

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2194,
COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS,
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND
DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the conference report on H.R. 2194, the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010.

Iran is a threat to regional security and stability. It has flouted international law and supplied weapons to terrorist groups throughout the Middle East.

Upon taking office in 2009, President Barack Obama attempted to engage with Iran, including offering a deal which would have allowed Iran to receive nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes. However, Iran has spurned these good-faith efforts at engagement, and the time has come to put in place comprehensive sanctions.

The international community supports our efforts to isolate Iran through sanctions. President Obama secured a landmark sanctions agreement at the United Nations Security Council several weeks ago. The European Union took further action earlier this month when it agreed to impose stringent sanctions on Iran.

This bill goes even further than the UN and the EU—it is a comprehensive and stringent package of sanctions. Among many important provisions, it will prohibit investment in Iran's oil refining industry and create a legal framework for companies and investment managers who wish to divest from companies doing business with Iran. It will force many companies to answer a question—do I work with the U.S., or do I work with Iran?

I urge my colleagues to join with me in passing H.R. 2194 and sending a clear message to Iran that their provocative actions and reckless pursuit of a nuclear weapon will not be tolerated.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK
PELLEGRINI

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Pellegrini, who passed away on March 25, 2010.

Frank touched the lives of people all over Long Island and he will be remembered as a man who showed grace and humility in all aspects of his life. For 40 years, he worked at Farmingdale State College where he served thousands of students and teachers through his roles as an Organic Chemistry teacher and then the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Frank also served for 35 years as the Chief and Commissioner of the Dix Hills Fire Department where his heroic efforts touched the lives of countless members of the community. Frank possessed extreme bravery and a passion for helping others.

Frank Pellegrini will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to know him, and his memory will remain a fixture in both institutions where he served for so long.

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION
BONDS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, the main obstacles facing homeowners who want to make their homes more energy efficient are the initial costs and poor access to capital. The legislation I am introducing will give the authority to issues bonds to states and large localities allowing them to issue loans for residential energy efficiency improvements. This legislation will significantly help homeowners who want to renovate their homes for increased energy efficiency. Home Energy Conservation Bonds will help homeowners overcome the upfront capital costs of energy efficiency retrofits, allowing homeowners to drastically reduce their energy and water consumption and pay less each month for their utilities. Only through addressing efficiency and conservation in existing homes will we be able to fully address our nation's addiction to energy. Renovating homes for increased energy efficiency provides a critical economic infusion, helps create new jobs and stimulate local economies. I look forward to working with my colleagues to realize that goal.

HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST
FUND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Improvement Act of 2010. This bill would strengthen our national economy and international competitiveness.

Our harbors are economic engines for our nation. Because more than 95 percent of overseas trade moves in and out of the United States by ship, harbor infrastructure is vital to the American economy.

Moreover, our harbors create a substantial amount of revenue through the Harbor Maintenance Tax. The tax is imposed on importers and domestic shippers based upon the value of their cargo and is deposited in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

Fund money is designated for recovering operation and maintenance costs at US coastal and Great Lakes Harbors, particularly for dredging. Yet, our harbors only receive a fraction of the revenue they create. Revenue deposited into the fund far exceeds transfers out of the fund. This led to a balance of almost \$5 billion at the end of fiscal year 2009.

At the same time, the global economic crisis has hit our harbors and many are struggling to make ends meet. It is only fair to give back to our harbors in their times of need. That's why the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund Improvement Act would expand our harbors' ability to

make use of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund money. The bill would allow them to use the revenue they create not only for maintenance and dredging needs but also for the costs of Environmental Impact Statements for navigation projects.

Environmental Impact Statements are required whenever the Corps of Engineers is involved in harbor maintenance and development efforts. The Statements serve the federal mission of taking environmental effects of a project into account. Use of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund resources for this purpose is appropriate and long overdue. Harbors would be relieved of these costs, while the federal mission of assessing the environmental impact of such projects is strengthened.

Please join me in helping our harbors with this sensitive relief. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY
INVESTMENT ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Geothermal Energy Investment Act. This legislation will extend a 30 percent investment tax credit for geothermal energy through December 31, 2016, providing parity with the solar investment tax credit. This longer-term incentive will support substantial growth in utility scale geothermal power, distributed on-site power generation, and heating for buildings and commercial processes, while using clean and renewable American energy.

Geothermal energy facilities supply environmentally-friendly baseload power while producing very low emissions. Once installed, geothermal power is incredibly reliable, with average availabilities of 90 percent or higher (compared to about 75 percent for coal plants). The United States has more geothermal capacity than any other country. In fact, if we could recover this entire resource base, our domestic resources are equivalent to a 30,000-year energy supply at our current levels of consumption. Geothermal energy resources are present in all 50 U.S. States today, and in California more than 40 geothermal plants provide nearly five percent of the State's electricity.

To access this capacity, however, developers of this power source need assistance ameliorating the risks associated with geothermal energy investment. While the costs for electricity from geothermal facilities are declining, these installations are complex, long-term projects. There are significant costs involved with the exploration and development of these installations, and significant risks that the forecast resources are unavailable. The short-term incentives currently in the tax code limit long-term efforts to develop these resources.

The legislation also seeks to encourage growth of new geothermal technologies, in particular small power production and direct heat uses. New technology allows geothermal power to be generated and used on-site, such as the new power generation equipment installed at Oregon Institute of Technology.

Small, distributed geothermal power generation is being explored in many new areas, from Oregon to Texas and North Dakota. This proposal will encourage the development of those technologies by extending the 30 percent credit to them as well.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

ON THE BIRTH OF PATRICK AND
BRENDAN RILEY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Jeffery Charles Riley and his wife Scarlett Diann Hutson Riley on the birth of their new baby twin boys. Patrick Sean Riley and Brenden Oscar Riley were born on June 22, 2010 weighing 5 pounds, 13 oz. and 5 pounds, 3 oz., respectively at Torrance Memorial Center of Torrance, California. Brendan is a little taller at 19 inches than his brother at 17 ³/₄ inches.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Riley family and wish them all the best as we know they will certainly have their hands full! I want to congratulate Patrick and Brendan's grandparents Charles and Debby Riley of Torrance, California, and Marion and Margaret Hutson of Cayce, South Carolina, on this wonderful new extension of their family.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE-YEAR AN-
NIVERSARY OF FORMER HON-
DURAN PRESIDENT MANUEL
ZELAYA'S REMOVAL FROM
POWER

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, one year ago today, on June 28, 2009, the Honduran people chose to uphold their Constitution and the rule of law by removing former President Manuel Zelaya from power, a close ally of Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez who was taking the Honduran people down the path of less freedom.

But even though the Honduran people were following the rule of law, the international community punished them for instituting what they believed to be a "military coup." Honduras was suspended from the Organization of American States, OAS, and had their vital U.S. assistance temporarily frozen, causing them to permanently lose part of their Millennium Challenge Corporation project.

Even in the face of adversity (as well as a devastating tropical storm and the worst draught in 25 years), Honduras continued its fight for democracy and the rule of law. They withdrew from ALBA, an organization of leftist states in Latin America; they created a new

human rights officer to respond to increasing attacks on journalists in their country; and their interim president, Roberto Micheletti, oversaw a peaceful, free and fair presidential election in November.

Honduras was able to accomplish great things for its democracy, all while dealing with charges and visits from our own government, which was focused not on helping our friend and ally, but shaming and threatening them into rewriting history.

A year after standing up to a ruthless leader who attempted to dismiss the country's constitution in an effort to maintain power, the Honduran people have their sights set on their nation's future.

President Lobo inherited a country that was in the worst shape it had been in over the past 40 years: a dire economic situation, a growing number of attacks on journalists, and a sharp increase in drug trafficking by illegal gangs. In fact, according to a Reuters report, some 1,600 people died in drug violence in Honduras in 2009.

Unfortunately, as a result of the shortsighted interference by the United States, the Lobo Administration has been forced to place its first focus on rebuilding its diplomatic relations with the international community, rather than tackling the many problems within their nation.

As we continue to work with Honduras to overcome the challenges it faces in providing freedom, security and prosperity to the Honduran people, I call on the State Department to provide one clear message: those who look conformity directly in the face, and choose the fight of freedom, are the heroes required to build a free and fair society, and will always have a place as a friend and ally of the United States.

I take this opportunity today, on the one-year anniversary of the removal of former President Manuel Zelaya, to encourage the Honduran people to continue their fight for freedom, security and prosperity, and I pledge my continued support for them in this noble goal.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ESIGN
DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the designation of June 30 as National ESIGN Day. National ESIGN Day will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN), which has transformed how interstate commerce and business is conducted.

The advent of e-signatures has brought immeasurable benefit to consumers and the business community, providing for increased consumer convenience, and reduced costs. E-signatures have significantly increased transaction speed and closure rates, saving time and money for businesses, and provide se-

cure and predictable outcomes with fewer errors.

Recognizing June 30 as National ESIGN Day acknowledges the previous contribution made by the Congress to adopt modern solutions that keep our nation on the leading technological edge and reaffirms the Congress's commitment to more efficient and environmentally conscious business practices. I represent the city of Seattle—one of the world's greatest technology hubs—where the Electronic Signatures Act has greatly enhanced the ability of companies to remain competitive and active with companies from around the globe.

The first agreement signed with electronic signatures by sovereign nations happened in 1998 between the United States and Ireland. Since then, electronic signature technology has significantly strengthened global communications. New strides are made every day in this area. Just this past spring, the Federal Housing Administration announced that it will now accept e-signed third party documents which will help expedite real estate transactions. Less than two weeks ago, the Utah Supreme Court ruled to allow electronic signatures on petitions in the election process, becoming the first state in the nation to do so.

I would especially like to acknowledge Seattle-based electronic signature management platform provider DocuSign for being champions in the electronic signatures industry and for spearheading the coalition to mark June 30 as National ESIGN Day.

Dozens of industries and associations have offered their support for this resolution to celebrate the advancements that have been made in the past decade, and more importantly, to encourage even more rapid adoption of electronic signatures in the future.

This resolution enjoys the support of several companies and industry leaders, including DocuSign, Inc., Electronic Signature and Records Association, Consumer Mortgage Coalition, National Association of REALTORS, Insured Retirement Institute, CML America, USAA, Adobe Systems, Sallie Mae, Fidelity National Financial, Fiserv, eOriginal, Silanis Technology, AlphaTrust Corporation, AssureSign, LLC, Amica Mutual Insurance Company, First Marblehead, Flagstar Bank, Quicken Loans, IMM, Stewart Lender Services, Ellie Mae, MERS, MISMO, EverBank, SigniaDocs, Inc., Encomia, Direct Mortgage Corp., Digital Docs, Inc., Relevant Technologies, Magnolia Technologies, Simplifile, eSignSystems (a division of Wave Systems Corp.), Realtime Solutions Group, LLC, Lending Tree, and the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries.

This resolution honors the forethought and vision of those who worked to pass the landmark Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act ten years ago. The passage of that bill paved the way for American companies to operate globally, and it is truly a victory for every businesses and governmental agency looking to increase productivity and efficiency. Let us recognize June 30 as national ESIGN Day.