

DR. WALTER L. SMITH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of Dr. Walter L. Smith, and to acknowledge our pride in his contribution to the education community.

Dr. Smith was born and spent his early childhood in Tampa, FL before moving to live with family in Cairo, Georgia and Harlem, New York. A self-proclaimed rebellious child, Dr. Smith dropped out of high school at the age of 16 to work at a processing plant. After stints in the Army studying medical laboratory technology and working in a hospital, he moved back in Tampa in 1957 and enrolled in St. Petersburg's Gibbs High School, which doubled as a community college by night. By the age of 23, he had completed his GED and started classes at Gibbs Junior College, where he served as the first student body president. Dr. Smith continued his educational pursuits at Florida A&M and earned his bachelor's and master's degree. After graduation, Dr. Smith was named an African American Institute Scholar and studied at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and the University of Lagos in Nigeria. Upon his return, Dr. Smith continued his education at Florida State University, where he received his PhD in Higher Education.

Dr. Smith served as Provost of Hillsborough Community College before accepting the position as President at Roxbury Community College in Massachusetts. In 1977, Dr. Smith returned to Florida to serve as the President of his alma mater, FAMU. Our community burst with pride. During his presidency, FAMU grew from seven to eleven schools and colleges. The university also became a Division of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education under his tenure in office. In 1985, Dr. Smith ended his presidency and was named a Senior Fulbright Scholar to the University of Malawi in Central Africa and served as the International Team Leader for Higher Education in the Republic of South Africa. There, he built South Africa's first American-based community college.

In 2000, Dr. Smith moved back to his hometown of Tampa and opened a local library. Named in his honor, the Dr. Walter L. Smith Library, located in a converted house just blocks from his childhood home, serves as both a learning center and haven for local children to cultivate their interests and follow their dreams toward higher education.

Dr. Smith's perseverance and successes have most recently been recognized with the Cornelius P. Turner Award. This award, presented annually by the GED Testing Service of the American Council on Education, recognizes a GED graduate who has made outstanding contributions to society and speaks volumes about Dr. Smith's unlikely road to success.

The Tampa community is proud to recognize Dr. Smith for this award and his many significant contributions to the education community. His determination and hard work have made him an inspirational leader within our Tampa Bay community.

THE TELEWORK IMPROVEMENT
ACT**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Telework Improvement Act. This bill will help to modernize the Federal Government by expanding and improving the availability of teleworking in federal agencies. I thank Chairman TOWNS and the House leadership for their work on this legislation.

With this bill, Congress takes important steps to improve the efficiency of the Federal Government by allowing more Federal employees to have access to telework. Today, many private companies have more vigorous and flexible telework policies that result in increased efficiency and productivity. Yet telework continues to be under-utilized by Federal agencies. H.R. 1722 will require Federal agencies to develop policies within one year that allow qualifying employees to telework. This bill ensures accountability by directing the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidelines to prevent improper uses of official time or resources by those working outside the office.

Madam Speaker, I also oppose the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1722. The underlying legislation makes clear that Federal employees are strictly prohibited from visiting inappropriate websites using government computers. In addition, this motion contains a provision designed to indiscriminately and unfairly prohibit an employee from collective bargaining activities while they are teleworking. Under current law, official time for union activity may only be used to represent employees in adverse actions, attend official meetings with management, and bargain union contracts. To disallow these activities from being performed through telework would constitute a rollback of existing policy.

I urge a "no" vote on the Republican Motion to Recommit and urge my colleagues to support final passage.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the war supplemental funding bill.

After years of war that have strained our military, their families, and the country, I cannot continue to support funding for the war in Afghanistan—a war marked by increasing violence and attacks on our troops and no clear definition of success.

The last time this measure was before us, I voted with my colleague Rep. BARBARA LEE on her amendment to prevent an escalation and limit funding to the safe and orderly withdrawal of our troops and military contractors from Afghanistan.

I also voted in favor of the McGovern-Obey amendment that would require the President

to provide Congress with a plan for the expeditious redeployment of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and a timeline for completion of the redeployment.

But the bill before us is simply a continuation of a policy that needs to be changed—with no accountability and no debate on the merits of continuing this conflict in a country beset by corruption and seemingly endless violence.

Contained in this bill is badly needed funding for Haiti, disaster relief and funds for our veterans, which I wholeheartedly support and would urge a separate up or down vote.

But a vote for this bill before us today is a vote to continue this war and the time has come to bring our troops home.

Reports of corruption abound in Afghanistan, and without a true partner in the Karzai government, our prospects for making real progress have grown dim.

In recent days, even more troubling reports have come out of the region indicating that Pakistan intelligence may be collaborating with elements of the Taliban against the United States. With claims such as these coming to light, how can we move forward with business as usual on the war?

I cannot in good conscience vote to continue funding this war at so high a cost and with no guarantee that our efforts are reaching our goals there and keeping the American people safe.

That is why I vote "no" today.

H.R. 5897, THE "ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND INNOVATION
ACT OF 2010"**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 5897, the "Economic Revitalization and Innovation Act of 2010", to authorize the programs of the Economic Development Administration, EDA, for 5 years. This legislation creates new programs and adds additional flexibility to EDA's current authorities to ensure that EDA will continue to meet the challenges of high unemployment in economically distressed communities and the need for innovative job creation programs.

In 1965, I served as a staff member of the Committee on Public Works when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Public Works and Economic Development Act into law, creating EDA. I was a strong supporter of EDA then and I continue to support the agency now, 45 years later.

I know EDA works because I have seen it work first-hand: providing infrastructure investment, job training, and planning funds to create jobs and economic opportunities in economically distressed communities across the Nation—from blighted urban and rural communities to regions devastated by natural disasters. In fact, we need look no further than in Congress' own back yard where EDA provided critical funding to reconstruct the Eastern Market facility, which was destroyed in a fire. Eastern Market, with assistance from EDA's flexible and responsive programs, was quickly rebuilt, restoring not only bricks and mortar, but economic opportunity for small businesses and jobs for the local community.

In the current difficult economic climate, EDA plays a strategic role in supporting the efforts of economically distressed communities to cope with a diverse range of economic disruptions and move toward recovery. Part of EDA's success is due to the fact that it truly operates its programs as an investor, seeking to obtain the maximum impact for the Federal dollar. EDA investments are also instrumental in attracting private capital to communities. In fact, in fiscal year 2009, EDA invested \$466 million in infrastructure that attracted \$11.7 billion in private investment—or \$25 for every \$1 of Federal investment.

What enables EDA to operate such effective programs is its extensive network of more than 800 local economic development partners across the country. These partners, with assistance from EDA, perform the rigorous regional planning activities necessary to ensure viable, locally-supported, job-creating projects that EDA then funds on a competitive basis. Such projects include:

- Construction of a job training center in Delaware to train former auto workers in green building technology and alternative energy systems;

- Expansion of port infrastructure in Georgia to allow for increased exports of U.S. manufactured products;

- Conversion of an obsolete furniture factory in Mississippi to train workers for new advanced manufacturing positions; and

- Expansion of rail infrastructure in Tennessee to service a new industrial park where the first Volkswagen automobile plant in the United States will locate.

These projects are just a handful of EDA's efforts to create jobs and provide the building blocks for economic development in economically distressed communities throughout the nation.

H.R. 5897, the "Economic Revitalization and Innovation Act of 2010", reauthorizes EDA for 5 years and provides the necessary funding and investment tools to enable EDA to help regional and local communities raise the standard of living for their citizens, increase the overall rate of economic growth by expanding economic opportunities, increasing international competitiveness, and fostering a climate to create jobs.

H.R. 5897 provides \$500 million for Economic Development Administration, EDA, investments for each of fiscal years FY 2011 through FY 2015, for a total authorization of \$2.5 billion. This annual investment level is equal to the FY 2008 authorization level, but represents a significant increase over current appropriations levels.

Specifically, the bill authorizes:

- \$2.225 billion for economic development investments, including public works and economic adjustment grants;

- \$180 million for planning grants to Economic Development Districts (EDDs);

- \$50 million for university centers in States, including DC, without such centers; and

- Such sums as necessary for EDA administrative expenses.

The authorized funding levels in H.R. 5897 will support grants to economically distressed communities, increased staffing to assist communities, and new and expanded programs.

With more than 8.4 million jobs lost during the recent recession, the call from the American people is "jobs, jobs, jobs." H.R. 5897 is a considered response to this dire need. Major

provisions in H.R. 5897 that accomplish the goal of increasing jobs and support to distressed communities include:

- Providing loan guarantees, up to a total of \$500 million, to construct business incubators and science and research parks;

- \$25 million in annual funding to support green and alternative energy investments;

- Direct funding using EDA's existing network of non-profit lenders to lend to technology and manufacturing companies;

- Increased funding to EDA's network of local planning organizations;

- Assistance to communities to incentivize manufacturing and technology companies to locate or relocate to the United States from overseas, or "on-shoring";

- Funding and direction to EDA and its local planning partner organizations to capitalize on economic development opportunities from high-speed rail; and

- Greater flexibility in EDA funding to allow communities to adapt to new economic circumstances, such as high home foreclosures and reduced tax revenues.

By focusing EDA's efforts on proven programs and projects such as business incubators, which tend to generate the greatest number of long-term jobs, we can help facilitate and support the economic renaissance that so many communities need.

I cannot overstate the importance of this legislation. I am sure that every Member has seen firsthand the devastation of lost jobs and distressed communities. As we consider reauthorization of EDA, we must recognize the current economic picture is unsettled: investor confidence and enthusiasm has given way to uncertainty and wariness of future development opportunities. However, EDA, the only Federal agency tasked with the mission of supporting economic development in distressed areas from the ground up, must be empowered to continue to identify opportunities for future economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness using its expertise and model of proven success.

A complete summary of H.R. 5897, the "Economic Revitalization and Innovation Act of 2010," is included with my statement.

[Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 28, 2010]

H.R. 5897, THE "ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND INNOVATION ACT OF 2010"

(Introduced by the Honorable James L. Oberstar, the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, and Other Members of the Committee)

AUTHORIZED FUNDING LEVELS AND JOB CREATION GOALS

Authorized Funding Levels

H.R. 5897, the "Economic Revitalization and Innovation Act of 2010," provides \$500 million for Economic Development Administration (EDA) investments for each of fiscal years (FY) 2011 through FY 2015, for a total authorization of \$2.5 billion. This annual investment level is equal to the FY 2008 authorization level, but represents a significant increase over current appropriations levels.

Specifically, the bill authorizes:

- \$2.225 billion for economic development investments, including public works and economic adjustment grants;

- \$180 million for planning grants to Economic Development Districts (EDDs);

- \$50 million for university centers in States (including D.C.) without such centers; and

- such sums as necessary for EDA administrative expenses.

Job Creation Goals

Requires that recipients of EDA assistance establish job creation goals as a condition of receipt of EDA assistance, and penalizes recipients for failure to satisfy job creation goals.

EXPANDED SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS INCUBATORS AND SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PARKS

Loan Guarantee Funding

Provides a total of \$500 million in loan guarantees (i.e., a guarantee of non-Federal financing) to enable EDA to provide loan guarantees for the construction and development of business incubators and science and research parks.

Construction Funding

Continues funding for the construction or expansion of business incubators and science and research park facilities under EDA's public works grant program (requiring matching funds).

Operations Funding

Clarifies EDA's ability to provide business incubator operating support.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

High-speed Rail Economic Development

Requires EDA to coordinate and evaluate opportunities (including studies and reports) related to high-speed rail projects in conjunction with its local economic development partners and the Department of Transportation. In addition, the bill directs university centers to conduct research and provide technical assistance to communities with respect to the economic development opportunities related to high-speed rail projects. Provides \$500,000 per year to EDDs for high-speed rail economic development planning.

Sustainable Economic Development

Creates a new program for investment (\$25 million annually) in projects focused on economic development and job creation connected to alternative energy technologies (photovoltaic, wind, and geothermal), including assistance to communities for business attraction or retention and alternative energy focused job training analyses.

"ON-SHORING" OF JOBS TO THE UNITED STATES AND INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN TECHNOLOGY AND MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

On-Shoring Incentive

Establishes three separate programs to allow or provide preference for EDA investment assistance to projects that locate or relocate technology and manufacturing companies to the United States, including:

- Incubator Loan Guarantee Program to provide assistance to a facility that will house technology or manufacturing companies locating or relocating to the United States;

- Sustainable Economic Development Program to provide assistance to support the efforts of communities to attract technology and manufacturing businesses locating or relocating to the United States; and

- Equity Financing Program to establish preference for a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) equity investment for technology and manufacturing companies that locate or relocate to the United States.

Equity Financing

Creates a new program that allows EDA's current RLF program to be used to fund investment (up to \$250,000 per company) in exchange for equity. This program will leverage the network of existing RLF third-party, non-profit intermediaries to administer the program. Provides preference to incubator companies, companies commercializing technology at science and research parks, and

technology or manufacturing companies locating or relocating to the United States.

**FLEXIBILITY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FUNDING OF PROJECTS**

*Revolving Loan Funds and Construction
Projects*

Provides EDA grant recipients with authority (pursuant to EDA approval) to redirect funds for new projects that meet EDA criteria.

*BRAC- and Department of Defense-Impacted
Communities*

Authorizes EDA to consider "mission growth" of Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) or Department of Defense-impacted communities as a criterion for assistance, and allows EDA to consider economic opportunities and not simply economic injury as a basis for assistance to these communities.

Declining Tax Revenue Communities

Authorizes EDA to consider communities' declining tax revenues as the basis for increased Federal share of project costs or an eligibility determination, such as substantial home foreclosure rates creating economic conditions allowing grant assistance to particular communities or regions.

**DEFINED ROLE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICTS AND INCENTIVES FOR REGIONAL
PLANNING**

Role of EDDs

Clearly defines the responsibilities of an EDD in statute to ensure that local communities have an established role in developing economic development projects.

Multi-Regional Planning and Incentives

Allows EDDs to consolidate without the current penalty of reduced EDD funding.

**IN CELEBRATION OF FIFTEEN
YEARS OF U.S.-VIETNAM DIPLO-
MATIC RELATIONS**

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of 15 years of U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic relations. On July 14, 2010, I joined former President Bill Clinton, Senator JOHN KERRY and Senator JOHN MCCAIN in offering remarks at an event hosted by Ambassador of Vietnam Le Cong Phung and Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell in honor of this occasion.

While time will not permit me to elaborate about the competing interests of ridding the world of colonialism versus communism and America's decision to eventually intervene in Vietnam, the majority of the American people did not know of the complexities facing the countries of the Asia region.

Why, for example, did Ho Chi Minh and so many other Asian leaders become followers of socialist, Marxist, and communist ideologies? One obvious reason is that the worst examples of those who advocated freedom and democracy were those European countries that came and colonized so many of these Asian nations, including Vietnam.

For some 100 years, Vietnam was colonized and exploited by the French and, during President Dwight Eisenhower's Administration, the French government requested American military assistance to fight the Vietnamese who, under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, were

struggling for independence from French colonial rule. President Eisenhower refused to help the French in Vietnam for the simple reason that French exploitation and colonial policies in the region went against the ideals upon which America was built.

Subsequently, in 1954, long before American intervention in Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh led his people to fight against French colonialism for which the famous battle of Dienbienphu was fought to liberate his country. While Ho Chi Minh's early intent was to get rid of 100 years of French colonialism and establish a better life for his own people, regrettably when the U.S. entered the fray in 1955 and by the time the Nixon administration withdrew U.S. troops forces in 1973, millions of U.S. troops had served in Vietnam, with more than 58,000 killed.

Three to four million Vietnamese were also killed, as were 1.5 to 2 million Laotians and Cambodians. For what, we ask? As a result of this horrific war, U.S.-Vietnam diplomatic and economic relations were virtually non-existent for more than 20 years following North Vietnam's victory in 1975—until President Bill Clinton announced the formal normalization of diplomatic relations with Vietnam on July 11, 1995.

Prior to this, President Clinton announced the end of the U.S. trade embargo in 1994 and, 2 months later, the U.S. Congress passed the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which contained a Sense of the Senate express the chamber's support for the normalization of relations with Vietnam.

In 1997, President Clinton appointed the first post-war ambassador to Vietnam and signed the landmark U.S.-Vietnam bilateral trade agreement, BTA, in 2000. Vietnam did its part, too, improving cooperation on POW/MIA and refugee issues and moving forward on its ongoing reform efforts.

In November 2000, President Clinton visited Vietnam, the first trip by a U.S. President since Richard Nixon went to Saigon in 1969. Tonight, we applaud former President Clinton for his visionary leadership which has led to this moment. I also commend Ambassador Le Cong Phung for the tremendous service he has rendered to his country.

Today, economic ties are the most mature aspect of our bilateral relationship with trade flows exceeding \$15 billion in 2009, more than ten times the level in 2001. But we can do better, and one area that must be addressed is our forgotten responsibility to the victims of Agent Orange because part of normalizing relations means coming to terms with our past.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, I have held a series of hearing about Agent Orange and our need to clean up the mess we left behind.

From 1961 to 1971, the U.S. military sprayed more than 11 million gallons of Agent Orange in Vietnam. Agent Orange was manufactured under Department of Defense, DOD, contracts by several companies including Dow Chemical and Monsanto. Dioxin, a toxic contaminant known to be one of the deadliest chemicals made by man, was an unwanted byproduct and is thought to be responsible for most of the medical problems associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

According to Hatfield Consultants, the U.S. Department of Defense as well as Dow Chemical and Monsanto knew as early as 1967 of

the potential long-term health risks, and sought to "censor" relevant news reports, "fearing a negative backlash from government and the public."

More than 30 years later, while research clearly shows that Agent Orange was much more hazardous than anyone would admit, U.S. and Vietnamese victims have not been adequately compensated, and Vietnam has not been cleaned-up. Ironically, Dow is now doing business in Vietnam but refuses to help the victims of Agent Orange, and this is not right.

In 2007, after 40 years, I, too, returned to Vietnam and, at a closing dinner hosted by the National Assembly of Ho Chi Minh City, I had long discussions with members of their Foreign Affairs Committee who had also served in the Vietnam War. Although we were once enemies, we embraced each other as friends who share the same hopes and dreams for our families and countries, and this is how it should be but full normalization will not be achieved until the Agent Orange issue is addressed. It is my sincere hope that we will come together and agree on a way to make this matter right.

Once more, I congratulate the government and people of Vietnam and applaud former President Bill Clinton, President George W. Bush, President George H.W. Bush, President Ronald Reagan, President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for all they have done to get us where we are today.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I have grave concerns about the legislation before the House to provide \$37.1 billion for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our total war spending in Iraq and Afghanistan including the funding provided by this bill will exceed \$1 trillion. Yet this spending comes without a viable exit strategy for the conflict in Afghanistan which is the longest war in our nation's history.

The recent publication of tens of thousands of leaked field reports on Afghanistan confirm what we already know: Our continued troop presence is alienating the local population, corruption is rampant in the Afghan government, the Taliban population is stronger than ever, and our Pakistani partners are unreliable at best.

Afghanistan is known as the graveyard of empires for a reason. No one since Ghengis Khan—not Alexander the Great, not the Persians, not the Ottomans, not the British, nor the Soviets—has been able to succeed in this troubled country. Some have said the definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing over and over again and hoping for a different result. We should learn from those who came before us.

Madam Speaker, without an exit strategy, approving billions more of hard-earned taxpayer dollars for the war in Afghanistan is difficult enough to justify. But this cost pales in comparison to the loss of American lives. June