

including heavy duty plug-in hybrid trucks.

Again, I thank Congressman SENSENBRENNER for introducing this bill, and Chairman GORDON for helping to advance it. I think it makes good sense and deserves passage.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I again commend Representative SENSENBRENNER for his work on H.R. 445, which will speak to heavy duty hybrid vehicle research and development. The deployment of the improvements that we can make in that transportation sector will aid us tremendously in responding favorably to the environment and to our energy needs. For that purpose and many of the related energy and environment benefits that come from such research and development, I strongly urge our colleagues to support H.R. 445.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder 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, H.R. 445, 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 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ACT

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 556) recognizing the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and the vibrant Federal credit union community that was created as a result of this important piece of legislation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 556

Whereas, on June 26, 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law the Federal Credit Union Act, thus enabling credit unions to be organized throughout the United States under the charters approved by the Federal Government;

Whereas the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act enabled credit unions to play an instrumental role in helping hard-working people in the United States recover after the Great Depression;

Whereas credit unions have continued to exemplify the American values of thrift, self-help, and volunteerism, carving out a special place for themselves among the Nation's financial institutions;

Whereas credit unions operate with the credo, "Not for profit, not for charity, but for service" and have consistently reflected this philosophical tradition and the cooperative spirit of "people helping people" that gave birth to the Federal Credit Union Act;

Whereas credit unions continue to provide valuable services to their members, financial

alternatives for the underserved, and economic stimulus to our Nation even as we face a financial crisis today; and

Whereas, June 26, 2009, will mark the 75th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Credit Union Act: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and the vibrant Federal credit union community that was created as a result of this landmark piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIMES. 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 gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 1934, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law the Federal Credit Union Act, establishing the Federal credit union system and creating the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, the predecessor to the National Credit Union Administration, to charter and oversee Federal credit unions. June 26, 2009 marked the 75th anniversary of the passage of that act to create a not-for-profit financial institution formed for the purpose of promoting thrift among its members and providing them with a source of low-cost credit.

Given the presence of some of the oldest Federal credit unions in my home State of Connecticut and their important role that they play in their communities, I am pleased to offer this resolution.

Today there are more than 4,700 federally chartered credit unions. Together they serve nearly 50 million Americans and have nearly \$500 billion in combined assets. In my district alone, Federal credit unions serve about 60,000 members and manage approximately \$430 million in assets. Private sector organizations such as Pitney Bowes, the Fairfield University employees, Arnold Bakers run Federal credit unions. The Bridgeport police, Bridgeport hospital run successful credit unions, labor organizations such as the UFCW Local 371 are running successful Federal credit unions.

In these turbulent times, the not-for-profit cooperative business model of credit unions has been an example of safety and soundness providing credit at reasonable rates and important financial services to its members. Federal credit unions continue to seek opportunities to extend crucial financial services to underserved areas. They are inherently invested in the their mem-

bers and in their communities and have helped their members in these troubling economic times by promoting financial security and economic well-being for all.

I am happy to recognize the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and to acknowledge their valuable services to their members and communities across the Nation.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the legislation, and I commend my colleague on the other side of the aisle as well for his work on this piece as well and his support.

If you look to the legislation, page 2, I think this is an interesting portion and it really cuts to the quick of what we're talking about with regard to credit unions. It says: whereas credit unions operate with the credo, not for profit, not for charity, but for service and have consistently reflected this philosophical tradition and the cooperative spirit of people helping people that gave birth to the Federal Credit Union Act.

Well, when you think about it, that is exactly what the credit union industry is in this country: not for profit, not for charity but for service. And when I think of my district back in the great State of New Jersey in the Fifth Congressional District and the credit unions that are in that area, whether it was the very first credit union that I ever joined when I worked for Selective Insurance Company many years ago and the services that they provided to the employees of that company or other credit unions that have grown up over time in the various counties in northwest New Jersey and across the State of New Jersey, working to fill a particular niche for their members that perhaps were not being met by the rest of the industries for these individuals, they were doing so in a manner that was not for profit, the people coming together and saying that there is a need to be fulfilled and that they were going to make sure that they served it.

Now, it's interesting as I come to the floor here to speak to the benefits of credit unions that our country has seen over the last several decades. I just returned from meeting with officials from the European Union and also from Great Britain where they, right now, in light of all the financial difficulties they are experiencing in their financial markets, are looking across the Atlantic to see whether they can learn some things from us to see what they can do to provide, A, some services and, B, some stability to their markets as well.

And you know what the number one thing that the Conservative Party, the folks who I met with over there, said that they wanted to do and that was in Great Britain was to provide credit unions for the people of that country.

So they have a problem that's a little bit different from our country and that is that we have the traditional entrepreneurial spirit in the banking industry, that we have so many banks across the country, which is a good thing that provides services from the small individual right up to the large. They don't have it quite as extensively as we do in this country, and so they have a need even greater than we do to provide that niche marketplace for the individual.

So they will be looking to the United States to take the lead in this area and probably emulate much of what we have already learned and instituted with regard to the solvency issues and the prudential regulation issues and the like in that industry. So it's good to come back to the United States and say that in this area we have been a leader on this matter, and I stand in support of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey. It's good to know that as we do the hard work of recasting the regulatory apparatus in this country, that there are models including the credit unions that others are looking to as things that we do right.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this bill. As we mark a year of near collapse of the American financial system, we're still trying to sort out exactly what happened and how to ensure it never happens again, to allow reckless behavior to drive our economy into the ditch.

With that as a background, it is appropriate for us to commemorate the 75 years of service by one part of the financial sector that didn't add to the problem, America's credit unions. Starting 75 years ago as small scale not-for-profit groups of people joined together to provide essential affordable financial services, we have watched it grow over the years. Personally, I can testify as a satisfied member of credit unions for over 25 years, including two currently, I've had firsthand experience of the personal, high-quality service. While certainly they've grown and expanded their services and membership over the years, we've seen that they still work well, managing to provide helpful competition.

When some of the largest banks in this country have stopped lending, not so with credit unions. Indeed, most credit unions have continued to lend to individuals and small businesses around the country, despite the challenging economic climate. Unlike many other lenders, credit unions saw their loans increase by 7 percent to over \$575 billion in 2008, up about \$35 billion from the previous year. By providing financial diversity, credit unions lend strength to American communities. By providing competition for other financial institutions, credit

unions help hold down costs for borrowers and provide greater access to capital, more choices for individuals.

And on a small scale, I've watched as they've worked with people who otherwise would have fallen prey to payday lenders to design short-term loans to help people in financial difficulty who may not be particularly financially sophisticated.

I thank the gentleman for introducing this legislation. I think it's important to recognize the contributions of the credit unions and to continue to work with them to provide their vital services to American consumers.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I now yield such time as he may consume to Mr. ROYCE.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for sponsoring this resolution. And this resolution recognizes the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and the vibrant Federal credit union community that was created as a result of this important piece of legislation. The purpose of this law passed back in 1934 was to make credit available and to promote savings through a national system of nonprofit cooperative credit unions.

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This act established what is now the federal credit union system, and it created the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, which eventually became the National Credit Union Administration. Its intent was to charter and to regulate Federal credit unions.

While much of the economic downturn originated in the financial crisis, credit unions, for the most part, did not play a major role in the excessive risk-taking, over-leveraging or lax underwriting standards. Unlike many of the other mortgage originators throughout the housing bubble, credit unions held most of the mortgages they originated. They held them in their portfolios. As of late last year, roughly 70 percent of credit union mortgage originations were held in portfolio with only 30 percent having been sold into the secondary market.

Because credit unions generally took a conservative approach to banking, they avoided many of the problems that we saw in other institutions. This approach has left them well-suited to play a significant role in the economic recovery.

Certainly, the 90 million credit union members nationwide will continue to rely on these institutions for their everyday banking needs. I think it is worth noting the impact credit unions have had on communities around the world. Credit unions provide a great opportunity for people to pool resources. Thereby, they create an important source of liquidity for personal or capital investment.

Serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee has given me the opportunity to work on issues impacting countries

around the globe and to see credit unions at work around the globe. In this capacity, I have seen credit unions take shape and give hope to thousands looking for a better life.

Credit unions have helped and continue to help many African countries build a safe financial system for the first time. The fact of the matter is that credit unions work whether they're in Orange County, California or in Johannesburg, South Africa. They help families save hard-earned money, buy cars, purchase homes, and send their children to college. Indeed, credit unions are helping the futures of over 90 million members across this country and of countless others around the globe.

In closing, I would like to again thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for taking the lead on this resolution. Hopefully, the credit unions that have served so many communities around our country will continue to do great work.

Mr. HIMES. I thank the gentleman for his very apt observations.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, we are in agreement here that credit unions are unique entities to be studied for the fact that they better, perhaps than other entities in our financial services world, align the interests of their shareholders with the interests of their customers, and as the gentleman from Oregon observed, are often the first point of entry into the formal financial system for families and for people who otherwise would be using informal or shady mechanisms of credit. As my friend from New Jersey points out, they're a model internationally and not just for foreign countries but for those of us who are really intent on studying how one balances prudence with the necessity for the availability of credit.

I urge my colleagues to pass House Resolution 556, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would just close then by thanking the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for taking the lead role as the Republican sponsor of this legislation and also for his work in the past with regard and on behalf of credit unions as well and also for making the significant point that he just did, which is, with regard to this time of financial crisis, that the American public could look to the resounding, strong support of the credit unions. So I thank Mr. ROYCE for his lead role, and I appreciate the role Mr. HIMES as well has played in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 556, which recognizes the 75th anniversary of the passage of the Federal Credit Union Act and the vibrant Federal credit union community that was created as a result of this important piece of legislation.

The Federal Credit Union Act was created to promote savings, fight against unfair lending practices and extend credit to people to whom banks and other financial institutions forgot.

I have long been a supporter of credit unions, especially federal credit unions. There was a period of time when the major banks and other financial institutions abandoned many Los Angeles communities, including those within my district. Federal credit unions did the opposite and decided to invest in the people of communities such as Inglewood, Hawthorne, Gardena and Manhattan Beach. Credit unions have made a strong commitment to serve the communities where their members reside and have created a model more financial institutions should follow.

I am proud to recognize the improvements credit unions have made in Los Angeles and across our country. I urge other members to join me in supporting H. Res. 556.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 556.

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.

PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY IN FINANCIAL REPORTING ACT OF 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2664) to require annual oral testimony before the Financial Services Committee of the Chairperson or a designee of the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, relating to their efforts to promote transparency in financial reporting.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2664

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 "Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Transparent and clear financial reporting is integral to the continued growth and strength of our capital markets and the confidence of investors.

(2) The increasing detail and volume of accounting, auditing, and reporting guidance pose a major challenge.

(3) The complexity of accounting and auditing standards in the United States has added to the costs and effort involved in financial reporting.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL TESTIMONY ON REDUCING COMPLEXITY IN FINANCIAL REPORTING.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board shall annually provide oral testi-

mony by their respective Chairpersons or a designee of the Chairperson, beginning in 2009, and for 5 years thereafter, to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives on their efforts to reduce the complexity in financial reporting to provide more accurate and clear financial information to investors, including—

(1) reassessing complex and outdated accounting standards;

(2) improving the understandability, consistency, and overall usability of the existing accounting and auditing literature;

(3) developing principles-based accounting standards;

(4) encouraging the use and acceptance of interactive data; and

(5) promoting disclosures in "plain English".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2664, the Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act, drafted by the gentleman from New York, Congressman CHRIS LEE.

I commend his work on this bill, H.R. 2664. It is a bipartisan bill that is also sponsored by Congressmen DAVID SCOTT, GEOFF DAVIS, MIKE CASTLE, and ADAM PUTNAM.

Following the financial crisis our country faced last year, it is clear that we need to improve the oversight and transparency of the financial services industry. This bill would require the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to provide annual testimony to Congress for 5 years. Their testimony will help us to understand and support their efforts to reduce the complexity in financial reporting and to provide more accurate and clear financial information to investors.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I commend Congressman LEE for his work on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEE of New York. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2664, the Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act.

I would like to thank the cosponsors of this bipartisan measure, including Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, who championed this proposal in earlier Congresses, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

Every day, I hear from constituents who are experiencing a great amount of anxiety over what is happening to their portfolios—from younger families who are trying to save for their first homes or older workers who have had to put off long-planned retirements. While they certainly understand most of these losses can be attributed to the turmoil of our economy, we now know the role that faulty financial reporting, be it intentional or otherwise, played in affecting investors' decisions.

This issue, of course, features prominently in ongoing discussions of regulatory reform frameworks, and rightly so. We won't be able to fully restore investor and consumer confidence unless we have a system that allows for the clearest and most accurate financial reporting. That's why we need transparency.

It's not enough, however, just to pursue and to promote transparency for its own sake. Having run a business, I know that, if you want to have a healthy corporate environment, you have to have sound financial reporting. I also understand how time-consuming and costly these accounting processes can be. So it is critical, in bringing information to light, that we also take care to identify the complexities that trip up everyone from small businesses to large corporations and then pursue reforms that may simplify and improve the process.

That's why, with this simple bipartisan measure, we would require annual congressional testimony by the Securities and Exchange Commission, by the Financial Accounting Standards Board and by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board on efforts being undertaken to reduce the complexity and costs of financial reporting and to increase transparency for investors.

Specifically, H.R. 2664 helps Congress exercise legitimate oversight authority to hold these institutions accountable for protecting taxpayers and for making progress on the following critical issues: First, reassessing complex and outdated accounting standards; second, increasing the usability of the existing accounting and auditing literature; third, developing principle-based accounting standards; fourth, encouraging the use and acceptance of interactive data; and fifth, promoting disclosure in plain English.

This bipartisan Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act represents a critical step towards protecting taxpayers by creating a process for simplifying and for improving our financial reporting framework. I urge the immediate passage of this important bipartisan legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, the Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act will help provide greater transparency and clarity for investors. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.