

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony and documents by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. DINGELL,
Member of Congress.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian E. Pate, one of his secretaries.

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 the motion 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 the postponed question will be taken later.

HAITI DEBT RELIEF AND EARTH- QUAKE RECOVERY ACT OF 2010

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4573) to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4573

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Haiti Debt Relief and Earthquake Recovery Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. DEBT RELIEF FOR HAITI.

Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 1628. CANCELLATION OF HAITI'S DEBTS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTI- TUTIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury should direct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund, the International Development Association, the Inter-American Develop-

ment Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and other multilateral development institutions (as defined in section 1701(c)(3)) to use the voice, vote and influence of the United States at each such institution to seek to achieve—

"(1) the immediate and complete cancellation of any and all remaining debts owed by Haiti to such institutions;

"(2) the suspension of Haiti's debt service payments to such institutions until such time as the debts are canceled completely; and

"(3) the provision of emergency, humanitarian and reconstruction assistance from such institutions to Haiti in the form of grants or other assistance such that Haiti does not accumulate debt.

"(b) USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR ASSISTANCE TO HAITI.—The Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund to advocate the use of some of the realized windfall profits that exceed the required contribution to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (as referenced in the IMF Reforms Financial Facilities for Low-Income Countries Public Information Notice (PIN) No. 09/94) from the ongoing sale of 12,965,649 ounces of gold acquired since the second Amendment of the Fund's Article of Agreement, to provide debt stock relief, debt service relief, and grants for Haiti.

"(c) SECURING OTHER RELIEF FOR HAITI.—The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State should use all appropriate diplomatic influence to secure cancellation of any and all remaining bilateral, multilateral and private creditor debt owed by Haiti."

SEC. 3. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.

(a) TRUST FUND.—The Secretary of the Treasury should support the creation and utilization of a multilateral trust fund for Haiti that would leverage potential United States contributions and promote bilateral donations to such a fund for the purpose of making investments in Haiti's future, including efforts to combat soil degradation and promote reforestation and infrastructure investments such as electric grids, roads, water and sanitation facilities, and other critical infrastructure projects.

(b) INCREASE IN TRANSFER OF EARNINGS.—The Secretary of the Treasury should direct the United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank to seek to increase the transfer of its earnings to the Fund for Special Operations and to a trust fund or grant facility for Haiti.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, and to insert extraneous materials thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Today, Madam Speaker, we consider an issue that is close to all of our hearts. Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake on January 12 of this year.

The country, which was finally making strides to more stable economic and political growth after so many failed governments of the past, was rocked by a natural disaster of historic proportions. The images from the disaster are fresh in our minds. The immediate needs of the people are clear, and the desire of the global community and the average American citizens to help Haiti recover as fast as possible are clear and give us all hope.

Earlier today, I joined with President Obama and other members of this House at the White House in restating America's commitment to stand by our brothers and sisters in Haiti, and to lend them a hand up to get back on a path to economic growth and social healing. In speaking with President Preval today, I told him that Haiti debt relief was but the first of a broader set of initiatives that we will undertake to enable the people of Haiti to rebuild their country, their lives, their businesses, and their communities.

□ 1845

As Chair of the International Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee, I am proud to have moved this bill successfully in a strongly bipartisan manner. I thank the woman whose name will appear on this bill who has worked very hard to make this bill happen, the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) who has been a long and strong supporter for Haiti.

Forgiving Haiti's debts to the World Bank, the IMF, the IDB, and IFAD is good policy and is the right thing to do. But forgiving these debts alone will not deliver the desperately needed tents to provide shelter from the impending rainy season. Debt relief alone will not rebuild roads, hospitals, churches, schools, and the physical infrastructure that Haiti needs to get back to work. Debt relief alone will not heal the physical and psychological wounds of the injured and traumatized or develop the human capital the country needs so desperately. As our agencies, from USAID to the Treasury Department, to the State Department, to our Armed Forces, to average citizens from around the country, lend support to Haiti in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, we must not lose sight of the longer-term needs of this country, its government, and its people.

Indeed, we are now moving to the second and third phase of a long and arduous process; namely, moving from the immediate rescue and survival concerns, though they are still critical, to reconstruction and ultimately long-term economic recovery. Doing this will require leadership of the Haitian people and government as they take ownership for the future they care to build. It will also require effective coordination of our aid and development efforts to limit waste, duplication and, ultimately, loss of goodwill.

As we do all of this and as implementation is planned, special attention

needs to be paid to the need to rebuild Haiti's human capital. Several of our government agencies are already at work doing this, and I will keep pressure on them, as I am sure others in this House will, as well as the development banks and international financial institutions, to ensure that they invest heavily in developing the people of Haiti and the institutions of Haiti, to enable them to effectively govern and set their own path to a brighter future with dignity and independence.

Lastly, I will keep the pressure on the international institutions to deliver the necessary resources to Haiti without adding to that nation's long-term debt burden. In over 200 years of independence, Haiti has always been saddled with unsustainable debts, whether extraordinarily high debt obligations owed to the French as a condition of independence in the early 1800s, as is often brought out by Congressman GREEN of Houston, or from international institutions unscrupulously saddling the people of Haiti with debts diverted by dictators in the second half of the 20th century, or over \$1 billion in debts still owed today, despite the country having earned \$1.2 billion in debt forgiveness from the international institutions last year.

The people of Haiti have worked far too long and far too hard to repay debts they had little say in accruing and which have yielded very little benefit to the average citizen. This cynical game of debt accrual and debt forgiveness must end, and as Chair of the International Monetary Policy Subcommittee, I will be doing my part to see that happens. The people of Haiti deserve better than that and deserve a chance to invest in their own futures.

MARCH 8, 2010.

Hon. BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010, introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters on February 2, 2010.

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.

MARCH 8, 2010.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 4573, the "Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010." This bill will be considered by the House shortly.

I want to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of this bill. I acknowledge that portions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and I appreciate your cooperation in moving the bill to the House floor expeditiously. I further agree that your decision to not to proceed with a markup on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Foreign Affairs with respect to its prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record. Thank you again for your cooperation.

BARNEY FRANK,
Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) such time as he may consume.

Mr. BACHUS. I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I want to commend him for his work on this legislation. I also want to commend Chairman WATERS and Chairman MEEKS for their work, and other Members who I think have worked in a bipartisan way for an excellent legislation and a very worthy legislation. I rise in complete support for the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery Act.

If you picked a country and a capital in a country anywhere in the world which could least deal with a devastating earthquake, it would be Port-au-Prince, Haiti. You could not visualize a worse scenario.

The immediate legacy, other than which you have witnessed on the TV screens here in America, is that there will be virtually a generation of orphans who have lost their parents. That alone would be a challenge for any country. Think of New Orleans and what a challenge that has been for our country. For Haiti, it is a monumental undertaking. And, quite frankly, it is hard to visualize in our lifetime seeing Haiti recover.

The human tragedy following that earthquake is overwhelming. As Haiti's citizens seek to rebuild, I think it is very important for us to stand with them and alongside them. And I commend the administration for their efforts since the earthquake. Many of our agencies are there. Many of our charities are there. Many of our church groups are there. Many of our NGOs are there: the Jubilee Act, Melinda St. Louis, her organization; Tom Hart of the One Campaign. I think those two organizations have done a wonderful job of highlighting the need not only in Haiti, but in many of the impoverished countries.

The first measure we can take—other than the efforts that we have wit-

nessed, many American volunteers and government efforts—to ensure that all of Haiti's remaining resources are devoted to reconstruction and not to development loans that it is unrealistic to expect can ever be repaid, this legislation is a part of that step.

Haiti's impoverished condition dates back to its origins under French colonial rule, to 1804, 205, 206 years ago, when Haiti's citizens won their independence in a revolution similar to our revolution from the French colonial regime. France imposed a blockade and imposed and extracted a promise of \$21 billion in reparations, and that is \$21 billion in today's currency. That is greater than the debt incurred at that time by the United States, a much bigger government. So Haiti, when they were born as a country, they were immediately impoverished, and their enslavement continued. I will say that.

The amazing thing, if you look at that debt that the French imposed and you read about it, part of the debt was repayment for compensation for property, which included the slave population. I mean, that's amazing. That's amazing. That is something that we can't go back and do anything about, but we can certainly do something today. But when the French lost their ability to enslave that population, they extracted, because of their navy, a blockade and that debt.

With the country's economic productivity being drained, since its inception, to pay this enormous debt, which has never been paid off, never paid off because there were other debts added, economic development stifled since 1804.

Sometimes we say, Why Haiti? Why is it so poor? Why has it always been so poor? It never stood a chance.

In more recent times, and one would think that things couldn't get worse than that, Duvalier, under his dictatorship, was responsible for more than 40 percent of the additional loans to Haiti. I mean, think about loaning to a dictator who is suppressing his people. We have seen that in Africa and other places, and it is an absurdity that we ought to address in Haiti and we ought to address in other places because, in that way, countries that did that contributed. The brutal regime further despoiled the country by diverting funds borrowed for development to their own personal enrichment to bank accounts out of the country.

With this history, it is no surprise that Haiti was deeply impoverished since the beginning, their foundation as a nation. And this bill by Ms. WATERS and others takes a very fine first step toward the goal of eliminating Haiti's uncollectible debts so that the country can begin, for the first time, really, the process of becoming self-sustaining, and they are going to need a lot of help.

The text to be considered says the Treasury Secretary should direct U.S. representatives at international financial institutions to work with their

colleagues to try to achieve cancellation of debt owed by Haiti to those institutions. Since any cancellation would take months to accomplish, it seeks suspension of debt payment services until the cancellation takes place. None of these institutions realistically expects Haiti to service its debt at a time Haiti is lying in ruins.

As a former Treasury Under Secretary before our committee last week said, it is a "cruel hoax" on both the people of developing countries and on the taxpayers of donor nations to pretend that even without an earthquake, Haiti, a country whose citizens subsist on a dollar or two a day, is ever going to be able to pay back billions of dollars in development loans.

The United States has always been a benevolent and caring country. Even during our current economic challenges, we have not lost our compassion. In fact, our present travails have, in some respects, I believe, given us a greater appreciation for the desperation and suffering of those facing challenges and hardships in Haiti, although theirs are much greater than anything that we are undergoing.

The United States, and let me stress this, if you don't hear anything else, if you are thinking about voting against this bill, hear this: The United States has forgiven all of its bilateral debt to Haiti. What we are asking is we are asking others to do what we have done. What we are doing with this is directing the Secretary of the Treasury to use his voice and influence to seek debt cancellation from others. Among them are Venezuela and Taiwan. By far, Venezuela is the largest bilateral creditor. Taiwan is a distant second. Forgiving the debt Haiti owes to multilateral agencies is consistent with our principles, and we can lead by example while we lend a helping hand.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, this bill before us contains some minor changes to the bill that came out of the Committee on Financial Services, all of which I support. The changes don't add any cost. They don't change the intent of the bill.

Added at the end of original committee text is a section very similar to the bill that the Senate passed last week by unanimous consent. The section says the Secretaries of State and Treasury should support the creation and use of a multinational trust fund that could include and leverage any future U.S. aid to Haiti, and that aid ought to be in the form of grants, not loans, and that the Secretary of the Treasury should seek a speed-up in interbank transfers at the Inter-American Development Bank so they may be used in Haiti's recovery.

These are sensible steps, and I support the changes and I commend my colleagues who are also here in support of this very worthy legislation.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I want to thank the ranking member of the full committee as well as the ranking member of the subcommittee for the

cooperative spirit in working together in getting this bill to where it is today. Thank you for working in a very bipartisan manner to this point.

At this time, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) who is the author of this bill and who has been a long-time supporter for the people of Haiti.

Ms. WATERS. First, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) for the time, and I appreciate all of the work that he has done on this bill.

Indeed, I would also like to thank all of the Members who support this bill, including BARNEY FRANK, the chairman of the Financial Services Committee, who made sure we got the bill up and going and we could expedite it in a way I have never seen any other bill expedited.

I thank SPENCER BACHUS, the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, whom I have worked with for over 10 years, appreciating that he understands so very thoroughly the history of Haiti and what it means to the world.

I thank GREGORY MEEKS, again, the chairman of the International Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee, whose manager's amendment added so much in the way of improvement to this bill, and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; ELIOT ENGEL, chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, and all of the other cosponsors of the bill, and especially the Congressional Black Caucus.

□ 1900

I would also like to thank Kathleen Sengstock, my senior legislative assistant, who worked very hard on this bill. Kathleen is an expert on debt relief and has worked for the past 10 years on debt relief for all of the poor countries of the world.

I would also like to thank Daniel McGlinchey and other professional staff persons with the Financial Services Committee.

Ladies and gentlemen, Haiti was struck by a devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, 230,000 people were killed and 1.3 million people were displaced from their homes. There is still a desperate need for clean water, food, shelter, and basic sanitation. Three million people, one-third of the country's population, were affected by the earthquake.

Today, we are very fortunate to have in this country the President of Haiti, President Preval. The CBC—that is, the Congressional Black Caucus—held a meeting with President Preval, and he thanked us all, not only the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but all of the Members of Congress and the American people for the aid and support we have provided for Haiti. He thanked all of the American agencies for the lives that they have saved,

the food that they have distributed, along with the water and the medical care and much more.

He reminded us that the rains are coming, and perhaps hurricanes, and there is still a need for emergency adequate shelter, and of course long-term housing. But today we are talking about one of the simplest but most important things we can do to help Haiti: That is to cancel its debt.

Haiti's democratic government has worked very hard in recent years to qualify for debt relief. In order to qualify, the Government of Haiti successfully developed and implemented a comprehensive poverty-reduction strategy paper under the direction of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. As a result, multilateral financial institutions provided Haiti \$1.2 billion in debt relief last June. This was a critical step forward for Haiti. Nevertheless, Haiti still has a significant debt burden that will interfere with recovery and development efforts unless the remaining debts are canceled.

According to the U.S. Treasury Department, Haiti still owes \$828 million to the multilateral development institutions. This includes \$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, \$284 million to the IMF, \$39 million to the World Bank Group's International Development Association, and \$58 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. In addition, Haiti owes approximately \$400 million to other individual countries.

I introduced H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010, to free Haiti from the burden of these debts. The bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the U.S. executive directors at the multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to achieve several things: The immediate and complete cancellation of all debts owed by Haiti to these institutions; the suspension of Haiti's debt service payments until such time as the debts are canceled; and the provision of emergency humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Haiti in the form of grants so that Haiti does not accumulate additional debt.

This bill also directs the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State to use all appropriate diplomatic influence to secure the cancellation of all remaining bilateral, multilateral, and private creditor debt owed by Haiti. Debt cancellation will allow the Government of Haiti to focus its meager resources on essential humanitarian relief, reconstruction, and redevelopment.

The people of Haiti are poor, but they are physically and spiritually resilient. I know that with the support of the international community they will recover from this tragedy and create a brighter future for their children.

I urge my colleagues to support the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010.

Representatives MEEKS and WATERS wasted no time responding with this legislation. They have been the most stalwart proponents of the Haitian people, and the Haitian people are very fortunate to have them on their side. I want to applaud them for their efforts with this act.

As the Members of this body know, on January 12, 2010, Haiti experienced a 7.0 magnitude earthquake centered approximately 15 miles southwest of the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince. What followed were 50 aftershocks with magnitudes over 4.0, all occurring within 24 hours.

As of now, the Haitian Government has estimated 230,000 deaths and 300,000 injured. Additionally, 700,000 people have been displaced in the Port-au-Prince area. Damage caused by the earthquake is estimated between \$8 billion and \$14 billion, with reports speculating that reconstruction costs could approximate \$14 billion.

As the people of Haiti strive to put the pieces of their lives and the country back together, Congress clearly needs to help. This bill would have the Secretary of the Treasury instruct the U.S. representatives at the World Bank, the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral institutions to use their influence at these institutions to reach an agreement on relieving Haitian debt to these entities and to suspend Haiti's debt service payments until those debts are canceled.

Additionally, U.S. representatives at these institutions would advocate that future aid provided to Haiti be grant-based to avoid placing the country immediately back in debt as they seek to rebuild. In the shadow of a tragedy this size, this is an important first step, but I think the body must consider how much more can be done.

So often American efforts to provide aid to impoverished nations come in the form of a check, which does provide a significant boost, but the goal here is to mitigate the impact of the disaster on the people. I hope this body can look at areas where American resources and know-how can be invested in Haitian society. In addition to feeding the people and providing shelter and medical care, we can leverage American resources so that we aren't simply sending a check.

Americans are the most generous people in the world. In the aftermath of this tragedy, the citizens of this country have raised tens of millions of dollars to help the Haitian people. We should also be looking to send our heavy machinery and engineering capabilities along with qualified American workers—many of whom have been out of work themselves—to assist

the Haitian people rebuild their nation quicker and more effectively.

We will be holding a hearing next week in Financial Services to discuss many of these issues, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on ways that we can further leverage our Nation's great resources.

In conclusion, I want to thank Representatives WATERS and MEEKS for introducing this legislation. You have been strong advocates, and I really applaud you for the efforts. I thank you for allowing me to participate here tonight.

I strongly urge support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. It is my honor to yield 1 minute to the distinguished Chair of the Financial Services Committee who has led us this far, the gentleman from Massachusetts, the Honorable BARNEY FRANK.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I hope people will take note that there is not a correlation between the importance of what we do and the attention that what we do gets. This is not controversial because it is a product of genuine cooperation.

I am delighted to be on the floor with my friend, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS). A few years ago, along with him and the gentleman from California and our former colleague, the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. Leach, we, frankly, beat the leaderships of both parties and the Clinton administration to get debt relief through. They've learned, so we don't have to fight so hard this time for a very important cause.

I am very pleased to be joining in this wholly cooperative way in a morally compelled response to the problems of the people of Haiti. And I join in thanking the gentlewoman from California again, the gentleman from New York, and my colleagues on the other side from California and Alabama for letting us bring this forward.

Various Members and their staffs have been congratulated, as they should be. It's not as easy to do the right thing as it sometimes seems; you want to make sure you get it done well.

I just want to single out Daniel McGlinchey on the staff of the Financial Services Committee, who has been working at this for a long time, in cooperation with the others. This is a day in which the House can be proud, even if, because we're not yelling at each other, the press won't notice.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield 2 minutes to the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, a longtime fighter for Haiti, the Honorable BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much, Chairman MEEKS.

Let me just first say how much I want to support this bill today and

thank Chairman MEEKS for his steady and consistent support for Haiti, and also Chairman FRANK.

Also, let me just say, as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I have to extend our thanks to Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for her work on this bipartisan resolution, especially also for her long-term leadership on the campaign for debt relief for Haiti and for all countries in the developing world. Congresswoman WATERS has been a friend, an ally of the Haitian people for many years, long before this devastating earthquake struck.

Also, to the ranking members, your support and your sense of justice for Haiti is deeply appreciated.

The Congressional Black Caucus has a long history of working with the Haitian and Haitian-American communities, and many of us have traveled to Haiti several times. During the current crisis, the Congressional Black Caucus has and will continue to work closely with the Obama administration, the Government of Haiti, and the non-governmental organizations to provide whatever assistance we can on an ongoing basis to help with the recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Debt relief is not a matter of charity; it is really a matter of economic justice. Over half of Haiti's debt was borrowed under Haiti's dictatorships, some of which were brutally repressive. Thus, moneys borrowed by these regimes should not be borne by the Haitian people who had no say whatsoever on how these moneys were spent.

But more to the point, I think that it is obvious that Haiti is not in a position to service debt—nor should it be—while it is struggling to meet the basic needs of its people like food, water, health care, and shelter. It is looking to rebuild from the most devastating tragedy to strike the island nation in its history. I know that the leaders of the international financial institutions feel the same way, and they understand this bill and that Haiti should not have to repay its debt. The United States Government and other donor nations must work with these institutions to fashion a plan for it, and this bill offered by Congresswoman WATERS offers a legal framework and mandate to do just that.

Finally, I just want to say that I hope this bill passes on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, am I correct that we have 7 minutes remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. MEEKS, I would be happy to yield 4 minutes of our time to you because I see you have numerous speakers, and I think you could probably utilize that time in additional speaking.

I yield myself 1 minute at this point in time.

As I have spoken to my good friends, Mr. GREEN, Mr. MEEKS and Ms. WATERS, about introducing legislation to

help employ American workers in Haiti, we are going to be giving—and other groups are giving—tremendous amounts of money to Haitians and to the Haitian Government to basically rebuild. We all believe that it is important, with the amount of American workers, especially construction industries, that we have that are unemployed, to utilize many of our dollars to send the expertise and skills we have in contractors and workers and laborers from the United States to work with the labor and the Haitian people to rebuild their country.

I want to commend my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with me on this. We are close to having legislation done. Ms. WATERS, I spoke to you today, and we will be getting that to all of you to review before I introduce it. Hopefully we can bring this up in committee within a couple of weeks to start implementing American manpower and resources to help the Haitian people, and also, at the same time, to benefit those Americans that are out of work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman currently has 7½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. I would be happy to yield 4 of our minutes to my good friend from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York will control 11½ minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. It is my pleasure now to yield 1½ minutes of that to the gentlelady from the great State of Florida, the Honorable CORRINE BROWN.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act introduced by my dear friend and colleague, Representative MAXINE WATERS.

Like so many of my colleagues here in the Congress, and particularly in the CBC, we have been working to improve the lives of the people of Haiti for many, many years.

I was in Haiti last October with Chairman OBERSTAR and Congressman GREGORY MEEKS, and we met with President Preval and members of the Haitian Cabinet to discuss ways to improve the nation's infrastructure system, which is absolutely vital to Haiti's future economic development.

Haiti is an island filled with good-willed, hardworking people, yet their lives are extraordinarily difficult because their country has been in great turmoil for decades, long before the terrible earthquake that hit Port-au-Prince.

Being from Florida, Haiti has always been very, very near and dear to my heart. In my congressional district of Florida, we worked with numerous

area churches, businesses, and nonprofit organizations to make about 60 donations of tractor-trailers filled with supplies for the Haitian people.

□ 1915

We worked with nonprofit organizations and with Food For The Poor, and it was transported by the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line—all at no cost to the people of Haiti. You know, because Haiti is not on the front pages of the paper, their needs are very important, and we need to continue to work to help the people of Haiti.

I want to thank all of my colleagues for doing it. This is a really wonderful first step.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield 1½ minutes to one who is called from the Caribbean, the gentlewoman from the great State of New York, the Honorable YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act.

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous leadership of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the leadership of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), who is the author of this legislation.

As Representative of the second largest Haitian population in the country, I commend the Obama administration's swift response to the Haitian crisis. Without the President's comprehensive relief campaign, which included food, water, medical, and military assistance, as well as the \$100 million in aid, we would not be at the point we are, which is ready to discuss the next step. Thankfully, we are.

We must remember that the January earthquake did not create the troubling conditions in Haiti, although it certainly exacerbated them. Haiti is already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act, will achieve three distinct goals which will help to keep the focus on humanitarian assistance.

First, the Secretary of the Treasury would instruct the U.S. executive directors of the institutions which lent money to the Haiti Government to immediately cancel all debts owed to Haiti to their respective institutions.

Next, Haiti's debt service payments would be suspended.

Lastly, grants would be provided for additional assistance so that Haiti would not accumulate additional debts.

It is my hope that, as we continue to rebuild, our rebuilding effort will not begin until the relief effort has concluded, and it will be dependent on all allowing Haiti to focus solely on humanitarian aid. To do this, it is imperative that we cancel the debts of the Haitian Government.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield 1½ minutes the hardworking gentleman from the great State of Texas, the Honorable AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. I want to thank the team that worked on this effort. Of course, that would be the honorable Chair of the subcommittee, Mr. MEEKS. It would be the Honorable MAXINE WATERS. It would also be Mr. MILLER, the ranking member on the subcommittee and, of course, the ranking member of the full committee, Mr. BACHUS.

Madam Speaker, I must tell you that my comments have been revised because I cannot allow this moment to go by without speaking to the comments that were made by Mr. BACHUS.

He spoke to our hearts and he spoke truth. It's not easy to stand in the well of the House of Representatives and speak the kind of truth that we heard. A son of the South and a Representative from Alabama stood in the well of the House, and he spoke the truth about one of the greatest atrocities ever imposed upon humankind and about how one country, in an effort to extricate and liberate itself, had to pay for the very liberation that it accorded itself. It meant something to me to hear this son of the South speak this kind of truth in the well of the Congress of the United States of America.

So I commend you and I salute you.

Mr. MILLER, I thank you as well.

The two of you deserve to have it said that you truly spoke truth to power tonight. Thank you.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield to the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I would like unanimous consent for an additional minute on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, each side will control 1 additional minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I now ask unanimous consent to yield our 1 minute to the majority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. This is a very historic occasion.

I would like to thank Congresswoman WATERS for her continued and persistent leadership on debt relief for countries around the world.

I thank the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. MEEKS of New York, for his persistence and guidance on passing this bill so quickly with Mr. BACHUS and Mr. MILLER. Thank you for your commitment and for your interesting and very good idea about putting Americans to work.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support this legislation to acknowledge that we are talking about a country right now that has only 20 percent of the revenue that it needs to run its nation. They need seed. They need fertilizer. They are living some 80 percent below the poverty line, owing some \$709 million in debts to multilateral financial institutions—\$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank—and also to countries such as Venezuela. This legislation will, in essence, help us clear the slate of all of those debts, and it will help us track what the United States has done.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the first responders, USAID and so many who stood tall when Haiti called. Today, in the White House, it was good to be able to acknowledge those first responders from around the world, from around the Nation, in addition to the United States military.

Helping them with this debt relief over all the land will allow the President to focus on building and on rebuilding—rebuilding Port-au-Prince, rebuilding the suburbs in the outlying areas—and to focus on creating jobs for the Haitian people and on bringing contractors there who will work with Haitians in a joint venture with agencies. So the relief of this debt, I believe, is an enormous step in making a difference in the lives of Haitians.

I want to thank you and ask support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4573—the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010. As, a co-sponsor of this bill, I strongly believe that it is a necessary step to ensure a successful recovery in Haiti.

Haiti's long term development is currently hampered by its debt burden. January's earthquake struck Haiti during a time of economic vulnerability. Before the earthquake, Haiti was, by far, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Before the earthquake, Haiti also has among the world's lowest levels of gross domestic product per capita. An estimated 80 percent of the population lived under the poverty line with 54 percent living in abject poverty, according to the CIA World Factbook. According to the United Nations Human Development Report, more than two-thirds of the labor force is believed to not have formal jobs, and just 62.1 percent of adults over age 15 are literate. Additionally, 18 percent of Haitians did not live to the age of 40.

Yet, despite the destruction wreaked by multiple tropical storms in 2008, Haiti's economy and infrastructure-building seemed to be turning a corner in recent years, aided by international support and debt relief programs.

In fact, according to the New York Times, "Haiti was one of only two Caribbean countries expected to grow in 2009. There were hopes of a tourism revival, reinforced by the announcement that a new Comfort Inn would open there this May. In a sign of its growing structural sophistication, Haiti even recently announced that it would begin collecting better national statistics, with the help of the International Monetary Fund, so that it could better assess and calibrate its economic policies."

The earthquake on January derailed this progress.

As this legislation states, the Government of Haiti cannot afford to invest in reconstruction and development efforts while continuing to make payments on debts owed to multilateral financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank and to other international creditors.

Prior to the earthquake, debt service payments to multilateral financial institutions and other international creditors already were a tremendous burden that interfered with the ability of the Government of Haiti to meet the needs of its people.

On June 30, 2009, the World Bank announced that Haiti qualified for and received \$1.2 billion in debt relief from the IMF, the World Bank, and other multilateral financial institutions. In order to qualify for this debt relief, the Government of Haiti successfully developed and implemented a comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, under the direction of the IMF and the World Bank.

According to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, despite previous debt relief, Haiti still owes a total of \$709 million in debts to multilateral financial institutions, including \$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, \$165 million to the IMF, \$39 million to the World Bank, and \$58 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

According to the IMF, Haiti owed Venezuela \$167 million and Taiwan \$92 million at the end of September, 2008; furthermore, the amounts of these debts may have grown since that time. The cancellation of Haiti's debts to multilateral financial institutions and other international creditors will allow the Government of Haiti to use its meager resources for essential reconstruction and development efforts.

As important as this legislation is, it is only one part of a much larger American assistance response to the earthquake. America will continue to respond with humanitarian assistance to help the people of this struggling island nation rebuild their livelihoods. I send my condolences to the people and government of Haiti as they grieve once again in the aftermath of a natural disaster. As Haiti's neighbor, I believe it is the United States' responsibility to help Haiti recover, and build the capacity to mitigate against future disasters.

To date the United States Government has contributed over \$402 million in earthquake response funding for Haiti. It has also deployed approximately 17,000 military personnel in support of the relief effort. Subsequently, as part of the new Government of Haiti-led effort, the U.N. World Food Program will provide commodities, non-governmental organizations will manage distributions, and U.S. military will provide security escorts.

America and her allies have already initiated a comprehensive, interagency response to the earthquake. The State Department, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Coast Guard, USAID—all worked overnight to ensure critical resources were positioned to support the response and recovery effort, including efforts to find and assist American citizens in Haiti.

Once again I stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti and will do everything in my power to assist them with rebuilding their country and livelihoods. I am proud of our first responders and pledge that America's long

term commitment to Haiti will live up to the standard that the first responders set.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. It is my honor to yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, a longtime fighter for Haiti, the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Let me begin by commending Mr. MEEKS from New York and Ms. WATERS from California for this very important legislation, H.R. 4573, Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti.

I also would like to acknowledge Mr. BACHUS for his very impassioned speech. Yet I am not surprised.

Mr. BACHUS, you may recall, when we were fighting the brutal Government of Sudan, we tried to get capital market sanctions. You supported our legislation that brought Mr. Greenspan to the Senate to say, Defeat the Payne-Bachus legislation because it would disrupt the stock market. So I commend you again for the great work that you have done.

Madam Speaker, as we have mentioned, Haiti has had such a tremendous history. Since we know what is in the bill, I might also mention that it was during the Revolutionary War that Haitian soldiers fought in one of the key battles, the Battle of Savannah, where just recently a statue was completed in Savannah. I spoke at the dedication a year or so ago. It turned the tide of the war.

Haitian soldiers fought in a number of battles to help the original colonies of the United States become independent from Britain. So they shed blood for our independence. Many people didn't know that.

Then, as you know, with the defeat of Napoleon's army by Haiti, as was talked about, the reparations that had to be paid back caused France to be cash poor and land rich. It therefore forced them to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States because it had lost the cash that Haiti had produced. Over 50 percent of all the commodities of tea and coffee and sugar in Europe came from Haiti. France lost that and therefore needed the cash from the Louisiana sale to have its treasury boosted. As a result, the Lewis and Clark expedition began in St. Louis, and the United States was able then to take the rest of this Nation. Once again, Haiti had a tremendous part of this.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield 2 minutes to the Chair of the subcommittee for the Western Hemisphere, the gentleman from New York, the Honorable ELIOT ENGEL.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my good friend and fellow New Yorker for yielding to me. I want to commend him for the work he has done.

I want to commend my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) for this bill.

Madam Speaker, like all of my colleagues, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4573, which pushes for the cancellation of debts owed by Haiti to multilateral financial institutions.

I am the chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, and I also have a large Haitian population in my district in Spring Valley, New York.

I am honored to say that, last Friday, I traveled to Haiti. You can see the devastation in the newspapers; you can look at it on television, but until you are there in person, you cannot imagine how horrible it is.

The other things you see are thousands upon thousands upon thousands upon thousands of people in the streets with nothing to do and with no place to go—with no place to go to work and with no place to call home. There are rows of tents and shacks and of things put up for people to seek shelter. There are people just in the streets, and they are friendly towards the United States. We have a special obligation to help the people of Haiti.

We met President Preval in Port-au-Prince last Friday. Today, I had the honor and pleasure of meeting him again twice—once at the White House with President Obama and then, after that meeting, at a private meeting with Members of Congress. I will tell everyone what I told him and what all of my colleagues are saying:

We must help Haiti. We have a responsibility to help Haiti. It is clear that Haiti faces a very long road of recovery from the impact of the earthquake, and this bill will allow the Government of Haiti to focus its efforts and attention on the present and future recovery of the country and on the Haitian people.

We all know Haiti's early history and independence. It is tragically marked by the onerous debts it was forced to pay by major powers, depriving Haiti of many years of needed resources and development. We shouldn't allow Haiti's present debts to pose similar obstacles in the wake of this earthquake.

People say that Congress can't agree on anything and that there is no bipartisanship here. What we are seeing now is bipartisanship at its best. We are all working together to help the people of Haiti.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

My daughter, Elizabeth, lived with me here in Washington for about 4 years. She was one of the directors for a group called Witness for Peace, which is a human rights organization.

I recall very well a trip she led of a group to Haiti. She spent a week in Haiti with individuals from the United States, looking at the situation that the people were in and trying to come up with ways that we could help the people of that country.

My daughter passed away about 2 years ago, and I am proud to be part of

this bill because she believed in this. She believed in the people. She believed that there was a lot of good that the American people could do for people in this part of the world. So I am just glad to chair this side of the hearing tonight. I would like to do it in honor of my daughter, if you don't mind.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me just first thank the chairman of the committee, BARNEY FRANK, Ranking Member BACHUS, and again my ranking member on the International Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee, Mr. MILLER. We came together because of the hard work and dedication that the gentlelady from California put forward in writing this bill to make sure we did the right thing for the people of Haiti. This is one of those times where you are proud of being a Member of Congress, working together for the good of human beings.

Though oftentimes we say that Haiti is poor, when I think of Haiti, they are rich; rich in spirit, rich in human capital, rich in hope. These are a people suffering the most unimaginable tragedy, which still have the hope and desire of moving forward, who have overcome and survived all of the things that Mr. BACHUS and others have said today, when you think about it, from the very beginning of their independence.

Indeed, the people of Haiti are a rich people, and we are doing the right thing today and sending the right message to the people of Haiti, that we will stand by you, not just for the short haul, but for the long haul.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a Member of Congress and proud of my colleagues who have worked so hard to get this bill done, and I am proud that we are doing the right thing by the great people of Haiti.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act.

It is almost 2 months to the date since the already struggling nation of Haiti was rocked by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake.

Approximately 3 million people were affected and 230,000 are estimated to have died. Those that survived are facing unimaginable conditions, with a crumbling infrastructure that has hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Out of this destruction, however, the Haitian people have been given the incredible opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and rebuild their nation stronger than ever before.

Though I commend our government's generous contributions of humanitarian assistance and that from foreign nations, Haiti cannot be self-sufficient and its recovery cannot be sustainable if a substantial amount of its resources must go to paying debts that were amounted out of desperation or by repressive, irresponsible regimes.

Despite previous debt relief, Haiti still owes a total of \$709 million in debts to multilateral financial institutions. Meanwhile, the IDB has estimated earthquake damages to total nearly \$14 billion.

How can we in good conscience expect Haiti to send money to foreign governments and international financial institutions when there are people sleeping in the streets, children going hungry, and schools and hospitals reduced to rubble?

I have long fought for the people of Haiti, both on the island and in our own Nation. On this issue in particular, last Congress, I offered an amendment which passed the House of Representatives unanimously that put Congress on record encouraging the expedited cancellation of Haiti's international debt.

At a time of extreme instability and crisis, Congress and the United States government must do all within our power to help ensure a long-term sustainable recovery for Haiti.

I applaud Congresswoman WATERS for her long-standing commitment to debt relief for Haiti and for other deserving nations and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4573. This legislation would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank to immediately cancel Haiti's debts and urge donors to disburse grants. While Haiti is rebuilding, we should allow them to turn a new leaf and not be burdened by overwhelming debt.

Last month I visited Haiti and witnessed firsthand the destruction caused by the massive earthquake of January 12, 2010. It is estimated by the Haitian government that well over 200,000 Haitians have been killed and 3 million have been affected by the natural disaster. It is imperative that this body help its neighbor in its time of need and make a significant long-term reconstruction commitment.

Haiti has had a long history of multilateral institutions distributing aid in the form of loans. At its peak, Haiti had a total external debt of \$1.8 billion. In recent years the United States has advocated debt forgiveness and the international community recently responded last summer by forgiving \$1.2 billion in debt to multilateral institutions.

I strongly support the legislation, which rightly argues that future aid to Haiti should be in the form of grants instead of loans. This must be kept in mind at the Haiti donor conference scheduled for later this month at the United Nations.

Madam Speaker, I am heartened by the public and private support given to the victims by millions of our generous fellow Americans. I also commend President Obama's unwavering commitment to alleviate the suffering.

Passing today's legislation would help free our struggling neighbor from the shackles of debt and offer a glimmer of hope during this time of need.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the earthquake on January 12, 2010, was the worst disaster to afflict Haiti in over two centuries. According to recent estimates, the earthquake has killed 230,000 people and displaced another 1.3 million.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with a long history of exploitation at the hands of world powers. Now, with severe damage to roads, ports, and hospitals,

and a desperate need for clean water, food, shelter, and basic sanitation, Haiti faces reconstruction burdens that may exceed \$14 billion. With such expenses in the future, Haiti is in no position to repay the debts it owes wealthy international creditors.

Madam Speaker, with that in mind I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4573, legislation I cosponsored that would promote debt relief for our Haitian brothers and sisters.

The bill urges the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States executive directors at the International Monetary Fund, IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the "voice, vote, and influence of the United States" to cancel immediately and completely all debt owed by Haiti to such institutions; suspend Haiti's debt service payments to these institutions until the debts are canceled completely; and provide additional assistance from these institutions to Haiti through grants so that Haiti does not accumulate additional debt.

Despite significant debt relief last summer, Haiti owes a total of \$828 million in debt to multilateral financial institutions, including \$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, \$284 million to the IMF, \$39 million to the World Bank, and \$58 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. Haiti also owes about \$400 million to other individual countries.

Madam Speaker, it is abundantly clear that extraordinary circumstances render impossible Haiti's timely repayment of this debt. Furthermore, our humanity should compel us to extend a compassionate hand to our neighbors in need.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 4573.

As my colleagues have explained, this bill calls on the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to take certain measures to enable Haiti's debt relief and to provide additional assistance to Haiti from multilateral development institutions in the form of grants.

The United States cancelled all of Haiti's outstanding debt to the U.S. in September of last year.

Similarly, Haiti has already received hundreds of millions of dollars in debt relief from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank, IDB.

However, it still retains significant debt to various bilateral donors, the IMF, and the IDB.

By passing this measure, we can help to minimize the enormous fiscal pressures facing the Government of Haiti in the aftermath of its tragic earthquake so that its limited resources may be used for more immediate priorities.

Also, by encouraging the use of grants versus loans, Haiti will have the opportunity to take advantage of certain resources from these institutions without increasing its future financial burdens.

This bill will help prevent Haiti from getting in over its head at a time when every penny counts.

It also recognizes the important role that other bilateral donors play in the long-term recovery efforts of Haiti.

By calling on other bilateral, multilateral and private creditors to provide debt cancellation to Haiti, H.R. 4573 underscores the concept of shared responsibility.

An integrated approach based on a coordinated and transparent distribution of responsibilities will prove essential to a successful response to Haiti's catastrophic disaster.

I thank Congresswoman WATERS for introducing this important measure.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4573, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-97)

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 the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2010.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from actions and policies of the Government of Iran that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and 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 Iran and maintain in force comprehen-

sive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA,
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 2010.

SUPPORT NASA'S CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the President's proposal to cancel the NASA Constellation Program, which covers the Orion Crew capsule, the Altair Lunar Lander, and the Ares I and Ares V rockets. These programs, which together comprise our human spaceflight program, were authorized in both 2005 and 2008 by Republican and Democratic Congresses.

It is under the Constellation Program that NASA is currently developing new launch vehicles and spacecraft capable of traveling to the Moon, Mars, and other destinations. Not only does canceling the Constellation Program jeopardize America's leadership role in human space exploration, but it will have detrimental effects on our economy.

The issue is it will take years for the commercial spaceflight industry to get up to speed to where the level of competence exists in NASA today. Our government has already invested literally years and billions of dollars in this program. We should build upon these investments and not abandon them.

Our country can support the commercial spaceflight industry, but not at the expense of our human spaceflight programs.

It is my hope, Madam Speaker, that this Congress will continue NASA's Constellation Program.

PROVIDING FOR NASA SPACE EXPLORATION

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 1150, which establishes NASA and all of its assets as a national security interest.

We need to work with the President in moving forward on restoring the funds for the Constellation Program and to reemphasize and recommit ourselves to human space exploration. In the current budget of the NASA program, funds have been increased, but funds have been taken away from the Constellation Program. In essence, it has been canceled.

My request is that we have our task before us, and the answer is simple: to reprogram the funds that are in the NASA budget to ensure that this great asset of NASA, NASA Johnson, the NASA centers in Alabama and Mississippi and Florida and elsewhere, are maintained.