

friends or with family members. Calling cards that provide the services that the companies advertise can save consumers a great deal of money when they call home.

Unfortunately, as my colleagues have mentioned, as we see all too often, a number of unscrupulous companies are failing to keep their advertised terms. I first learned of this issue about 3 years ago when I heard from a number of constituents who said that their prepaid calling cards were not delivering the number of minutes that they advertised. In fact, many were not even close to delivering the promised number of minutes.

When I heard about these problems, I purchased a calling card to investigate the problem for myself. What shocked me—although, it should come as no surprise to anybody now—is that I found the exact same problems my constituents were having. One of those companies promised me a certain number of minutes, and I found that it was a complete fabrication. I did not receive even close to the number of minutes that the card advertised. This is when I decided to introduce my legislation to ban this practice.

I have read studies conducted by States' attorneys general as well as by independent groups showing that many calling cards provide far fewer minutes than are advertised. One study by the Hispanic Institute found, on average, that the caller only received about 60 percent of the minutes guaranteed by the card. I recently read that the prepaid calling card industry takes in \$4 billion a year in revenue. If the cards are only providing 60 percent of the minutes, each one of us can do the math.

This deception is costing consumers and honest companies hundreds of millions of dollars every year. Calling card fraud harms segments of the population which are among the most vulnerable to being victimized by unscrupulous companies only seeking to make quick profits. Companies will target poor, minority, and immigrant populations, and they don't stop there. They have even preyed upon our soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is unconscionable.

As was mentioned, there are so many ways that they use fraudulent terms. There are different fees. If you call and don't get anyone home, there is a fee. If you call and someone hangs up, there is a fee. There are all kinds of hidden fees in terms of what time you can call and what day you can call. It just gets ridiculous.

In an article in *BusinessWeek* magazine, the author detailed one example of a company that marketed toward Spanish-speaking consumers. It had packaging with Spanish language information, but the fine print that detailed all the various fees they would charge the user was in English. When confronted about this deception, the company simply said, "We're in America." They had the audacity to claim

that, even when they put Spanish language advertisements in markets with Spanish-speaking consumers, they could hide all of their fees in English.

This legislation will put a stop to a number of deceptive practices employed by unscrupulous companies. It would simply require calling cards and advertisements to include the clear disclosure of all terms, conditions, and fees in the language in which the calling card is advertised. Just like the nutrition information on a box of cereal, consumers should be able to quickly and easily compare two products side by side.

I would strongly encourage all Members to support this bipartisan and, as Mr. WHITFIELD pointed out, well-thought-out legislation. I thank everyone for marking up this legislation today.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, this issue is so important that I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I won't take 2 minutes, Madam Speaker.

I would just like to say that my colleague who just spoke, Mr. ENGEL, and I became aware of this some time ago when one of the people we know, who is in this business, brought to our attention the way some of these companies have been so unscrupulous in bilking the public out of the minutes that they pay for.

I am very happy that Congressman ENGEL has introduced this bill. Though, I only wish I'd known about it because I certainly would have wanted to have been a cosponsor on it. You may rest assured that I will support it, and I hope that all of my colleagues will because it is unconscionable that the American people would buy something like this, especially military personnel, knowing that they are going to be able to call their loved ones, then to find out that they've been shortchanged. It's almost a criminal act. I think we ought to look down the road. If this is being done intentionally by these calling card companies, there possibly ought to be some prosecutions that take place.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, H.R. 3993 will protect consumers from faulty and deceptive calling cards.

Again, I want to thank my colleague, Representative ENGEL, for his work on this legislation.

This bill is bipartisan, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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. MATSUI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3993, 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. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

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## FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS ACT

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1660) to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to reduce the emissions of formaldehyde from composite wood products, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1660

*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 "Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act".

### SEC. 2. FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### "TITLE VI—FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS

##### "SEC. 601. FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) FINISHED GOOD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'finished good' means any good or product (other than a panel) containing—

"(i) hardwood plywood;

"(ii) particleboard; or

"(iii) medium-density fiberboard.

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'finished good' does not include—

"(i) any component part or other part used in the assembly of a finished good; or

"(ii) any finished good that has previously been sold or supplied to an individual or entity that purchased or acquired the finished good in good faith for purposes other than resale, such as—

"(I) an antique; or

"(II) secondhand furniture.

"(2) HARDBOARD.—The term 'hardboard' has such meaning as the Administrator shall establish, by regulation, pursuant to subsection (d).

"(3) HARDWOOD PLYWOOD.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'hardwood plywood' means a hardwood or decorative panel that is—

"(i) intended for interior use; and

"(ii) composed of (as determined under the standard numbered ANSI/HPVA HP-1-2009) an assembly of layers or plies of veneer, joined by an adhesive with—

"(I) lumber core;

"(II) particleboard core;

"(III) medium-density fiberboard core;

"(IV) hardboard core; or

"(V) any other special core or special back material.

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'hardwood plywood' does not include—

"(i) military-specified plywood;

"(ii) curved plywood; or

"(iii) any other product specified in—

"(I) the standard entitled 'Voluntary Product Standard—Structural Plywood' and numbered PS 1-07; or

"(II) the standard entitled 'Voluntary Product Standard—Performance Standard

for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels' and numbered PS 2-04.

“(C) LAMINATED PRODUCTS.—

“(i) RULEMAKING.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct a rulemaking process pursuant to subsection (d) that uses all available and relevant information from State authorities, industry, and other available sources of such information, and analyzes that information to determine, at the discretion of the Administrator, whether the definition of the term ‘hardwood plywood’ should exempt engineered veneer or any laminated product.

“(II) MODIFICATION.—The Administrator may modify any aspect of the definition contained in clause (ii) before including that definition in the regulations promulgated pursuant to subclause (I).

“(ii) LAMINATED PRODUCT.—The term ‘laminated product’ means a product—

“(I) in which a wood veneer is affixed to—

“(aa) a particleboard platform;

“(bb) a medium-density fiberboard platform; or

“(cc) a veneer-core platform; and

“(II) that is—

“(aa) a component part;

“(bb) used in the construction or assembly of a finished good; and

“(cc) produced by the manufacturer or fabricator of the finished good in which the product is incorporated.

“(4) MANUFACTURED HOME.—The term ‘manufactured home’ has the meaning given the term in section 3280.2 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of promulgation of regulations pursuant to subsection (d)).

“(5) MEDIUM-DENSITY FIBERBOARD.—The term ‘medium-density fiberboard’ means a panel composed of cellulosic fibers made by dry forming and pressing a resinated fiber mat (as determined under the standard numbered ANSI A208.2-2009).

“(6) MODULAR HOME.—The term ‘modular home’ means a home that is constructed in a factory in 1 or more modules—

“(A) each of which meet applicable State and local building codes of the area in which the home will be located; and

“(B) that are transported to the home building site, installed on foundations, and completed.

“(7) NO-ADDED FORMALDEHYDE-BASED RESIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—(i) The term ‘no-added formaldehyde-based resin’ means a resin formulated with no added formaldehyde as part of the resin cross-linking structure in a composite wood product that meets the emission standards in subparagraph (C) as measured by—

“(I) one test conducted pursuant to test method ASTM E-1333-96 (2002) or, subject to clause (ii), ASTM D-6007-02; and

“(II) 3 months of routine quality control tests pursuant to ASTM D-6007-02 or ASTM D-5582 or such other routine quality control test methods as may be established by the Administrator through rulemaking.

“(ii) Test results obtained under clause (i)(I) or (II) by any test method other than ASTM E-1333-96 (2002) must include a showing of equivalence by means established by the Administrator through rulemaking.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘no-added formaldehyde-based resin’ may include any resin made from—

“(i) soy;

“(ii) polyvinyl acetate; or

“(iii) methylene diisocyanate.

“(C) EMISSION STANDARDS.—The following are the emission standards for composite wood products made with no-added formaldehyde-based resins under this paragraph:

“(i) No higher than 0.04 parts per million of formaldehyde for 90 percent of the 3 months

of routine quality control testing data required under subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(ii) No test result higher than 0.05 parts per million of formaldehyde for hardwood plywood and 0.06 parts per million for particleboard, medium-density fiberboard, and thin medium-density fiberboard.

“(8) PARTICLEBOARD.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘particleboard’ means a panel composed of cellulosic material in the form of discrete particles (as distinguished from fibers, flakes, or strands) that are pressed together with resin (as determined under the standard numbered ANSI A208.1-2009).

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘particleboard’ does not include any product specified in the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard—Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels’ and numbered PS 2-04.

“(9) RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.—The term ‘recreational vehicle’ has the meaning given the term in section 3282.8 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of promulgation of regulations pursuant to subsection (d)).

“(10) ULTRA LOW-EMITTING FORMALDEHYDE RESIN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—(i) The term ‘ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resin’ means a resin in a composite wood product that meets the emission standards in subparagraph (C) as measured by—

“(I) 2 quarterly tests conducted pursuant to test method ASTM E-1333-96 (2002) or, subject to clause (ii), ASTM D-6007-02; and

“(II) 6 months of routine quality control tests pursuant to ASTM D-6007-02 or ASTM D-5582 or such other routine quality control test methods as may be established by the Administrator through rulemaking.

“(ii) Test results obtained under clause (i)(I) or (II) by any test method other than ASTM E-1333-96 (2002) must include a showing of equivalence by means established by the Administrator through rulemaking.

“(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resin’ may include—

“(i) melamine-urea-formaldehyde resin;

“(ii) phenol formaldehyde resin; and

“(iii) resorcinol formaldehyde resin.

“(C) EMISSION STANDARDS.—

“(i) The Administrator may, pursuant to regulations issued under subsection (d), reduce the testing requirements for a manufacturer only if its product made with ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resin meets the following emission standards:

“(I) For hardwood plywood, no higher than 0.05 parts per million of formaldehyde.

“(II) For medium-density fiberboard—

“(aa) no higher than 0.06 parts per million of formaldehyde for 90 percent of 6 months of routine quality control testing data required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

“(bb) no test result higher than 0.09 parts per million of formaldehyde.

“(III) For particleboard—

“(aa) no higher than 0.05 parts per million of formaldehyde for 90 percent of 6 months of routine quality control testing data required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

“(bb) no test result higher than 0.08 parts per million of formaldehyde.

“(IV) For thin medium-density fiberboard—

“(aa) no higher than 0.08 parts per million of formaldehyde for 90 percent of 6 months of routine quality control testing data required under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

“(bb) no test result higher than 0.11 parts per million of formaldehyde.

“(ii) The Administrator may not, pursuant to regulations issued under subsection (d), exempt a manufacturer from third party certification requirements unless its product made with ultra low-emitting formaldehyde

resin meets the following emission standards:

“(I) No higher than 0.04 parts per million of formaldehyde for 90 percent of 6 months of routine quality control testing data required under subparagraph (A)(ii).

“(II) No test result higher than 0.05 parts per million of formaldehyde for hardwood plywood and 0.06 parts per million for particleboard, medium-density fiberboard, and thin medium-density fiberboard.

“(b) REQUIREMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in an applicable sell-through regulation promulgated pursuant to subsection (d), effective beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of promulgation of those regulations, the emission standards described in paragraph (2), shall apply to hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard sold, supplied, offered for sale, or manufactured in the United States.

“(2) EMISSION STANDARDS.—The emission standards referred to in paragraph (1), based on test method ASTM E-1333-96 (2002), are as follows:

“(A) For hardwood plywood with a veneer core, 0.05 parts per million of formaldehyde.

“(B) For hardwood plywood with a composite core—

“(i) 0.08 parts per million of formaldehyde for any period after the effective date described in paragraph (1) and before July 1, 2012; and

“(ii) 0.05 parts per million of formaldehyde, effective on the later of the effective date described in paragraph (1) or July 1, 2012.

“(C) For medium-density fiberboard—

“(i) 0.21 parts per million of formaldehyde for any period after the effective date described in paragraph (1) and before July 1, 2011; and

“(ii) 0.11 parts per million of formaldehyde, effective on the later of the effective date described in paragraph (1) or July 1, 2011.

“(D) For thin medium-density fiberboard—

“(i) 0.21 parts per million of formaldehyde for any period after the effective date described in paragraph (1) and before July 1, 2012; and

“(ii) 0.13 parts per million of formaldehyde, effective on the later of the effective date described in paragraph (1) or July 1, 2012.

“(E) For particleboard—

“(i) 0.18 parts per million of formaldehyde for any period after the effective date described in paragraph (1) and before July 1, 2011; and

“(ii) 0.09 parts per million of formaldehyde, effective on the later of the effective date described in paragraph (1) or July 1, 2011.

“(3) COMPLIANCE WITH EMISSION STANDARDS.—(A) Compliance with the emission standards described in paragraph (2) shall be measured by—

“(i) quarterly tests shall be conducted pursuant to test method ASTM E-1333-96 (2002) or, subject to subparagraph (B), ASTM D-6007-02; and

“(ii) quality control tests shall be conducted pursuant to ASTM D-6007-02, ASTM D-5582, or such other test methods as may be established by the Administrator through rulemaking.

“(B) Test results obtained under subparagraph (A)(i) or (ii) by any test method other than ASTM E-1333-96 (2002) must include a showing of equivalence by means established by the Administrator through rulemaking.

“(C) Except where otherwise specified, the Administrator shall establish through rulemaking the number and frequency of tests required to demonstrate compliance with the emission standards.

“(4) APPLICABILITY.—The formaldehyde emission standard referred to in paragraph

(1) shall apply regardless of whether an applicable hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, or particleboard is—

“(A) in the form of an unfinished panel; or  
“(B) incorporated into a finished good.

“(C) EXEMPTIONS.—The formaldehyde emission standard referred to in subsection (b)(1) shall not apply to—

“(1) hardboard;

“(2) structural plywood, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard—Structural Plywood’ and numbered PS 1-07;

“(3) structural panels, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Voluntary Product Standard—Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels’ and numbered PS 2-04;

“(4) structural composite lumber, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Standard Specification for Evaluation of Structural Composite Lumber Products’ and numbered ASTM D 5456-06;

“(5) oriented strand board;

“(6) glued laminated lumber, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Structural Glued Laminated Timber’ and numbered ANSI A190.1-2002;

“(7) prefabricated wood I-joists, as specified in the standard entitled ‘Standard Specification for Establishing and Monitoring Structural Capacities of Prefabricated Wood I-Joists’ and numbered ASTM D 5055-05;

“(8) finger-jointed lumber;

“(9) wood packaging (including pallets, crates, spools, and dunnage);

“(10) composite wood products used inside a new—

“(A) vehicle (other than a recreational vehicle) constructed entirely from new parts that has never been—

“(i) the subject of a retail sale; or

“(ii) registered with the appropriate State agency or authority responsible for motor vehicles or with any foreign state, province, or country;

“(B) rail car;

“(C) boat;

“(D) aerospace craft; or

“(E) aircraft;

“(11) windows that contain composite wood products, if the window product contains less than 5 percent by volume of hardwood plywood, particleboard, or medium-density fiberboard, combined, in relation to the total volume of the finished window product; or

“(12) exterior doors and garage doors that contain composite wood products, if—

“(A) the doors are made from composite wood products manufactured with no-added formaldehyde-based resins or ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins; or

“(B) the doors contain less than 3 percent by volume of hardwood plywood, particleboard, or medium-density fiberboard, combined, in relation to the total volume of the finished exterior door or garage door.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2013, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations to implement the standards required under subsection (b) in a manner that ensures compliance with the emission standards described in subsection (b)(2).

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The regulations promulgated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include provisions relating to—

“(A) labeling;

“(B) chain of custody requirements;

“(C) sell-through provisions;

“(D) ultra low-emitting formaldehyde resins;

“(E) no-added formaldehyde-based resins;

“(F) finished goods;

“(G) third-party testing and certification;

“(H) auditing and reporting of third-party certifiers;

“(I) recordkeeping;

“(J) enforcement;

“(K) laminated products; and

“(L) exceptions from the requirements of regulations promulgated pursuant to this subsection for products and components containing de minimis amounts of composite wood products.

The Administrator shall not provide under subparagraph (L) exceptions to the formaldehyde emission standard requirements in subsection (b).

“(3) SELL-THROUGH PROVISIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Sell-through provisions established by the Administrator under this subsection, with respect to composite wood products and finished goods containing regulated composite wood products (including recreational vehicles, manufactured homes, and modular homes), shall—

“(i) be based on a designated date of manufacture (which shall be no earlier than the date 180 days following the promulgation of the regulations pursuant to this subsection) of the composite wood product or finished good, rather than date of sale of the composite wood product or finished good; and

“(ii) provide that any inventory of composite wood products or finished goods containing regulated composite wood products, manufactured before the designated date of manufacture of the composite wood products or finished goods, shall not be subject to the formaldehyde emission standard requirements under subsection (b)(1).

“(B) IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.—The regulations promulgated under this subsection shall—

“(i) prohibit the stockpiling of inventory to be sold after the designated date of manufacture; and

“(ii) not require any labeling or testing of composite wood products or finished goods containing regulated composite wood products manufactured before the designated date of manufacture.

“(C) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘stockpiling’ means manufacturing or purchasing a composite wood product or finished good containing a regulated composite wood product between the date of enactment of the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act and the date 180 days following the promulgation of the regulations pursuant to this subsection at a rate which is significantly greater (as determined by the Administrator) than the rate at which such product or good was manufactured or purchased during a base period (as determined by the Administrator) ending before the date of enactment of the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act.

“(4) IMPORT REGULATIONS.—Not later than July 1, 2013, the Administrator, in coordination with the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection and other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall revise regulations promulgated pursuant to section 13 as the Administrator determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with this section.

“(5) SUCCESSOR STANDARDS AND TEST METHODS.—The Administrator may, after public notice and opportunity for comment, substitute an industry standard or test method referenced in this section with its successor version.

“(e) PROHIBITED ACTS.—An individual or entity that violates any requirement under this section (including any regulation promulgated pursuant to subsection (d)) shall be considered to have committed a prohibited act under section 15.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. prec. 2601) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VI—FORMALDEHYDE STANDARDS FOR COMPOSITE WOOD PRODUCTS

“Sec. 601. Formaldehyde standards.”.

### SEC. 3. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through December 31, 2014, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing, with respect to the preceding year—

(1) the status of the measures carried out or planned to be carried out pursuant to title VI of the Toxic Substances Control Act; and

(2) the extent to which relevant industries have achieved compliance with the requirements under that title.

### SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF REGULATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of promulgation of regulations pursuant to section 601(d) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (as amended by section 2), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall update the regulation contained in section 3280.308 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), to ensure that the regulation reflects the standards established by section 601 of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1660, the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act. I want to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and CRAPO for their leadership in guiding this bill through the Senate.

Madam Speaker, this is a truly bipartisan bill, with 10 out of the 19 Senate cosponsors being Republican Senators, including ISAKSON of Georgia, Senators CORKER and ALEXANDER from Tennessee, Senator VITTER from Louisiana, and Senator COCHRAN of Mississippi, just to name a few. Just last week, this legislation was unanimously approved by the Senate. I, along with Representative VERN EHLERS, introduced the House companion, H.R. 4805.

I want to thank Chairmen WAXMAN and RUSH for their leadership in guiding H.R. 4805 through the Energy and Commerce Committee, which was reported out in a bipartisan manner by a vote of 27-10 on May 26. During the committee debate on this legislation we worked collaboratively with the minority to address the vast majority of

the concerns initially raised by CTCP Subcommittee Ranking Member WHITFIELD and Representatives GINGREY and SCALISE. And I thank them for their support during the full committee's consideration. Those changes are included in this legislation that we are considering today.

On the issue of labeling, we expect that EPA will take steps to ensure that consumers are able to make informed purchases. At the same time, it is not our intention to require labeling that is more burdensome than what is already required in California.

Madam Speaker, the bill is a result of months of hard work; and we have a strong bipartisan, bicameral measure that is widely supported by a diverse coalition comprised of industries, public health advocates, environmental groups, and others. Groups that have publicly endorsed this legislation include the American Forest and Paper Association; the Engineered Wood Association; the Composite Panel Association; American Home Furnishings Association; Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association; Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association; the Sierra Club; the United Steelworkers of America; the American Public Health Association; the Retail Industry Leaders Association; and others.

I am pleased that the House is taking up this important bipartisan measure today. The bill would direct that EPA establish one national standard for formaldehyde in domestic and imported composite wood products. As we all know, the emissions of formaldehyde, which is a harmful chemical widely used in a variety of composite wood product applications, are known to have adverse effects on human health and resulted in cases of toxicity for those storm victims provided FEMA trailers following Hurricane Katrina.

Formaldehyde emissions from composite wood are largely the result of cheap foreign products that enter the U.S. marketplace at much lower cost, which places U.S. manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage. This legislation will level the playing field for our domestic manufacturers by creating one national standard on formaldehyde emissions for both our domestic industry and foreign manufacturers to follow.

Simply put, we must ensure that faulty foreign wood products do not enter the U.S. market anymore. In doing so, this bill will protect and create American jobs, boost the competitiveness of our domestic manufacturing sector, and ensure that American consumers are not exposed to faulty foreign products with high formaldehyde emissions.

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman WAXMAN's staff, particularly Robin Appleberry for her hard work and effort in working in a bipartisan manner with my office and with the minority staff of the Energy and Com-

merce Committee to ensure that the legislation will protect consumers as well as our U.S. domestic manufacturing industries. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4805, the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act, would set Federal formaldehyde emission standards for composite wood products based on the standards recently set by the State of California. Excessive exposure to formaldehyde can cause health problems, and health risks imposed by formaldehyde may indeed warrant a Federal emission standard for composite wood products. Although this bill has improved in several important respects since it was introduced, it still has a number of deficiencies that outweigh its benefits. Therefore, I urge all Members to vote against the bill.

Before summarizing the bill's principal deficiencies, let me note some of the changes that we were able to make on the Energy and Commerce Committee. The bill before the House today provides greater clarity regarding the actual emission standards that the EPA must promulgate and mandates "sell-through" provisions that ensure fair treatment for merchants seeking to sell inventory manufactured before the emission standards take effect.

Despite these improvements, the bill suffers from at least four critical deficiencies. First, the proponents of the bill failed to demonstrate that the emission standards themselves are reflective of the most recent scientific study and understanding. Second, the bill sets forth a theoretical national standard because it does not preempt State and local regulation. Third, the bill requires EPA to promulgate the standards without making a determination that they are technically feasible and that compliance is not prohibitively expensive. Finally, the bill requires EPA to regulate consumer products even though the CPSC appears better qualified for this task.

I will now address each of these four deficiencies in more detail. Excessive exposure to formaldehyde can cause health problems, and we are not here to debate that point. I am concerned that this bill's stated emission standards do not reflect the levels science is telling us are necessary to prevent harm. Instead, I understand the bill relies on the increasingly outdated risk assessment conducted by the State of California in issuing its own regulations. Further, as explained and called into question by Dr. Mel Anderson in his expert testimony provided at the March 18, 2010, hearing before the Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, the California

standards are much more restrictive than necessary to protect consumers from cancer risks.

Further, assuming the health risks posed by formaldehyde in composite wood products warrant some type of Federal emission standard, the bill raises concerns because it does not preempt State regulation. The preemption provisions in section 18 of the Toxic Substances Control Act, or TSCA, would not apply to these standards. Nothing in the bill would preclude States from imposing more stringent and conflicting standards than those mandated by the bill. States could create a patchwork of differing laws and requirements, thereby frustrating the stated goal of creating a uniform national standard for formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products. In addition, the EPA is currently considering a regulation under TSCA addressing the same issues addressed by this bill. If the EPA completes its current rulemaking process, any resulting formaldehyde standard would preempt State regulation as provided in TSCA.

The bill would also require the EPA to issue the mandated emission standards regardless of whether they ultimately prove technically feasible and reasonably affordable. Congress lacks experience regarding the workability of these standards in the real world. We have learned through our experience with the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act that we should be very careful about mandating standards based on industry segment's confidence that it can comply with them. We learned the hard way that well-meaning bills can lead to unemployment for small manufacturers, and we should not repeat that mistake, with almost 10 percent unemployment.

This bill does not provide the EPA with any discretion if one or more of these standards proves technically not feasible to meet or if the high cost of compliance with the standard would prevent any manufacturers from remaining in business. It doesn't make sense to impose a standard which has not been "road tested" and that industry potentially cannot meet.

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Moreover, the bill would provide for EPA rulemaking and enforcement of the emissions standards under the Toxic Substances Control Act, TSCA, even though the CPSC would be in a better position to handle the program under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Under TSCA, the EPA regulates industrial chemicals and mixtures rather than consumer products, while the CPSC regulates unsafe consumer products under a different statutory framework.

Given that the bill addresses supposedly unsafe consumer products and provides for emissions standards as well as labeling and testing requirements, the CPSC arguably is better situated than the EPA to handle this. The CPSC's more extensive experience and

expertise on issues relating to consumer product safety, sell-through, labeling, and consumer product testing suggest that we should entrust this program to the CPSC instead of handing it off to EPA.

Had the above deficiencies been resolved more satisfactorily, this bill would more likely warrant passage. Unfortunately, I cannot support the bill in its current form and urge a "no" vote.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, we can all agree that harmful formaldehyde emissions need to be addressed immediately. Formaldehyde emissions from composite woods are largely the result of cheap foreign products that enter the U.S. marketplace at much lower costs. These emissions have harmed far too many Americans, and their foreign sources have and continue to place our domestic manufacturing industries at a competitive disadvantage. This legislation will level the playing field for our domestic industries and protect the health of American consumers.

Madam Speaker, today we have a strong bipartisan, bicameral bill that will boost our domestic manufacturing industries, create jobs, and protect American consumers. This bill is strongly supported by a large number of industries, public health advocates, and environmental groups. Again, this legislation is bipartisan, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 1660, to make certain that faulty foreign wood products do not enter the U.S. market.

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. MATSUI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1660.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1350) recognizing June 20, 2010, as World Refugee Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1350

Whereas World Refugee Day was first observed on June 20, 2001;

Whereas tens of thousands of people around the world take time to recognize the challenges and applaud the contributions of forcibly displaced persons throughout the world;

Whereas the annual commemoration of World Refugee Day is marked by a variety of events in more than 100 countries, involving government officials, humanitarian workers

and volunteers, celebrities, and the forcibly displaced;

Whereas refugees are people who have been forced to flee their countries due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on their political opinions, religious beliefs, race, nationality, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas internally displaced persons are those who have fled their homes or been uprooted but remain within the borders of their country;

Whereas of the 42,000,000 displaced persons worldwide, the United Nations Refugee Agency assists over 25,000,000, including 10,000,000 refugees and more than 14,000,000 internally displaced persons;

Whereas these vulnerable individuals rely on the United States, other governments, the United Nations, and numerous nongovernmental relief agencies for the protection of their basic human rights;

Whereas Somali refugees have lived in camps in Kenya since the early 1990s;

Whereas Burmese refugees have lived in camps inside Thailand since the mid-1980s;

Whereas decades of violence in Afghanistan have produced almost 3,000,000 refugees;

Whereas decades of violence caused by extremist groups forced up to 400,000 Colombians to seek refuge in other countries and produced 3,000,000 internally displaced persons within Colombia;

Whereas more than 4,000,000 Iraqis are displaced within their country and in the region, including Chaldeans and other minorities;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 people have been displaced by conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

Whereas ongoing conflict and violence in Sudan have forced more than 1,000,000 people to become internally displaced within Sudan and another 250,000 to flee to Chad;

Whereas some 150,000 Sudanese have sought protection in other countries around the world;

Whereas North Korean refugees inside China face trafficking, sexual exploitation, and forcible repatriation back to North Korea where they are tortured, imprisoned, and severely punished;

Whereas 2010 marks the 30th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980, the cornerstone of the United States' system of refugee protection and assistance;

Whereas the United States continues to be the single largest refugee resettlement country in the world; and

Whereas the United States is the largest single donor to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of refugees who flee war, famine, persecution, and torture in search of peace, nourishment, hope, and freedom;

(2) calls on the Department of State to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to advance the work of nongovernmental organizations, especially those that also have expertise in resettlement, to protect refugees;

(3) calls on the United States Government to continue its international leadership role in response to those who have been displaced, including the most vulnerable populations who endure sexual violence, human trafficking, forced conscription, genocide, and exploitation;

(4) commends those who have risked their lives working individually and for the multitude of nongovernmental organizations,

along with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who have provided life-saving assistance and helped protect those displaced by conflict around the world; and

(5) reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the millions of refugees who live without material, social, or legal protections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak today on H. Res. 1350, a resolution I introduced to recognize World Refugee Day as June 20, 2010. This special day, first marked in 2001, is held every year on June 20. Tens of thousands of people around the world take time to recognize the plight of forcibly displaced people throughout the world. The annual commemoration is marked by a variety of events in more than 100 countries involving government officials, humanitarian aid workers, celebrities, civilians, and those who were forcibly displaced themselves.

With the humanitarian efforts of the United States, other nations, and organizations like the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Red Cross, the International Rescue Committee, and Refugees International, among so many others, refugees are able to flee from persecution, violence, and war in order to seek protection. Many have fled to the United States, a safe haven with a history of aiding those seeking protection from persecution, violence, and war. America has provided more assistance to refugees seeking protection than any other country.

If you have ever met a refugee, you have encountered someone who has overcome great obstacles simply to just survive. Take the case of a Somali refugee, Abdul Samatar, a young man with a childhood full of tragedy and life-threatening experiences who eventually took refuge in the United States. Abdul was born in 1984 in Somalia, at that time a peaceful land of great beauty, promise, and resources. Now, however, Somalia is overwhelmed by famine, war and violence, leaving no persons unaffected.

In 1992, Abdul's father, a religious leader in Mogadishu, the capital, was shot and killed during the civil war.