERS. I thank you for recognizing me, and I wish to join in the accolades. You just heard from the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) about the pocket-protector crowd, and I am proud to say that I am a member of the pocket-protector crowd, although I am not an engineer; I am a physicist. But I rise to commend the engineers for the work that they do and to recognize not just the companies—you have already heard all the companies lauded, and they do great and marvelous work—but the engineers behind it are also essential.

Whenever you step on an elevator, whenever you drive your car, whenever you go down a road or across a bridge, you are using engineering products. Throughout your entire life everything you touch, almost everything you do is related to engineers who designed and built the objects that you are using.

We fail to recognize the importance of this. Other countries have not failed to. India, for example, which has a much bigger population than the U.S., is now producing more engineers than we do.

China, with a very large population, is producing considerably more engineers than we do. If we want to maintain our preeminent position as a Nation, we have to provide more emphasis and more incentives to engineers, and especially incentives to students to get into the engineering profession.

And that is why it is extremely important that we improve our math and science curricula in the elementary and secondary schools, because it has become true that if students don't study enough math or science in the elementary and secondary schools, they will not go into engineering when they get to the university because they simply don't have the right background. So it is essential that we develop better programs and better-trained teachers for elementary and secondary school math and science courses, so that we can once again capture the lead in engineering and manufacturing that we have had for many years and which we are in danger of losing.

So I urge that, as we celebrate what this particular organization has done, we also recognize that they need good engineers to accomplish their objectives and we, as a Congress, have a responsibility to make sure that we train the people who will become the engineers of the future.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, as an engineer serving in the House, I want to commend Representative SHULER for his work on House Resolution 447, which recognizes the American Council of Engineering Companies for its 100 years of service. Obviously the impact made by engineers and related scientists on our society is profound.

We need them to continue through their professionalism to lead us along the ways of discovery of creating new concepts and certainly designs that will lift us as a society. This Nation relies heavily on their professionalism and their services, and they will be those agents that transition this economy to an innovation economy.

So I would ask that our colleagues strongly support House Resolution 447.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 447.

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. TONKO. Mr. 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.

□ 1100

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL AEROSPACE DAY

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 167), supporting the goals and ideals of National Aerospace Day, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 167

Whereas the missions to the Moon by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are recognized around the globe as one of the most outstanding achievements of humankind;

Whereas the United States is a leader in the International Space Station, the first permanent human habitation and scientific laboratory in space;

Whereas the first aircraft flight occurred in the United States, and the United States operates the largest and safest aviation system in the world;