

I rise in support of House Resolution 1278, a resolution expressing support of the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

I introduced this resolution to encourage people to call 811, the nationwide Call Before You Dig number, before conducting any digging or excavating activities and to help draw attention to the problem of excavators and homeowners unintentionally damaging underground utilities.

Throughout the month of April, U.S. Department of Transportation, State utility regulators, and damage prevention stakeholders such as the Common Ground Alliance took part in public awareness campaigns to alert people of the dangers of not having underground utilities located before digging.

Each year more than 256,000 utility lines are unintentionally damaged during excavation activities resulting in fatalities, injuries, loss of utility service, and environmental damage. Many of these unintentional strikes could have been easily avoided if somebody had dialed 811 and had all of the underground utility lines in the area marked.

When a homeowner or contractor calls 811, he is connected to a call center that works with all of the local utility companies to have any underground utilities in the vicinity of the project located and marked. Many utilities, such as cable and telephone lines, are buried only a few inches underground, so even a project that involves only a shallow digging can result in damage to a utility line.

Every weekend, hundreds of homeowners lose cable or telephone service because they unintentionally cut a line while putting in a new mailbox or planting a new tree. While loss of cable or telephone service can be inconvenient, unintentionally striking an underground pipeline or electrical line can be deadly. There are more than 2 million miles of pipelines and more than 1 million of underground electric lines in the United States. These utilities are usually buried deeper than telecommunication lines, but they can be easily struck during road construction and home improvement projects.

Spring marks the beginning of the construction season and the time of year when most homeowners are taking on home improvement and landscaping projects. As contractors and homeowners move forward with their projects, it is important that they remember to call 811 and have underground utilities located before they begin any activity that involves digging or excavating.

Since I will be home this weekend planting trees in my yard, I have called my family, and I hope they have made the call to 811. So if my son, Garrett, is listening to me, make sure you dial 811 before I get home so when we plant the trees this weekend, we are doing all of the right things. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1278, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), which expresses support and recognizes April as National Safe Digging Month. H. Res. 1278 also celebrates the third anniversary of 8-1-1, the nationwide telephone number that all homeowners and contractors must use before conducting digging or excavation activities.

According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of serious pipeline incidents. More than 256,000 underground utility lines are damaged during excavation each year in the United States; 35 percent of those incidents are due to homeowners and contractors not calling 8-1-1 before they dig.

We created this one-call notification system in 2002 in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act (P.L. 107-355), which directed the Secretary of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a three-digit, nationwide toll-free telephone number for excavators to call to dispatch companies that operate underground utilities in the area to mark the exact location of their utilities. This helps excavators avoid hitting the utilities when digging and any fatalities, injuries, environmental damage, or loss to critical infrastructure and services that could occur.

According to PHMSA, 8-1-1 has helped reduce the number of excavation damages caused by failure to locate underground utilities prior to digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 35 percent in 2009.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1278, to recognize April as National Safe Digging Month. The Common Ground Alliance, an association dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices, has designated April as National Safe Digging Month in order to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the country. This resolution also celebrates the anniversary of the designation of 811 as the national 'Call Before You Dig' number.

I would like to recognize Congressman SHUSTER for his hard work authoring this resolution and bringing it to the Floor. The United States has over 2,500,000 miles of pipelines, of which 2,200,000 are for distribution of natural gas, 320,500 for transmission of natural gas, and 168,900 for hazardous materials including oil. Unfortunately, each year there are over 200,000 incidences of unintentional damage to underground utility infrastructure (including pipelines, electrical, telecommunications, water, and sewer lines). Many of these incidents are a result of an individual who fails to have underground utilities lines located before digging, as some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground.

To prevent these accidents, Congress required a 3-digit, nationwide toll-free number be established to be used by State one-call systems in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. These one-call notification programs allow homeowners and excavators to have underground utilities located and marked before conducting digging or excavation activities. I am pleased to say that the one-call system has helped reduce the number of digging damage caused by failure to locate under-

ground utilities prior to digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 37.5 percent in 2009. And as April is the beginning of the peak of excavation projects around the Nation, I am pleased to join Congressman SHUSTER and the Common Ground Alliance in raising awareness about this topic.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in supporting H. Res. 1278.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1278, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

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.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

The proposed Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The proposed Agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with Australia based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. The Agreement has an initial term of 30 years from the date of its entry into force, and will continue in force thereafter for additional periods of 5 years each, unless terminated by either party on 6 months' advance written notice at the end of the initial 30-year term or at the conclusion of any of the additional 5-year periods. The proposed Agreement permits the transfer of information, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production. It does not permit transfers of Restricted Data, sensitive nuclear technology, sensitive nuclear facilities, or major critical components of such facilities. In the event of termination of the proposed Agreement, key non-proliferation conditions and controls continue with respect to material, equipment, and components subject to the proposed Agreement.

Australia is a non-nuclear weapon state party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Australia has concluded a Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Australia is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which establishes international standards of physical protection for the use, storage, and transport of nuclear material. It is also a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, whose non-legally binding guidelines set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use. A more detailed discussion of Australia's domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear non-proliferation policies and practices, including its nuclear export policies and practices, is provided in the NPAS and the NPAS classified annex submitted to the Congress separately.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution. I urge the Congress to give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 5, 2010.

SUPPORT DYSTONIA RESEARCH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in solidarity with a wonderful and determined south Florida woman, Millie Munoz. Millie Munoz has dystonia, a little-known movement disorder that causes a person's muscles to contract and spasm involuntarily. The trademark of this disorder is repetitive, patterned, and uncontrollable movements.

Since childhood, Millie went from doctor to doctor and was told there was no real problem. Finally in the summer of 2006, she was diagnosed with generalized dystonia. Shortly thereafter, Millie went from climbing the Great Pyramid to being in a wheelchair and bed bound. Luckily, in 2008, she had deep brain stimulation surgery which provided some relief. Today, Millie has a feeding tube and braces on her legs, and she is as resilient and as determined as ever.

Together, we must raise awareness of this disorder and support the research that can find a cure to this silent internal storm.

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URGING TESTIMONY OF CHIEF ACTUARY AT THE CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & MEDICARE SERVICES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Republican members of the Education and Labor Committee sent a letter to Chairman MILLER asking that the chief actuary at the Medicare agency testify before the committee.

The report from Richard S. Foster estimating the financial effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act includes a number of adverse implications for employer-sponsored health care plans which make it worthy of consideration by the committee.

The report shows that the act will cause health expenditures to grow by \$311 billion over the baseline projections. The report raises the possibility of a substantial cost shift to private payers, such as employer-sponsored plans, as health care providers will seek to recoup underpayments to the Medicaid program.

I am concerned that small businesses would be inclined to terminate their existing coverage and companies with low average salaries might find it to their advantage to end their plans, allowing workers to qualify for heavily subsidized coverage at taxpayer expense.

As a member of the committee, I urge the chairman to allow this request for the chief actuary to testify

on this new law and its implications for business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

UNDER SIEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a friend of mine in Texas, John, sent me a recent article from the Tucson Weekly written by Leo Banks. The article shines a bright light on life in Arizona north of the border and the shock after the murder of Arizona rancher Robert Krentz. The murderer shot Rob, then his dog, and then fled down the Black Draw on the Geronimo Trail, headed back to Mexico. Rob's sister, Susan Pope, says things have gotten so bad, she can't honestly remember the last time she felt secure.

The Popes' home is in the mountains and it has been broken into three times. Susan works as a bus driver and a teacher at the one-room Apache Elementary School. That elementary school has been burglarized so many times that nothing of value remains there. How can you teach children in an atmosphere like that? They say everybody there knew something like Rob Krentz' murder was about to happen.

Susie Morales lives near Nogales. She said, when she cooks dinner in her kitchen, she can look out and see people, drug mules, with backpacks full of drugs. They are on a trail 75 yards from her front door. Another trail 50 yards from her back door exists. These trails are so close that, when Susie spots the paramilitary squads, she runs into her bathroom with her cell phone, hides and shuts the door. She has to keep her voice down so the drug cartels don't hear her calling for help, and she carries a .357 magnum with her at all times.

Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano, however, says arrests are down on the border's 262-mile-wide Tucson sector. Those arrests are not numbers of actual crossers, however, and these misleading statistics are used to say border security is working.

However, the truth is just the opposite. The people who got away from officially numbered arrests outnumber them three to one. Frontline lawmen