

The next period of maximum solar activity is only two years away.

From a homeland security perspective, it is important that we take an “all hazards” approach to the risk and increase preparedness for both intentional and naturally occurring events.

While some may argue that the threat of a high-altitude nuclear weapon burst perpetrated by a rogue state or a terrorist group is remote, I do not discount it. Given the high-consequence nature of such an attack, I take it very seriously.

On the other hand, scientists tell us that the likelihood of a severe naturally occurring geomagnetic event capable of crippling our electric grid is 100 percent. It will happen; it is just a question of when.

GIC is a natural occurrence just like earthquakes, wildfires, tornadoes or hurricanes.

Similarly, geomagnetic storms occur from time to time as part of the natural activity of the Sun. One such storm, in 1989, disrupted power throughout most of Quebec, and resulted in auroras as far south as Texas.

With the significant investments we are making in “Green Energy” and the “Smart Grid”, we find ourselves at an opportune moment to protect our grid from an EMP and cyber attacks.

As we expand and improve our grid, we must also build in physical and cyber protections from the start, and we must retrofit key elements of the existing grid in order to protect it.

Federal authority and funding are needed if this effort is to succeed. H.R. 5026 represents a critical step forward in our efforts to meet these homeland security challenges and deserves support from this House.

Therefore, I urge Members to join me and support H.R. 5026.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5026, the Grid Reliability and Infrastructure Defense Act, and urge my colleagues to support it. I thank my colleague Chairman MARKEY for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

The GRID Act empowers the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in the event of a Presidential emergency declaration, to take actions needed to protect our grid.

I have said this before but it bears repeating: A modern society is characterized by the presence of three things: clean available water, properly functioning sewage and sanitation services, and electricity.

I would further assert that the way our present systems function, electricity is needed to power those other critical systems. So at a minimum, we rely on electricity to function as a modern society.

It is our very reliance on this infrastructure that makes it an obvious target for attack. We know that many of our adversaries—from terrorist groups to nation states—have and continue to develop capabilities that would allow them to attack and destroy our grid at a time of their choosing.

There are two significant threats to the electric grid. One is the threat of cyber attack. Many nation states, like Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran, have offensive cyber attack capabilities, while terrorist groups like Hezbollah and al Qaeda continue to work to develop capabilities to attack and destroy critical infrastructure like the electric grid through cyber means.

If you believe intelligence sources, our grid is already compromised. An April 2009 article in the Wall Street Journal cited intelligence sources who claim that the grid has already been penetrated by cyber intruders from Russia and China who are positioned to activate malicious code that could destroy portions of the grid at their command.

The other significant threat to the grid is the threat of a physical event that could come in the form of a natural or manmade Electromagnetic Pulse, known as EMP. The potentially devastating effects of an EMP to the grid are well documented.

During the Cold War, the U.S. government simulated the effects of EMP on our infrastructure, because of the threat of nuclear weapons, which emit an EMP after detonation. Though we may no longer fear a nuclear attack from Soviet Russia, rogue adversaries (including North Korea and Iran) possess and test high altitude missiles that could potentially cause a catastrophic pulse across the grid.

These are but two of the significant emerging threats we face in the 21st century. Our adversaries openly discuss using these capabilities against the United States. According to its “Cyber Warfare Doctrine,” China’s military strategy is designed to achieve global “electronic dominance” by 2050, to include the capability to disrupt financial markets, military and civilian communications capabilities, and the electric grid prior to the initiation of traditional military operations.

Cyber and physical attacks against the grid could both be catastrophic and incredibly destructive events, but they are not inevitable. Protections can—and must—be put in place ahead of time to mitigate the impact of these attacks.

The time for action is now, support the GRID Act and help ensure America’s future.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I yield back the balance of my time with the urging of an “aye” vote by the Members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5026, 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 amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system and electric infrastructure critical to the defense of the United States against cybersecurity and other threats and vulnerabilities.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WORLD OCEAN DAY

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1330) recognizing June 8, 2010, as World Ocean Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1330

Whereas in 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided that, as of 2009, June 8 would be designated by the United Nations as “World Ocean Day”;

Whereas many countries have celebrated World Ocean Day following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992;

Whereas World Ocean Day allows us the yearly opportunity to pay tribute to the ocean for what it provides;

Whereas we have an individual and collective duty, both nationally and internationally, to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild our ocean and its resources;

Whereas our present ocean stewardship is necessary to provide for current and future generations;

Whereas the world depends on the health of our ocean for a full range of ecological, economic, educational, scientific, social, cultural, nutritional, and recreational benefits;

Whereas the ocean is linked to adaptation to climate and other environmental change, foreign policy, and national and homeland security;

Whereas we must ensure accountability for our actions, and serve as a model country promoting balanced, productive, efficient, sustainable, and informed ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes use, management, and conservation within the global community; and

Whereas our ocean is in need of strong policies that support ecosystem-based management, coastal and marine spatial planning, informed science-based decision making and improved understanding, government coordination, regional ecosystem protection and restoration, enhanced water quality and sustainable practices on land, changing conditions in the Arctic as well as ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observations and infrastructure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes World Ocean Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I’m happy to rise in support of House Resolution 1330. This measure recognizes June 8, 2010, as World Ocean Day.

World Ocean Day offers the opportunity to celebrate the wonders of the underwater world and look carefully at our interactions with the sea.

The timing of this measure is critical. Today we find ourselves in the midst of the worst ocean oil disaster in our Nation’s history. With our addiction to oil jeopardizing the vibrant and economically vital marine life of America’s seas, we are being reminded daily of the often-forgotten value of

these resources and our responsibility to protect them.

The world's oceans cover more than 70 percent of our planet's surface, and the rich web of life that they support is the result of hundreds of millions of years of evolution. Great human civilizations, from the Egyptians to the Polynesians, relied on the sea for commerce and transport.

And now, in the 21st century, our fate is as tied to the oceans as ever. We still rely on fish for a significant portion of our daily protein needs. And more than \$500 billion of the world's economy is tied to ocean-based industries, such as coastal tourism and shipping.

But all is not well in the sea. Increased pressures from overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and introduction of invasive alien species have combined in recent decades to threaten the diversity of life in our oceans.

The first observance of World Ocean Day will allow us to highlight the many ways in which oceans contribute to society. It is also an opportunity to recognize the considerable challenges we face in maintaining the capacity to regulate global climate, supply essential ecosystem services, and provide sustainable livelihoods and safe recreation.

As the oil continues to spill into the gulf, it is time to recognize a World Ocean Day and take the first critical steps to saving this vital resource.

House Resolution 1330 was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from California, Representative SAM FARR, on May 5, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported favorably by unanimous consent on May 20, 2010. The measure has the support of over 50 Members of the House.

I thank the gentleman from California for introducing this measure, and I'd also like to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA for their support for the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1330, recognizing June 8, 2010, as World Ocean Day.

It is particularly fitting that today this resolution gives us the opportunity to take some time and appreciate the beauty of our oceans and to think about ways that we can work to protect our oceans for generations to come.

All Americans, as well as people from around the world, realize the importance of oceans. Millions of people enjoy playing, boating, surfing, fishing, or simply being along the beachscape and along our oceans. Oceans fascinate many children who learn about the interesting aspects of the oceans and the animals that live under the sea.

Certainly, in light of the national crisis that is currently occurring in the

gulf with the oil leak, this resolution gives us context in which to understand the risks from the delayed response that is occurring to stop the leak in the gulf.

We rely on oceans every day for our regular way of life. Oceans provide thousands of jobs for fishermen, sailors, and many other professions. All Americans are served by oceans in numerous ways, including for food and transport for the vast array of goods that are transported by cargo ships across oceans.

Mr. Speaker, our oceans are an incredibly precious resource, and we should protect them for the future. I ask that my colleagues join in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California, Representative FARR.

□ 1130

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution, which I sponsored with many other Members of Congress. And I would first of all like to thank the committee and the leadership they provided in a bipartisan fashion to bring this bill to the floor.

As has been stated, the ocean is our largest public trust. It covers two-thirds of the planet. It's responsible for one-third of the total gross domestic product of the United States. It is closely linked to our day-to-day activities and, frankly, to the success of our Nation.

Tom Friedman said, "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." We cannot let the crisis that has happened in the gulf pass us by. We've faced disasters in this country before, and we have moved to act. After Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring" in 1962, and the Santa Barbara oil spill happened in 1969, the environmental movement took a strong hold in the United States. Congress followed up by adopting the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act in short order. We will debate the acts that we have to take following the crisis in the gulf, but today we are joined in unanimous thought that the ocean is important, and it warrants its recognition.

We might say it's a very salty week here in Washington. June is the National Oceans Month. This week is the Capitol Hill Oceans Week, where members of the ocean interests and science community come to Washington to petition their government. And yesterday was World Ocean Day. For over a month now, the Nation has been experiencing the worst marine disaster in history.

World Ocean Day was first recognized in 1992's Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and has been celebrated unofficially ever since. The United Nations took official recognition of the day last year. I am proud to lead the effort here in Congress this year.

The resolution that we are adopting emphasizes we have an individual and

collective duty, both nationally and internationally, to be ocean stewards. The resolution also petitions the President to set priorities using his Ocean Policy Task Force. I will continue in my role as representing the coast of California and one of the marine science leading geography areas in the world of marine science to bring to this floor issues important to the ocean. But right now I want to join my colleagues in celebrating that we all agree that it's important to recognize the oceans.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as Congress takes this time to recognize World Ocean Day, I think it is absolutely appropriate for us to ask the administration for answers on the gulf oil leak and the tragedy that is occurring there. I think the American people are outraged, and they want to know how did this happen, they want to know how is it going to be stopped, and how is it going to be cleaned up. I think the administration needs to tell us what their game plan is and what their actions are.

Currently, it is as if the administration is merely telling what BP is saying. And I think the American people want to know, and as Congress takes this action, it would be appropriate for the administration to step forward and say how did this happen, how are we going to stop this, and how are we going to clean it up, and how are we going to make certain this doesn't happen again. I know that in Ohio people look down to the gulf with just outrage of the risk that is occurring to wildlife, our beaches. And they want to know what is this administration going to do, what is the plan, and how is this going to be stopped.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Congressman FARR, thank you for your leadership on this. This is not a new issue for you. I remember your days in the California legislature, where you carried such legislation. You do represent one of the most pristine and one of the most precious parts of the California coast, the Monterey Bay. Therefore, it's appropriate for you to carry and it's appropriate for this Congress to act on this resolution, recognizing World Ocean Day and, beyond that, recognizing the critical importance of oceans to all of us.

It is the birthplace of life. It is the place where we find our climate, our oxygen, a lot of our food, and our commerce. It's also the place that we have over the years trashed. Trash is flowing into the ocean, sewage is flowing into the ocean, pollution of all kinds, and now the ultimate pollution of a blowout of an oil well in the Gulf of Mexico.

It's time for us to not only pay attention to the ocean, which this resolution does; it's also time for us to protect the oceans. We know that climate change,

the increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is leading to the acidification of oceans. And that will kill much of the life of the ocean if it were to continue to increase.

What are we doing about it? Well, we are recognizing it today. We will take this as step one. Yes, the administration needs to be forthcoming with information. But we also need to rein in the oil industry and make sure that any drilling in the oceans is done in a maximum safe way. For the west coast, I have authored the West Coast Ocean Protection Act that would prohibit new leases off the west coast of California, Oregon, and Washington. That is the maximum protection. More needs to be done. This is a starting point.

This is a recognition of our responsibility as Members of Congress to take action not only with a resolution recognizing this day, but with solid laws that require the protection and provide the protection necessary for the ocean.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, again as we take up this resolution for World Ocean Day, America has questions for this administration on how they are going to stop this leak, how we are going to protect our oceans and the wildlife, and how this is going to be cleaned up.

You know, most administrations when they take office say, We are ready for the job day one. Well, day one was a year-and-a-half ago, and we still have a crisis in the gulf, and people want to know, Well, where is the administration? We are on day 51 of the leak down in the gulf. Day 51.

Perhaps in addition to World Ocean Day, every day Congress should pass a resolution proclaiming a day in honor of the tragedy that's occurring down in the gulf. Day 51 and we still don't have an answer, we don't know how this is going to be stopped, we don't know what the administration's plans are, and we don't know what the administration's plans are for cleaning this up.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the resolution, June 8 as World Ocean Day. But for the past 50 days, and for the next 6 months at least, every other day is going to be "ruin our oceans day."

We like to think, well, this is all about BP. I think we have to go a little bit further. We have to understand that we have been pursuing a way of life that is not sustainable. It's not sustainable for us as human beings; it's not sustainable for our planet.

So we can be here today to talk about the oceans, and we should; but we have to keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that our oceans receive billions of gallons of runoff flows, pesticides, metals like mercury and lead, massive amounts of fertilizer, volatile organic compounds, countless other chemicals.

Even before the Deepwater disaster, this runoff caused the single biggest dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Our oceans are absorbing the malfeasance of oil companies who are not only responsible for at least three separate major oil gushers as we speak, but are responsible as being one of two major contributors causing climate change. And we are subsidizing them with taxpayers' money. Our oceans are absorbing the malfeasance of coal companies, the other major fossil fuel contributor to climate change. For decades the oceans have been our repository for the greenhouse gases that come mostly from the burning of fossil fuel. The result is that oceans have grown more acidic. Coral is dying; underwater temperature patterns are shifting, undermining entire ecosystems.

There are signs our oceans have reached the limit. Some studies indicate oceans won't be able to absorb any more, if any, greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere. That only increases the urgency with which we must act to achieve a carbon-free and even nuclear-free energy portfolio.

But the ultimate challenge that we have about upholding the environmental integrity of our oceans comes because we have really disassociated ourselves from nature. We see nature as being out there. We see nature as not even being a part of us. And because we are avoiding our responsibility to protect God's creation, the price we are going to be paying in the future will keep getting higher: oceans that are poisoned, a planet ruined, and all of life threatened with extinction.

So we can keep temporizing about what's going on in the gulf, but the fact of the matter is that sooner or later we must come to an accounting with the kind of energy that we are using and the damage it does to the environment and to the human race and all other life on the planet.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. KUCINICH from Ohio's comments on the issues of how we need to look at how we are treating the environment. And as we are into day 51 of this crisis in the gulf, Congress has begun to have hearings, the House and the Senate, asking questions about what happened. But I think the administration needs to come forward and give some serious answers to the American people. As people look to the news and to the Web cams of the leak, they want to know from this administration what's the answer. How is this going to be stopped? How is this going to be addressed? How is it going to be cleaned up?

Fifty-one days into this, we don't know yet how this is going to be stopped or what manner by which it should be stopped. We are still listening to BP give us the answers instead of the administration telling us, well, what is the standard? What should be happening? How should we be protecting the coast?

And it makes you wonder, a year-and-a-half into this administration, well, how are we doing on the other oil rigs that are there? Is this administration prepared in determining whether or not the other oil rigs currently represent a threat? What inspections are they doing? What compliance are they doing?

As Congress passes World Ocean Day, the administration should pause and turn to the American people and give us some answers as to what their response is going to be to this 51 days into a terrible crisis down in the gulf.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I am intrigued with my colleague from Ohio's approach, because when the other team was in charge, we had a series of programs that undercut the ability to have government equipped moving forward: the scandals in the MMS, the appointment of people literally from the industry to sort of look at their former colleagues, people who were literally in bed with the people that they were supposed to regulate.

A series of efforts, the litany that we have heard from our colleagues when they were in charge was to cut back on regulation, to move it faster, to do more drill, baby, drill. And with all due respect, I think looking at the history of 10 years of moving in the other direction, to now somehow fault the administration, who inherited an unparalleled economic collapse, problems with EPA, with MMS around the whole array of areas that are a consequence of policies that were put in place by our friends on the other side of the aisle.

I feel it's somewhat ironic that we are celebrating Ocean Day on the 51st day of the disaster. I am hopeful that it is an area that we are not somehow going to spend—I am happy to go toe to toe with my friend in terms of what the Republicans did and their policies to strip the Federal Government of the ability to move forward, but I think what we need to do is talk about where we are going forward to reduce our reliance on imported oil and domestically produced fossil fuels.

We need to move to a cleaner, greener approach, where we have more energy efficiency. We absolutely need to be aggressive in making sure that the laws are enforced. We need to have people who stop being apologists for the industry, whether it's BP or mining disasters, and move forward with a new era of more efficient-energy use, and respect for the oceans.

I am honored to be on the floor with my colleague Mr. FARR, who has been a champion for as long as I have been in Congress in this area that deserves far more attention, far more resources, far more work on the part of the Congress.

I would hope that respect for the oceans, that research and protections

would be something that brings us together so that not only do we avoid disasters like this in the future, but we are able to do a better job with the wide range of areas that are going to make such a difference for the future of the planet.

Mr. TURNER. With all due respect to the gentleman from Oregon, since the Democrats have been in charge of the House for the past 3½ years, if there were any regulatory or legislative issues or resolutions that needed to be passed, certainly we would have seen those and they would have moved forward out of this House. Unfortunately, what we see out of this House is a resolution for World Ocean Day, a resolution for World Ocean Day while we have this crisis going on down in the gulf and the administration is still not giving us answers as to how is this going to be addressed.

□ 1145

The big question that everybody has in the news is not what is BP doing or what is it going to be doing next or is the fix that they currently are pursuing going to work, but what is this administration's answer to how this should be addressed, what should be done. This administration has been in office for 1½ years. This crisis has been going on for 51 days. Surely in the past 51 days the administration should be able to step forward and give the American people a clear answer as to how did this happen, how is it going to be stopped, and how are we going to clean this up. This is something that I think everyone, as we pause for World Ocean Day, would certainly pause for those answers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman CAPPs.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding, and I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1330, a resolution recognizing June 8 as World Ocean Day.

I want to thank my colleague and dear friend SAM FARR, who represents a neighboring district to mine on the central coast of California, for introducing this important resolution of which I am a proud cosponsor.

We are a water planet, Mr. Speaker. The oceans cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface and contain 97 percent of the planet's water. They regulate our climate. They regulate our weather. We depend on them for the air we breathe, for protein in our diets, for our quality of life.

Yesterday, the international community celebrated World Ocean Day. Now, more than ever, it is time for us to pay tribute to our oceans and to their resources.

Two national commissions have found our oceans are under increasing pressure. They are showing signs of serious decline from oxygen-depleted dead zones to depleted fish populations to contaminated beach waters, and now

we must add a massive oil spill to the list. This disastrous gulf oil spill is the worst environmental disaster in our Nation's history.

There is no doubt our addiction to oil jeopardizes the vibrant and economically important marine life of our world's oceans. We are being reminded every day of the often-forgotten value of these resources, and it's our responsibility to protect them.

A national ocean policy is needed, Mr. Speaker, perhaps now more than ever. Such a policy would ensure that activities occurring off our shores, like offshore drilling, that these activities meet the basic requirements of protecting, maintaining, and restoring our ocean ecosystems and resources. President Obama has already erected a task force to develop, with public input, recommendations for a national ocean policy, which are expected soon. This is an important first step that will better protect our oceans.

But there's another step that Congress can take. So I urge my colleagues to join with me not only in supporting this important resolution recognizing World Ocean Day, but as our colleague from Oregon has just stated, moving forward, taking the collective responsibility, the stewardship that we share to defend and care for our water planet.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the prior speaker indicated that the President has pulled together a task force for a national ocean policy and is looking for public input. I think we know what that public input is. It's, Mr. President, tell the American people how this leak is going to be stopped. Tell us how this cleanup is going to occur, and tell us how this is going to be avoided in the future. The public input is, Stop the leak.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. I now yield 3 minutes to the author of this resolution, Representative FARR, the gentleman from California.

Mr. FARR. I appreciate the support for this bill on both sides of the aisle.

I would just like to address that although the resolved clause is very simple, it recognizes for the first time that Congress recognizes for the first time that we ought to recognize a day when the whole world is trying to recognize the ocean. I mean, it does cover two-thirds of our planet, and it is very important to the ecosystem and the health and well-being of mankind to have a healthy ocean.

And that's, you know, in a way, as the minority speaker said, that's not a big deal when there's a huge crisis going on, but it's the first time Congress has recognized the ocean in that sense. So it is important as a first step. I think what's more important and answers some of the questions that you raise, not just the questions of cleanup in the gulf but a much bigger question that a lot of us in Congress have been asking, is: Where is our national ocean policy?

We have had policy about clean water and how we want to govern that and

set up a process for determining how we can ensure that water that we drink and that we disperse into the oceans is clean. We have national policy on air quality of the air we breathe, but we have no national policy on health of the oceans or even use of the oceans for fishing, for mining, for other kinds of purposes. And that is what's lacking.

We're governing in a crisis because we have an oil spill. And what I respect the committee in doing in their unanimous consent is looking at these "whereases" in this bill that really calls for these bigger policies so that we don't get into this problematic area, kind of going at things blindly. And I think that's what really the importance is here.

This bill coming at this time—it was introduced before the oil spill began but certainly has developed a lot of popularity because people want to say, Yes, we do recognize the oceans. And I think this is a first start for Congress to really look at a comprehensive package of issues.

We can go into the debates, going to get into a lot of things you heard today. But it's very important that we together, in a unanimous, bipartisan way, look at the fact that the ocean is a very critical resource to the well-being of the world, much less the well-being of the United States. And I appreciate the bipartisan support to bring this bill to the floor, and I ask that we have a unanimous vote on it.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as Congress takes up World Ocean Day, we are 51 days into a crisis in the gulf where this administration, 1½ years into this administration, still has not provided the American people with answers as to how will this leak be stopped, how will this be cleaned up, how will this be avoided in the future. The American people, as we take up World Ocean Day, pause, looking at the 51 days of the continuing crisis in the gulf, and look for answers.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1330, introduced by my colleague Mr. SAM FARR of California. The Resolution calls upon the United States to recognize World Oceans Day, where we pay tribute to the oceans for what it provides and recognize our duty to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild our ocean and its resources so it may continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

As the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, I fully support House Resolution 1330, which brings attention to the importance of our world's oceans in our cultural, social, economic and scientific life. Since 1992, the world has celebrated World Oceans Day, with the first celebrated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This year's theme, "Oceans of Life," is fitting as our oceans contain great biodiversity that sustain our human population.

The people in my home district of Guam fully understand the significance of our oceans. As an island community in the Western Pacific, our economy relies on the natural beauty of our beaches to support our tourism industry. Understanding that our beaches

allow both residents and tourists to engage in recreational activities, the people of Guam remain responsible environmental stewards. The oceans surrounding Guam, which continue to sustain life on the island, are a central part of Chamorro culture. This appreciation of the ocean by all of Guam's residents is rooted in an understanding that it is important to protect our natural resources, which include our coral reefs, fish and marine life.

Unfortunately, the health of our oceans is threatened at all levels. From climate change affecting our ocean's biodiversity to the most recent oil disaster in the Gulf Coast, we must continue to work to address these issues so that future generations are able to experience the educational, recreational and economic benefits of our world's oceans.

With that, I ask all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support House Resolution 1330, recognizing World Ocean Day.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1330, a resolution recognizing June 8 as World Ocean Day. Hawaii is the only state in the nation that is surrounded entirely by ocean, giving us a unique appreciation for the vast resource that is the Pacific Ocean. Almost every household good in Hawaii was shipped over the ocean. Our state's economy relies on our harbors—large and small—and the beaches that draw visitors to Hawaii. The ocean provides recreational activities such as surfing, swimming, and fishing for our residents and visitors to enjoy. It would be difficult to find an aspect of life in Hawaii that is not somehow affected by the Pacific Ocean.

The Native Hawaiian culture is also deeply tied to the ocean. Polynesian explorers discovered Hawaii traveling tremendous distance in canoes, long before the so-called "discovery" of Hawaii by Captain Cook. The Kumulipo chant, known as the Hawaiian creation chant, places the origin of life in the oceans, beginning with the coral polyp.

Hawaii is home to the world's most ancient seal, the Hawaiian monk seal. My district includes the largest marine protected area in the United States, the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, as well as one of the most important breeding grounds for the endangered Humpback Whale.

The people of Hawaii have always relied on the ocean, but the situation in the Gulf Coast illustrates that the oceans belong to the world. Countries have political boundaries, but the ocean and its denizens do not. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has devastated that region and now threatens the entire East Coast because of the Loop Current, the Gulf Stream, and other ocean currents.

People in landlocked states also depend on the oceans, which absorb up to a quarter of the world's carbon dioxide. As humans have increased their carbon dioxide output in recent decades, the ocean has grown increasingly acidic. Over the last five years, we have learned that this acidification endangers coral, algae, shellfish, and other small organisms that support the base of the food chain.

What happens to the ocean happens to the world. Whether landlocked or surrounded by ocean, we all depend on the benefits of healthy oceans. Fish stocks, ocean currents, and carbon dioxide do not abide by political boundaries. We, too, must work across our borders to unite with other nations in order to be careful and conscientious stewards of the

ocean. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to recognize June 8 as World Ocean Day.

H.R. 5278

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

SECTION 1. PRESIDENT RONALD W. REAGAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building".

Mr. TURNER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1330, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PRESIDENT RONALD W. REAGAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5278) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, as the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Govern-

ment Reform, it is my great privilege as a member of the California delegation to rise in support of H.R. 5278. This measure designates the United States postal building located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, as the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building."

President Reagan hardly needs an introduction on this floor. Many of those who knew President Reagan referred to him as "the Great Communicator." Thus, it is very fitting that we commemorate his legacy through the naming of this post office.

The son of a shoe salesman, Ronald Reagan was born in Illinois in 1911. He was a construction worker, a lifeguard, radio announcer, and actor. After serving in the Air Force, he returned to acting before successfully running for California Governor, despite never having held public office before.

President Reagan successfully obtained legislation to stimulate economic growth, curb inflation, and increase employment. His contributions on behalf of freedom around the world are unparalleled since the end of World War II. There is no more Cold War. There is no more Berlin Wall, and it was because of the leadership of President Ronald Reagan. He was instrumental in bringing the breath of freedom to millions of people around the world who had spent decades under the yoke of tyranny. President Reagan left a lasting imprint on American politics, diplomacy, culture, and economics.

As a California resident, I am honored to support H.R. 5278. It was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Illinois, Representative BILL FOSTER, on May 12, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on May 6, 2010. The measure has the support of the entire Illinois delegation.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois for introducing this measure, and I would also like to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA for their support for the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5278, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 405 West Second Street in Dixon, Illinois, as the "President Ronald W. Reagan Post Office Building."

Ronald Reagan was born in Illinois in 1911. He attended high school in Dixon, Illinois, after which he worked his way through Eureka College. While at Eureka College, Mr. Reagan began acting in school plays, along with his studies of economics and sociology.

After graduating college, he had a life led with achievements. He was a sports radio announcer, a noted actor appearing in 53 films, two-time president of the Screen Actors Guild, and host of a long-running television series.