

in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Financial Services is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Financial Services.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011.

This bill 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 to mark up this bill. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill 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.

Please include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. HOWARD BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2010.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SKELTON: I write to you regarding H.R. 5136, the "National Defense Au-

thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011," introduced on April 26, 2010.

H.R. 5136 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as the Committee on Homeland Security waiving, altering, or otherwise affecting its jurisdiction over subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Homeland Security conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this or similar legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be placed in the Committee Report accompanying the legislation and the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

I look forward to working with you on this legislation and other matters of great importance to this nation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2010.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Ford Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. I agree that the Committee on Homeland Security has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to schedule a mark-up of this bill in the interest of expediting consideration. I agree that by agreeing to waive consideration of certain provisions of the bill, the Committee on Homeland Security is not waiving its jurisdiction over these matters. Should this bill or similar legislation be the subject of a House-Senate conference, I will support the appointment of conferees from the Committee on Homeland Security.

This exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING DR. JUDY BENSE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Judy Bense upon being inducted into the Orden de Isabel la Catlica. Dr. Bense is a dedicated archeologist and received this award due to her research strengthening the ties between Northwest Florida and Spain. Madam Speaker, Dr. Bense's commitment to her work is truly remarkable. For that reason, it gives me much pleasure to recognize her on this day.

The Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic is one of Spain's highest civil honors granted in recognition of services that benefit Spain. The

Order was created on March 14, 1815 by King Ferdinand of Aragon in honor of his ancestress, Queen Isabella I, with the intent of rewarding the firm allegiance to Spain and the merits of Spanish citizens and foreigners in good standing to the nation.

Dr. Bense was inducted into the Order by Spanish King Juan Carlos for her hard work to defend the shared legacy and strengthening the relationship between Florida and Spain. Just like the Order's namesake, Dr. Bense is an extremely accomplished and distinguished woman. With a career in archeology that has spanned more than three decades; she has been at the forefront of studying Spanish roots in Pensacola, Florida. Currently serving as the President of the University of West Florida, I am certain that her experience and commitment to education will provide the needed leadership to guide the university in its pursuit of academic excellence.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Judy Bense is a leader that I am proud to have serving in the Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful community, I congratulate Dr. Bense on her significant historical accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN DAVID KEHREIN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding young men of my community who unfortunately is no longer with us. I also take this opportunity to express condolences to his family as they negotiate their way through this period of transition.

Nathan Kehrein was born the same year that I was first elected to public office and that is around the time that I first got to know his parents, Glen and Lonnie.

Nathan grew up in the Austin Community, as a matter of fact a couple of blocks where I and my family live. He had a normal and exciting childhood, actively involved in youth activities organized and provided by the Rock of our Salvation Church and the Circle Urban Ministries both of which his family were founders of and are actively involved with.

Nathan was a good student and a good athlete. He attended Lane Technical High School and was an All City Football Player. After high school Nathan enlisted in the Armed Services and after a tour of duty, was honorably discharged from the United States Air force.

After Nathan returned home from his military experience he became ill and suffered from bouts with depression; but continued to live as normal a life as he could.

Nathan's life was a journey of experiences; his family lived comprehensively and was intimately associated with many different kinds of people. Nathan's life was a reflection of this upbringing; therefore, one could say that he was an ambassador of goodwill.

I salute Nathan for being the man that he was, thank him for the service he gave to our community and to his country and may his soul rest in peace.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I support the provisions in this bill that support a second engine for the F-35.

The Air Force will soon shift its air-to-ground, air-to-air, and air-supremacy roles to the F-35, and the F-35 will eventually number more than a thousand jet fighters, or 95 percent of the fighter force structure.

To power these aircraft, the Air Force will require some 2500–3000 engines at a cost of more than \$100 billion.

We are fortunate to have two excellent engine manufacturers, Pratt Whitney and GE. Both started out as candidates for the F-35 engine.

The question now comes: Do we need and want a second engine, produced by GE?

More specifically—

Do we want to sole source, run this program out 25 years or more, without price competition?

In addition to price competition, do we want competition on innovation, reliability, and durability?

Do we want to run the operational risk of having no back-up if problems show up in one engine?

Do we want to keep competition in the defense production base?

A second engine for the F-35 makes sense and saves money.

I urge the House to leave intact the second engine provisions in the defense authorization bill before us today.

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC DAY

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan—as they prepare to celebrate Republic Day on May 28.

Republic Day commemorates the day Azerbaijan first declared independence from the Russian Empire on May 28, 1918. Though the Azerbaijan Republic later succumbed to Soviet forces in 1920, in its 2 years of independence Azerbaijan achieved a number of measures on state-building, armed forces, education, economy, and universal suffrage, from which it benefits today.

Azerbaijan's second opportunity for freedom and independence began in 1990 as Azerbaijan began gathering in protest against Soviet rule. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan declared anew their independence.

On August 30, 1991, Azerbaijan's Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Restoration of the State of Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and on October 18, 1991, their Constitution was approved.

The last 19 years of independence has not been without challenges. The territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was violated and the Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding regions of Azerbaijan have been occupied by neighboring Armenia. In 1993 the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions demanding complete, unconditional, and immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. NATO, OSCE, EU and other international organizations also repeatedly called for the restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, and I support a swift, peaceful resolution to this conflict, as well.

Azerbaijan is a key global security partner for the United States. Azerbaijan was among the first nations to offer our own country with unconditional support in its anti-terrorism efforts, providing use of its airspace, airports, and troops for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Azerbaijan was also the first Muslim nation to send troops to Iraq.

Azerbaijan has extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights to support ISAF and has regularly provided landing and refueling operations at its airports for U.S. and NATO forces. Also, Azerbaijan plays an important role in the Northern Distribution Network, a supply route to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities.

Azerbaijan has opened Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region and has become the main artery delivering Caspian Sea hydrocarbons to the U.S. and our partners in Europe. Notably, in 2009 Azerbaijan provided nearly one quarter of all crude oil supplies to Israel and is considered a leading potential natural gas provider for the U.S. supported Nabucco pipeline.

Madam Speaker, as a proud member of Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the celebration of Republic Day, and commend President Obama's nomination of Matthew Bryza to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan. I believe that Mr. Bryza has the knowledge and experience necessary to reassure our Azerbaijani friends that the United States appreciates their support and will continue to work with them to achieve peace and stability in the Caucasus. I look forward to further collaboration between our two nations.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for mili-

tary activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Chair, as a member of the House Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the Joint Strike Fighter alternative engine program, I rise today in opposition to the Pingree/Larson Amendment.

This amendment, which would redirect funding for the program, is about terminating jobs, killing competition and giving a \$100 billion monopoly to one contractor who is already \$2.5 billion (50 percent) over budget.

This amendment would add \$20 billion to the deficit by eliminating the savings GAO says will occur with competition.

Supporting this amendment means making the choice to give one company a sole source contract for the next 30 years versus having two companies compete head-to-head every year, resulting in the best price and best engine.

There was no competition for this program. The engines for every major weapons program in history have been competed—except for the Joint Strike Fighter, the largest defense program ever.

Congress is not required to give a rubber stamp to the Defense Department, which has been proven wrong in its opposition to several key programs, including development of the Predator, creation of the U.S. Special Operations Command and funding for the V-22 Osprey.

If this amendment passes, our national security will be put at grave risk, as the U.S. and Allied forces will depend entirely on one engine for 90 percent of their fighter jet fleets.

And, there will be job loss. We must maintain our support of the competitive engine program to sustain the thousands of jobs in the United States that are a result of this program.

I am pleased to join both the Armed Services Committee Chairman and Ranking Member, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Air & Land Forces, the Sea Power & Expeditionary Forces Subcommittees, and the Acquisition Reform Panel in opposing this amendment.

My colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee and I approved funding for the alternative engine program to continue, and the Department of Defense's own analysis states that "the estimated costs of a competitive engine acquisition strategy are projected to be approximately equivalent to a sole-source scenario." If that is the case, I am confident the benefits of a competitive engine strategy warrant continued support.

Therefore, I strongly oppose the Pingree/Larson amendment and I rise in support of keeping jobs, sustaining competition, and our country's national security.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR RONALD WAYNE CULVER, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a model citizen, revered husband and father and one of our Nation's great heroes. On May 24, 2010, our State and Nation lost a true patriot when Major Ronald Wayne Culver,