

Jeremiah Monroe was just 31 years old. He quit his job last year as a tradesman to enlist in the Army. He wanted to support his daughter and the extended family and serve the Nation he loved and the ideals for which he gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Private First Class Monroe was willing to give his life in service to all of us and to the country that he loved. The expression of our gratitude for his sacrifice to our Nation is beyond words.

Jeremiah is survived by his mother, Dolores Monroe; his brother, Robert Monroe, Jr.; his 9-year-old daughter, Delilah Rose; and her mother, Michelle. On behalf of a grateful Nation, our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Monroe family, who lost four relatives in the last 18 months, including Jeremiah's father, Robert Monroe, Sr.

As we stand on this floor and debate the profound issues of our time, let us never forget the true cost of the freedoms we so often take for granted.

#### KEEP GITMO OPEN

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Guantanamo Bay is a first-class detention center that cost American taxpayers \$100 million. But the administration is begging other countries around the world to accept the terrorists that are held there. In its attempt to farm out these terrorists, the administration may be sowing the seeds of future attacks, as the U.S. will have little say over how long these terrorists are held.

An interview with designated terrorist Abdul Haq should give all Americans cause for concern. Of the detainees who might be transferred to the island of Palau, at least eight have admitted that Haq was their leader.

In a recently translated interview, Haq is clear about his ties to the Taliban and al Qaeda. He glorifies attacks against Americans and our allies, and even blesses Osama bin Laden.

So, once again, why are we closing a first-class detention facility and putting terrorists in a position where they can do Americans harm?

#### THE PASSING OF RICHARD SHADYAC

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Richard Shadyac, who passed away last Wednesday at the age of 80. He was the former chief executive officer of the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities, also known as ALSAC, which is the fundraising arm of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Mr. Shadyac leaves a wife, Lynn, and two children; Richard, who will take on his work at ALSAC, and a son Tom who is distinguished in the entertainment industry.

Mr. Shadyac served as CEO of St. Jude for over 13 years. He led an effort that raised millions of dollars for the purpose of research treating childhood cancers and other diseases.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the leading hospital and research center on catastrophic illnesses in the Nation. It is located in Memphis, Tennessee. It was founded by Mr. Shadyac's good friend, Danny Thomas. After Mr. Thomas passed, Mr. Shadyac knew that they needed a new public face—and the new public face was the children—the children of St. Jude, who it serves.

Under his leadership, donations increased fourfold. He worked closely with the patients. He visited them often and stayed in touch with the families. He was a strong voice in the fight against cancer.

He was an important force here in Washington, where he represented the Lebanese Government at one point, and was one of the founders of the American Arab groups that worked to better relations with our Nation.

Our heart goes out to Mr. Shadyac's family and the St. Jude community. We will remember him for all of his good deeds and his work that will save many children's lives.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 21, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

*The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on Monday, September 21, 2009 at 5:18 p.m., and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress he has extended the national emergency with respect to those who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,

*Clerk of the House.*

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-64)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together

with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2009.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 21, 2009.

□ 1415

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 860) to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 860

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Amendment of Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000.

**TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT**

Sec. 101. Expansion of Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Sec. 102. Emergency response.

Sec. 103. National program.

Sec. 104. Report to Congress.

Sec. 105. Fund; grants; grounding inventory; coordination.

Sec. 106. Clarification of definitions.

Sec. 107. Authorization of appropriations.

**TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE**

Sec. 201. United States Coral Reef Task Force.

**TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF AUTHORITIES**

Sec. 301. Amendments relating to Department of the Interior program.

Sec. 302. Clarification of definitions.

**SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.).

**TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT**

**SEC. 101. EXPANSION OF CORAL REEF CONSERVATION PROGRAM.**

(a) **PROJECT DIVERSITY.**—Section 204(d) (16 U.S.C. 6403(d)) is amended—

(1) in the heading by striking “GEOGRAPHIC AND BIOLOGICAL” and inserting “PROJECT”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for—

“(A) projects (with priority given to community-based local action strategies) that address emerging priorities or threats, including international and territorial priorities, or threats identified by the Administrator in consultation with the United States Coral Reef Task Force; and

“(B) other appropriate projects, as determined by the Administrator, including monitoring and assessment, research, pollution reduction, education, and technical support.”.

(b) **APPROVAL CRITERIA.**—Section 204(g) (16 U.S.C. 6403(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” after the semicolon in paragraph (9);

(2) by striking paragraph (10); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) promoting activities designed to minimize the likelihood of vessel impacts on coral reefs, particularly those areas identified under section 210(b), including the promotion of ecologically sound navigation and anchorages near coral reefs; or

“(11) promoting and assisting entities to work with local communities, and all appropriate governmental and nongovernmental organizations, to support community-based planning and management initiatives for the protection of coral reef ecosystems.”.

**SEC. 102. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.**

Section 206 (16 U.S.C. 6405) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 206. EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIONS.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may undertake or authorize action necessary—

“(1) to minimize the destruction of or injury to a coral reef, or loss of an ecosystem function of a coral reef, from—

“(A) vessel impacts, derelict fishing gear, vessel anchors, and anchor chains; and

“(B) from unforeseen or disaster-related circumstances as a result of human activities; and

“(2) to stabilize, repair, recover, or restore a coral reef that is destroyed or injured, or that has incurred the loss of an ecosystem function, as described in paragraph (1).

“(b) **VESSEL REMOVAL; STABILIZATION.**—Action authorized by subsection (a) includes vessel removal and emergency stabilization of the vessel or any impacted coral reef.

“(c) **PARTNERING WITH OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.**—When possible, action by the Administrator under this section should—

“(1) be conducted in partnership with other government agencies as appropriate, including—

“(A) the Coast Guard, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior; and

“(B) agencies of States; and

“(2) leverage resources of other agencies.

“(d) **EMERGENCY RESPONSE ASSISTANCE BY OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of any other Federal or State agency may assist the Administrator in emergency response actions under this section, using funds available for operations of the agency concerned.

“(2) **REIMBURSEMENT.**—The Administrator, subject to the availability of appropriations, may reimburse a Federal or State agency for assistance provided under paragraph (1).

“(e) **LIABILITY FOR COSTS AND DAMAGES TO CORAL REEFS.**—

“(1) **TREATMENT OF CORAL REEFS UNDER NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT.**—For purposes of the provisions set forth in paragraph (2), and subject to paragraph (5), each of the terms ‘sanctuary resources’, ‘resource’, ‘sanctuary resource managed under law or regulations for that sanctuary’, ‘national marine sanctuary’, ‘sanctuary resources of the national marine sanctuary’, and ‘sanctuary resources of other national marine sanctuaries’ is deemed to include any coral reef that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or any State, without regard to whether such coral reef is located in a national marine sanctuary.

“(2) **APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT.**—The provisions referred to in paragraph (1) are the following provisions of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act:

“(A) Paragraphs (6) and (7) of section 302 (16 U.S.C. 1432).

“(B) Paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of section 306 (16 U.S.C. 1436).

“(C) Section 307 (16 U.S.C. 1437).

“(D) Section 312 (16 U.S.C. 1443).

“(3) **EXEMPTIONS.**—The destruction, loss, or injury of a coral reef or any component thereof is not unlawful if it was—

“(A) caused by the use of fishing gear in a manner that is not prohibited under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) or other Federal or State law; or

“(B) caused by an activity that is authorized by Federal or State law, including any lawful discharge from a vessel of graywater, cooling water, engine exhaust, ballast water, or sewage from a marine sanitation device, unless the destruction, loss, or injury is a result of a vessel grounding, a vessel scraping,

anchor damage, or excavation that is not authorized by a Federal or State permit;

“(C) the necessary result of bona fide marine scientific research (including marine scientific research activities approved by Federal, State, or local permits), other than—

“(i) sampling or collecting; and

“(ii) destruction, loss, or injury that is a result of a vessel grounding, a vessel scraping, anchor damage, or excavation that is not authorized by a Federal or State permit; or

“(D)(i) caused by a Federal Government agency in—

“(I) an emergency that posed an unacceptable threat to human health or safety or to the marine environment;

“(II) an emergency that posed a threat to national security; or

“(III) an activity necessary for law enforcement purposes or search and rescue; and

“(ii) could not be avoided.

“(4) **CLARIFICATION OF LIABILITY.**—A person is not liable under this subsection if that person establishes that—

“(A) the destruction or loss of, or injury to, the coral reef or coral reef ecosystem was caused solely by an act of God, an act of war, or an act of omission of a third party, and the person acted with due care;

“(B) the destruction, loss, or injury was caused by an activity authorized by Federal or State law; or

“(C) the destruction, loss, or injury was negligible.

“(5) **STATE CONSENT REQUIRED.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—This subsection shall not apply to any coral reef that is subject to the jurisdiction of a State unless the Governor of that State notifies the Secretary that the State consents to that application.

“(B) **REVOCATION OF CONSENT.**—The governor of a State may revoke consent under subparagraph (A) by notifying the Secretary of such revocation.

“(6) **CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND TREATIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any action taken under the authority of this subsection must be consistent with otherwise applicable international laws and treaties.

“(B) **ACTIONS AUTHORIZED WITH RESPECT TO VESSELS.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), actions authorized under this subsection include vessel removal, and emergency re-stabilization of a vessel and any coral reef that is impacted by a vessel.

“(7) **LIABILITY UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS.**—Nothing in this title shall alter the liability of any person under any other provision of law.”.

**SEC. 103. NATIONAL PROGRAM.**

(a) **PURPOSE OF ACT.**—Section 202 (16 U.S.C. 6401) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (3) through (7), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) to promote the resilience of coral reef ecosystems;”.

(2) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(4) to develop sound scientific information on the condition of coral reef ecosystems and the threats to such ecosystems including large-scale threats related to climate change, such as ocean acidification, to benefit local communities and the Nation, and to the extent practicable to support and enhance management and research capabilities at local management agencies and local research and academic institutions;”;

(3) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end of

paragraph (7), as so redesignated, and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(8) to recognize the benefits of healthy coral reefs to island and coastal communities and to encourage Federal action to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the continued availability of those benefits.”

(b) **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL CORAL REEF ACTION STRATEGY.**—Section 203(b)(8) (16 U.S.C. 6402(b)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

“(8) conservation, including resilience and the consideration of island and local traditions and practices.”

(c) **AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ACTIVITIES TO CONSERVE CORAL REEFS AND CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS.**—Section 207(b) (16 U.S.C. 6406(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “cooperative conservation” and inserting “cooperative research, conservation,”; and

(B) by striking “partners.” and inserting “partners, including academic institutions located in States;”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) improving and promoting the resilience of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems; and

“(6) activities designed to minimize the likelihood of vessel impacts or other physical damage to coral reefs, including those areas identified in section 210(b).”

(d) **CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECT PROPOSALS.**—Section 204(g) (16 U.S.C. 6403(g)) is further amended by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (10), by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12), and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(11) improving and promoting the resilience of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems; or”

(e) **DATA ARCHIVE, ACCESS, AND AVAILABILITY.**—Section 207 (16 U.S.C. 6406) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b) (as amended by subsection (b) of this section) by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(7) centrally archiving, managing, and distributing data sets and providing coral reef ecosystem assessments and services to the general public with local, regional, or international programs and partners.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) **DATA ARCHIVE, ACCESS, AND AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary, in coordination with similar efforts at other Departments and agencies shall provide for the long-term stewardship of environmental data, products, and information via data processing, storage, and archive facilities pursuant to this title. The Secretary may—

“(1) archive environmental data collected by Federal, State, local agencies and tribal organizations and federally funded research;

“(2) promote widespread availability and dissemination of environmental data and information through full and open access and exchange to the greatest extent possible, including in electronic format on the Internet;

“(3) develop standards, protocols and procedures for sharing Federal data with State and local government programs and the private sector or academia; and

“(4) develop metadata standards for coral reef ecosystems in accordance with Federal Geographic Data Committee guidelines.”

#### SEC. 104. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 208 (16 U.S.C. 6407) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 208. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“Not later than March 1, 2010, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing all activities undertaken to implement the strategy, including—

“(1) a description of the funds obligated by each participating Federal agency to advance coral reef conservation during each fiscal year of the 5-fiscal-year period preceding the fiscal year in which the report is submitted;

“(2) a description of Federal interagency and cooperative efforts with States and non-governmental partner organizations to prevent or address overharvesting, coastal runoff, or other anthropogenic impacts on coral reef ecosystems, including projects undertaken with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Army Corps of Engineers;

“(3) a summary of the information contained in the vessel grounding inventory established under section 210, including additional authorization or funding, needed for response and removal of such vessels;

“(4) a description of Federal disaster response actions taken pursuant to the National Response Plan to address damage to coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems; and

“(5) an assessment of the condition of United States coral reefs, accomplishments under this Act, and the effectiveness of management actions to address threats to coral reefs, including actions taken to address large-scale threats to coral reef ecosystems related to climate change.”

#### SEC. 105. FUND; GRANTS; GROUNDING INVENTORY; COORDINATION.

The Act (16 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 205(a) (16 U.S.C. 6404(a)), by striking “organization solely” and all that follows and inserting “organization—

“(1) to support partnerships between the public and private sectors that further the purposes of this Act and are consistent with the national coral reef strategy under section 203; and

“(2) to address emergency response actions under section 206.”;

(2) by adding at the end of section 205(b) (16 U.S.C. 6404(b)) the following: “The organization is encouraged to solicit funding and in-kind services from the private sector, including nongovernmental organizations, for emergency response actions under section 206 and for activities to prevent damage to coral reefs, including areas identified in section 210(b)(2).”;

(3) in section 205(c) (16 U.S.C. 6404(c)), by striking “the grant program” and inserting “any grant program or emergency response action”;

(4) by redesignating sections 209 and 210 as sections 217 and 218, respectively; and

(5) by inserting after section 208 the following:

#### “SEC. 209. COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING GRANTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may make grants to entities that are eligible to receive grants under section 204(c) to provide additional funds to such entities to work with local communities and through appropriate Federal and State entities to prepare and implement plans for the increased protection of coral reef areas identified by the community and scientific experts as high priorities for focused attention. The plans shall—

“(1) support attainment of one or more of the criteria described in section 204(g);

“(2) be developed at the community level;

“(3) utilize where applicable watershed-based or ecosystem-based approaches;

“(4) provide for coordination with Federal and State experts and managers;

“(5) build upon local approaches or models, including traditional or island-based resource management concepts; and

“(6) complement local action strategies or regional plans for coral reef conservation.

“(b) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The provisions of subsections (b), (d), (f), and (h) of section 204 apply to grants under subsection (a), except that, for the purpose of applying section 204(b)(1) to grants under this section, ‘75 percent’ shall be substituted for ‘50 percent’.

#### “SEC. 210. VESSEL GROUNDING INVENTORY.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, in coordination with other Federal agencies, may maintain an inventory of all vessel grounding incidents involving coral reefs, including a description of—

“(1) the impacts to such resources;

“(2) vessel and ownership information, if available;

“(3) the estimated cost of removal, mitigation, or restoration;

“(4) the response action taken by the owner, the Administrator, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, or other Federal or State agency representatives;

“(5) the status of the response action, including the dates of vessel removal and mitigation or restoration and any actions taken to prevent future grounding incidents; and

“(6) recommendations for additional navigational aids or other mechanisms for preventing future grounding incidents.

“(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF AT-RISK REEFS.**—The Administrator may—

“(1) use information from any inventory maintained under subsection (a) or any other available information source to identify all coral reef areas that have a high incidence of vessel impacts, including groundings and anchor damage;

“(2) identify appropriate measures, including action by other agencies, to reduce the likelihood of such impacts; and

“(3) develop a strategy and timetable to implement such measures, including cooperative actions with other Government agencies and non-governmental partners.

#### “SEC. 211. REGIONAL, STATE, AND TERRITORIAL COORDINATION.

“(a) **REGIONAL COORDINATION.**—The Secretary and other Federal members of the United States Coral Reef Task Force shall work in coordination and collaboration with other Federal agencies and States to implement the strategies developed under section 203, including regional and local strategies, to address multiple threats to coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems such as coastal runoff, vessel impacts, and overharvesting.

“(b) **RESPONSE AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall enter into written agreements with any States in which coral reefs are located regarding the manner in which response and restoration activities will be conducted within the affected State’s waters. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit Federal response and restoration activity authority before any such agreement is final.

“(c) **COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS.**—All cooperative enforcement agreements in place between the Secretary and States affected by this title shall be updated to include enforcement of this title where appropriate.

#### “SEC. 212. AGREEMENTS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may execute and perform such contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.

“(b) FUNDING.—Under an agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary may fulfill the terms of the agreement by reimbursing or providing appropriated funds to, and may receive funds or reimbursements from, Federal agencies, instrumentalities and laboratories; State and local governments; Native American tribes and organizations; international organizations; foreign governments; universities and research centers; educational institutions; nonprofit organizations; commercial organizations; and other public and private persons or entities, as necessary for purposes identified in section 202 and actions taken under subsections (a) through (d) of section 206.

“(c) MULTIYEAR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator may enter into multiyear cooperative agreements with the heads of other Federal agencies, States, local governments, academic institutions, including marine laboratories and coral reef institutes, and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the activities of the national coral reef action strategy developed under section 203 and to implement regional strategies developed pursuant to section 211.

“(d) USE OF OTHER AGENCIES' RESOURCES.—For purposes related to the conservation, preservation, protection, restoration, or replacement of coral reefs or coral reef ecosystems and the enforcement of this title, the Administrator is authorized to use, with their consent and with or without reimbursement, the land, services, equipment, personnel, and facilities of any Department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, or of any State, local government, or Indian tribal government, or of any political subdivision thereof, or of any foreign government or international organization.

#### “SEC. 213. INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF CONSERVATION STRATEGY.

“(a) INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM STRATEGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and publish in the Federal Register, an international coral reef ecosystem strategy, consistent with the purposes of this title and the national strategy required pursuant to section 203(a). The Secretary shall periodically review and revise this strategy as necessary.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy developed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) identify coral reef ecosystems throughout the world that are of high value for United States marine resources, that support high-seas resources of importance to the United States such as fisheries, or that support other interests of the United States;

“(B) summarize existing activities by Federal agencies and entities described in subsection (b) to address the conservation of coral reef ecosystems identified pursuant to subparagraph (A);

“(C) establish goals, objectives, and specific targets for conservation of priority international coral reef ecosystems;

“(D) describe appropriate activities to achieve the goals and targets for international coral reef conservation, in particular those that leverage activities already conducted under this title;

“(E) develop a plan to coordinate implementation of the strategy with entities described in subsection (b) in order to leverage current activities under this title and other conservation efforts globally;

“(F) identify appropriate partnerships, grants, or other funding and technical assistance mechanisms to carry out the strategy; and

“(G) develop criteria for prioritizing partnerships under subsection (c).

“(b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, the Secretary of the Interior, and other relevant Federal agencies, and relevant United States stakeholders, and shall take into account coral reef ecosystem conservation initiatives of other nations, international agreements, and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations so as to provide effective cooperation and efficiencies in international coral reef conservation. The Secretary may consult with the United States Coral Reef Task Force in carrying out this subsection.

“(c) INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish an international coral reef ecosystem partnership program to provide support, including funding and technical assistance, for activities that implement the strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a).

“(2) MECHANISMS.—The Secretary shall provide such support working in collaboration with the entities described in subsection (b).

“(3) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may not approve a partnership proposal under this section unless the partnership is consistent with the international coral reef conservation strategy developed pursuant to subsection (a), and meets the criteria specified in that strategy.

“(d) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS CONDUCTED BY STATES.—In implementing this section, the Secretary shall give priority consideration to regional initiatives and projects that States are participating in with other nations.

#### “SEC. 214. PERMITS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may, in accordance with this section and regulations issued under this title, issue a permit authorizing the conduct of bona fide research.

“(b) EXEMPT ACTIVITIES.—No permit under this section is required for an activity that is exempt from liability under section 206(e).

“(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator may place any terms and conditions on a permit issued under this section that the Administrator deems reasonable.

“(d) FEES.—

“(1) ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION.—Subject to regulations issued under this title, the Administrator may assess and collect fees as specified in this subsection.

“(2) AMOUNT.—Any fee assessed shall be equal to the sum of—

“(A) all costs incurred, or expected to be incurred, by the Administrator in processing the permit application, including indirect costs; and

“(B) if the permit is approved, all costs incurred, or expected to be incurred, by the Administrator as a direct result of the conduct of the activity for which the permit is issued.

“(3) USE OF FEES.—Amounts collected by the Administrator in the form of fees under this section shall be collected and available for use only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts and may be used by the Administrator for issuing and administering permits under this section.

“(4) WAIVER OR REDUCTION OF FEES.—For any fee assessed under paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Administrator may—

“(A) accept in-kind contributions in lieu of a fee; or

“(B) waive or reduce the fee.

“(e) FISHING.—Nothing in this section shall be considered to require a person to obtain a

permit under this section for the conduct of any fishing activity that is not prohibited by this title or regulations issued under this title.

#### “SEC. 215. REGULATIONS; APPLICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.

“(a) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may issue such regulations as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of sections 206 and 214.

“(b) RELATIONSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL LAW.—This title and any regulations promulgated under this title shall be applied in accordance with international law. No restrictions shall apply to or be enforced against a person who is not a citizen, national, or resident alien of the United States (including foreign flag vessels) unless in accordance with international law.”.

#### SEC. 106. CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.

Section 218, as redesignated by section 105 of this Act (relating to definitions; 16 U.S.C. 6409), is further amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) CONSERVATION.—The term ‘conservation’ means the use of methods and procedures that are necessary to preserve or sustain coral reefs and associated species as resilient diverse, viable, and self-perpetuating coral reef ecosystems, including—

“(A) all activities associated with resource management, such as assessment, conservation, protection, restoration, sustainable use, and management of habitat;

“(B) mapping;

“(C) monitoring of coral reef ecosystems;

“(D) development and implementation of management strategies for marine protected area or networks thereof and marine resources consistent with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.);

“(E) law enforcement;

“(F) conflict resolution initiatives;

“(G) community outreach and education; and

“(H) activities that promote safe and ecologically sound navigation.”;

(2) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) CORAL.—The term ‘coral’ means species of the phylum Cnidaria, including—

“(A) all species of the orders Antipatharia (black corals), Scleractinia (stony corals), Gorgonacea (horny corals), Stolonifera (organ-pipe corals and others), Alcyonacea (soft corals), and Helioporacea (blue coral), of the class Anthozoa; and

“(B) all species of the families Milleporidae (fire corals) and Stylasteridae (stylasterid hydrocorals), of the class Hydrozoa.”;

(3) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) CORAL REEF.—The term ‘coral reef’ means a limestone structure, in the form of a reef or shoal, comprised in whole or in part by living coral, skeletal remains of coral, and other associated sessile marine plants and animals.”;

(4) by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM.—The term ‘coral reef ecosystem’ means a system of coral reefs and geographically associated species, habitats, and environment, including mangroves and seagrass habitats, and the processes that control its dynamics.”;

and

(5) by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) in order as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) CORAL REEF COMPONENT.—The term ‘coral reef component’ means any part of a

coral reef, including individual living coral, skeletal remains of coral, and other associated sessile marine plants and animals, and any adjacent or associated seagrasses.”.

#### SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 217, as redesignated by section 105 of this Act (relating to authorization of appropriations; 16 U.S.C. 6408), is further amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce to carry out this title \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, \$32,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, \$34,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, and \$35,000,000 for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000”;

(3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING GRANTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out section 209, \$8,000,000 for fiscal years 2010 through 2014, to remain available until expended.”; and

(4) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out this title \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.”.

### TITLE II—UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE

#### SEC. 201. UNITED STATES CORAL REEF TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the United States Coral Reef Task Force.

(b) GOAL.—The goal of the Task Force shall be to lead, coordinate, and strengthen Federal Government actions to better preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall be—

(1) to coordinate, in cooperation with State and local government partners, academic partners, and nongovernmental partners if appropriate, activities regarding the mapping, monitoring, research, conservation, mitigation, restoration of coral reefs and coral reef ecosystems;

(2) to monitor and advise regarding implementation of the policy and Federal agency responsibilities set forth in Executive Order 13089 and the national coral reef action strategy developed under section 203 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by this Act; and

(3) to work with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the Agency for International Development, and in coordination with the other members of the Task Force, to—

(A) assess the United States role in international trade and protection of coral species; and

(B) encourage implementation of appropriate strategies and actions to promote conservation and sustainable use of coral reef resources worldwide.

(d) MEMBERSHIP, GENERALLY.—The Task Force shall be comprised of—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Secretary of the Interior, who shall be co-chairs of the Task Force;

(2) the Administrator of the Agency for International Development;

(3) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(4) the Secretary of Defense;

(5) the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps of Engineers;

(6) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(7) the Attorney General;

(8) the Secretary of State;

(9) the Secretary of Transportation;

(10) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(11) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(12) the Director of the National Science Foundation;

(13) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

(14) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(15) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the State of Florida;

(16) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the State of Hawaii;

(17) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the Territory of Guam;

(18) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the Territory of American Samoa; and

(19) the Governor, or a representative of the Governor, of the Virgin Islands.

(e) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—The President, or a representative of the President, of each of the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau may appoint a nonvoting member of the Task Force.

(f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF FEDERAL AGENCY MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal agency members of the Task Force shall—

(A) identify the actions of their agencies that may affect coral reef ecosystems;

(B) utilize the programs and authorities of their agencies to protect and enhance the conditions of such ecosystems; and

(C) assist in the implementation of the National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs, the national coral reef action strategy developed under section 203 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by this Act, the local action strategies, and any other coordinated efforts approved by the Task Force.

(2) CO-CHAIRS.—In addition to their responsibilities under paragraph (1), the co-chairs of the Task Force shall administer performance of the functions of the Task Force and facilitate the coordination of the Federal agency members of the Task Force.

(g) WORKING GROUPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The co-chairs of the Task Force may establish working groups as necessary to meet the goals and duties of this title. The Task Force may request the co-chairs to establish such a working group.

(2) PARTICIPATION BY NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The co-chairs may allow a nongovernmental organization or academic institution to participate in such a working group.

(h) FACAs.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by this Act, shall apply to this section.

### TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR CORAL REEF AUTHORITIES

#### SEC. 301. AMENDMENTS RELATING TO DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO DEFINITIONS.—

(1) FISH AND WILDLIFE COORDINATION ACT.—Section 8 of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 666b) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including coral reef ecosystems (as such term is defined in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000) located

in any unit of the National Park System, any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, or any Marine National Monument designated under the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431) (popularly known as the ‘Antiquities Act’)”.

(2) FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT OF 1956 AND FISH AND WILDLIFE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1978.—With respect to the authorities under the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.) and the authorities under the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 742i), references in such Acts to “wildlife” and “fish and wildlife” shall be construed to include coral reef ecosystems (as such term is defined in section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, as amended by this Act) located in any unit of the National Park System, any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, or any Marine National Monument designated under the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431) (popularly known as the ‘Antiquities Act’).

(b) CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may provide technical assistance and, subject to the availability of appropriations, financial assistance for the conservation of coral reefs.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection each of the terms “conservation” and “coral reef” has the meaning that term has under section 218 of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6409), amended by this Act.

#### SEC. 302. CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.

Section 218, as redesignated by section 105 of this Act (relating to definitions; 16 U.S.C. 6409), is further amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Administrator’—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

“(B) in sections 206, 209, 212, 214, and 215, means the Secretary of the Interior for purposes of application of those sections to national park units and national wildlife refuges.”; and

(2) by amending paragraph (7) to read as follows:

“(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), means the Secretary of Commerce;

“(B) in section 206(e), means—

“(i) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to any coral reef or component thereof that is located in—

“(I) any unit of the National Park System;

“(II) any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System; or

“(III) any Marine National Monument designated under any of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.), the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 695j-1 et seq.) and the provisions of law enacted by that Act, and the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 431) (popularly known as the ‘Antiquities Act’) and that is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; and

“(ii) the Secretary of Commerce, with respect to any other coral reef or component thereof that is located in any Marine National Monument designated under a law referred to in clause (i)(III); and

“(C) in sections 203, means the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior.”.



The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, last year the release of the Monaco Declaration made it apparent that ocean acidification is inevitable and will cause severe damage to coral reef ecosystems. This consensus of over 150 scientists from 26 nations is a clear statement that we must take action now to reduce and eliminate stresses on corals so that they can be conserved for future generations. H.R. 860, the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009, enhances the Federal Government's ability to respond to emergency situations and to protect reefs from damage caused by vessel groundings. It also codifies the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, which has worked tirelessly to build partnerships and strategies for on-the-ground and in-the-water actions to conserve these ecosystems.

There is an urgent need to pass H.R. 860 to improve our ability to reduce and eliminate the stresses on these precious coral reef ecosystems. Mr. Speaker, my district of Guam is one of the several U.S. Coral Reef Task Force jurisdictions. The health of coral reefs in the waters surrounding the island jurisdictions and off the State of Florida is key to our economic standing and to the protection of our environment. H.R. 860 is, therefore, of particular importance to my district. Reauthorizing the law will afford the territories the opportunity and the resources necessary to continue to develop and implement local action strategies for the conservation of our coral reefs in partnership with the Federal Government. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I ask Members on both sides to support its passage and look forward to the opportunity of working with leaders in the other body to enact this bill into law in this Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

I submit for the RECORD the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Science and Technology concerning H.R. 860.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, July 9, 2009.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 860, the Coral Reef Con-

servation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009.

H.R. 860 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 mark up these bills. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of H.R. 860, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bills 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. 860 and insert the letters in the Congressional Record when the House has this bill under consideration.

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

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, July 9, 2009.

Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR HOWARD: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 860, the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 860, even though your Committee has a jurisdictional interest in the matter and would receive a sequential referral. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Foreign Affairs if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be placed in the committee report and inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, September 22, 2009.

Hon. NICK RAHALL,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science and Technology in H.R. 860. To reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

Our committee recognizes the importance of H.R. 860 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over the bill, I do not intend to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forego a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology, and that a copy of this letter and your response ac-

knowledging our jurisdictional interest in the bill will be included as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House.

The Committee on Science and Technology also asks that you support our request to be conferees on the provisions over which we have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, September 22, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,  
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your willingness to expedite floor consideration of H.R. 860, the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009.

I appreciate your willingness to waive rights to further consideration of H.R. 860, even though your Committee has a jurisdictional interest in the matter and would receive a sequential referral. Of course, this waiver does not prejudice any further jurisdictional claims by your Committee over this legislation or similar language. Furthermore, I agree to support your request for appointment of conferees from the Committee on Science and Technology if a conference is held on this matter.

This exchange of letters will be inserted in the Congressional Record as part of the consideration of the bill on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

H.R. 860 reauthorizes the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. That act provided grants for locally based actions to address locally identified threats to coral reefs. While H.R. 860, as introduced, was not a bill that Ranking Member HASTINGS could support, I appreciate the efforts by subcommittee Chair Ms. BORDALLO to address the concerns on our side of the aisle and to make this a much better piece of legislation than it was before. This legislation has a long way to go and faces hurdles in the Senate. I hope that we will be able to continue to work cooperatively across the aisle to make sure this legislation does not create new regulatory burdens on those activities that only indirectly affect coral reefs and does not create a new industry for litigation based on coral reef conservation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time and would inquire of the minority whether they have any additional speakers.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank my good friend for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 860, the reauthorization of the

Coral Reef Conservation Act. In addition to having the tremendous honor of representing the Florida Keys here in the United States Congress, I'm also pleased to boast that my district is home to one of the most diverse ecosystems in the Nation, if not the world. The waters surrounding my district, Florida's 18th Congressional District, is home to America's only living barrier coral reef, which is also the second-largest coral reef tract in the world. The bill before us today, H.R. 860, would continue the Federal Government's efforts to protect and preserve the coral reef systems in the Florida Keys as well as in Hawaii and in Guam.

Coral reefs provide many economic, environmental and cultural benefits, particularly in my home district, where tourism brings in hundreds of millions of dollars every year. As the reefs sustain more damage every day, the tourism and ecosystem they help to maintain are threatened. This bill, in particular, will increase Federal oversight over the monitoring and rehabilitation efforts of our coral reef system while also promoting community-based conservation initiatives. In effect, local stakeholders and Federal agencies will work together to develop regionally approved and appropriate management plans.

One of the most important ways that this bill will help to protect coral reefs is by authorizing emergency responses to the physical damages that are sustained by coral reefs due to vessel groundings and impacts from derelict fishing gear. Having the distinct pleasure of taking part in two scuba diving missions to the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory in the Florida Keys, I witnessed just how important our coral reefs are not only to the environment but also for the education of our young people. In today's hyperlinked world, elementary students from Idaho can tune in to educational broadcasts on the dangers of coral bleaching and off-shore drilling by the aquanauts working in the Aquarius. During one of my two visits to Aquarius, I had the pleasure of participating in a live question-and-answer session with local elementary school students on the issue of coral reef preservation.

Coral reefs are important to all Americans, not just to those of us who are fortunate enough to live in coastal areas. That is why I join my colleagues here today in strong support of H.R. 860, a bill which reaffirms the role of our Federal Government in protecting these precious coral resources for today and tomorrow's generations. Thank you for the time, my good friend from Utah, and I thank my wonderful friend from Guam, once again, for fighting for our Nation's environment.

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the gentlelady from Florida, Congresswoman ROS-

LEHTINEN, for her very strong words in support of this bill and, of course, from the opposite side of the aisle, the manager of the bill here, Mr. CHAFFETZ of Utah. I want to thank them for their support.

Mr. FALOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 860, legislation to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. I want to commend the gentlelady from Guam who is my good friend and Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, Congresswoman BORDALLO, for her leadership on this important issue. I also want to commend Chairman RAHALL and members of the Natural Resources Committee for bringing this important bill before the House for consideration.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said about how our coral reefs are in a critical state but it must be reemphasized that the conservation of coral reef is a national priority, especially given its ecological, social, economic and scientific value.

Known also as the "rainforests of the sea," coral reefs provide support to about 4,000 documented fish species, 800 species of hard corals, and hundreds of other species, which is more species per unit area compared to any other marine ecosystem.

Economically, coral reefs provide the basis for an estimated \$400 billion global fishing and tourism industry. For the Territories in the South Pacific Region, the economic value of coral reefs is even steeper. For example, estimates of annual economic value of coral reefs in Guam (\$127.3 million), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (\$61.7 million), and American Samoa (\$5.8 million), demonstrate the importance of this resource to island economies.

But even more significant, there is increasing interest in research on corals for possible cures for cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, viruses and other diseases. In addition, corals which live 300 years or more may contain environmental data that can assist scientists to better understand climate change and also improve studies on ocean acidification.

Yet, more than 28 percent of the world's coral reefs have been lost forever. The list of environmental threats facing coral reefs is long including overfishing and destructive fishing practices; ship groundings and debris; impacts of human population growth and shoreline development; polluted runoff and degraded water quality; and siltation and impaired water clarity.

In addition, more studies have revealed climate change also poses serious threats, including ocean acidification and warming of tropical and subtropical coastal waters. Such is the seriousness of threat on coral reefs that the global community declared 2008 as the International Year of the Reef. This was even recognized by the House in the last Congress through the unanimous passage of House Resolution 1112.

To address these many threats to coral reefs, Congress passed the Coral Reef Conservation Act which established the Coral Reef Conservation Program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to fund coral reef conservation activities. H.R. 860 follows this successful model in place and provides additional tools and mechanisms to better protect our coral reefs.

In addition, I am especially encouraged that this bill also recognizes the importance of providing funding and resources to institutes that are directly impacted and also pursuing further exploration and research of coral reefs. Under this bill, universities and research centers, such as coral reef institutes or other educational institutions such as the University of Guam or American Samoa Community College, will be given resources and support to conduct ecological research and monitoring that builds capacity for more effective resource management.

I cannot reemphasize enough the importance of coral reefs to our nation and the rest of the world. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 860 and help protect our coral reefs.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my strong support for the Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments. Coral reefs are unique ecosystems that support over one million species globally, offer essential protection from hurricanes, typhoons, and tsunamis, and attract millions of vacationers each year. Unfortunately, these reefs face unparalleled dangers today from pollution, overfishing, coastal development, disease, habitat fragmentation, ship groundings, and warming waters.

Ten percent of coral reefs have already disappeared from U.S. waters alone while over seventy percent of the world's reefs are threatened. If this trend continues, more than forty percent of global coral reefs will be lost in the next two to ten years.

The Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization addresses the coral reef crisis by taking strong actions in response to physical damages to reefs by developing scientific management strategies to promote reef resilience. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation critical to conserving our oceans' greatest treasures.

Ms. BORDALLO. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, having no other speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill. I thank them for their support on the floor here.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) 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.

#### ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1080) to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: