

Mr. BAIRD. In conclusion again, I just want to acknowledge the leadership of Mr. HALL, the ranking member, who has been instrumental in prior work to make sure we had developed competitive technologies to gain access to these resources for the benefit of our country, but the foresight of Ms. WOOLSEY, and the outstanding leadership in bipartisan fashion of Chairman GORDON.

The Research and Science Committee has again led the way on an issue of major national importance. I am proud to have been a part of this, and urge passage of both bills today.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, in conclusion, once again I want to thank the gentlelady from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for bringing this bill before us, Dr. BAIRD for getting it through the subcommittee, the 26 Democrats and Republicans on the Science and Technology Committee that brought amendments to make a good bill better, and the majority and minority staffs for working together to bring this bill before us.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I just want to congratulate you and Ms. WOOLSEY. This bill was improved very much by her knowledge and history of a bad occurrence that happened to her in her district that she is trying to spare the rest of our districts. I thank her for the good work on this.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, as we move forward today with floor consideration of H.R. 2693, the Oil Pollution Research and Development Program Reauthorization Act of 2010, I would like to recognize and thank Chairman THOMPSON of the Homeland Security Committee and Chairman OBERSTAR of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their cooperation with respect to this piece of legislation. Both Chairman THOMPSON and Chairman OBERSTAR have been very supportive in getting this bill to the floor today, and at this time I would like to insert exchanges of letters between myself and each of the Chairmen into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, July 20, 2010.

Hon. BART GORDON,  
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 2693, the "Federal Oil Spill Research Program Act".

H.R. 2693 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise af-

fect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 2693.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 2693 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 2693 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure in the House.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,  
Washington, DC, July 20, 2010.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2693, the Oil Pollution Research and Development Program Reauthorization Act of 2010. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by waiving rights to a referral of H.R. 2693, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 2693. A copy of our letters will be placed in the legislative report on H.R. 2693 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, July 20, 2010.

Hon. BART GORDON,  
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Rayburn Bldg., House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 2693, the "Federal Oil Spill Research Program Act".

H.R. 2693 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as the Committee on Homeland Security waiving, altering, or otherwise affecting its jurisdiction over subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of an appropriate number of Mem-

bers of the Committee on Homeland Security to be named as conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on H.R. 2693 or similar legislation. I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be included in the legislative report on H.R. 2693 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,  
Washington, DC, July 20, 2010.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2693, the Oil Pollution Research and Development Program Reauthorization Act of 2010. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. I acknowledge that by waiving rights to a referral of H.R. 2693, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Homeland Security has jurisdiction in H.R. 2693. A copy of our letters will be placed in the legislative report on H.R. 2693 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,  
Chairman.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2693, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1230

SAFER OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5716) to provide for enhancement of existing efforts in support of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities to advance technologies for the safe and environmentally responsible exploration, development, and production of oil and natural gas resources, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5716

*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 “Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Act”.

## SEC. 2. SUBTITLE AMENDMENT.

Subtitle J of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16371 et seq.) is amended in the subtitle heading by striking “**Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources**” and inserting “**Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Program**”.

## SEC. 3. SAFER OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Section 999A of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16371) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “ultra-deepwater” and inserting “deepwater”; and

(B) by inserting “well control and accident prevention,” after “safe operations.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “, accident prevention and mitigation,” after “improving safety.”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) Deepwater architecture and technology, including those for drilling to formations in water depths greater than 1,000 feet.”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) Complementary research carried out by the Department.”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY” and inserting “DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY”; and

(B) by striking “National Energy Technology Laboratory” and inserting “Office of Fossil Energy of the Department”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR” and inserting “OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES”; and

(B) by inserting “and other agencies as appropriate, including those serving on, and collaborating with, the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research as established under section 7001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2761(a))” after “Secretary of the Interior”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out the program under this subtitle, the Secretary shall seek to establish partnerships with eligible research performers, as described by section 999E, to undertake research and development not likely otherwise to be undertaken in the absence of support from the program.”.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 999B of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16372) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “**ULTRA-DEEPWATER AND UNCONVENTIONAL ONSHORE NATURAL GAS AND OTHER PETROLEUM**” and inserting “**SAFER OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING TECHNOLOGY**”;

(2) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the activities under section 999A to maximize the benefits of natural gas and other petroleum resources of the United States by advancing the safe and environmentally responsible exploration, development, and production of those resources.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) select projects on a competitive basis.”;

(4) in subsection (c)(3)(A)(ii), by striking “under subsection (f)(4)”;

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “ultra-deepwater” and inserting “deepwater”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) FOCUS AREAS FOR AWARDS.—

“(A) DEEPWATER RESOURCES.—Awards from allocations under section 999H(d)(1) shall focus on research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in areas that include—

“(i) technologies and systems aimed at improving operational safety and reducing potential environmental impacts of deepwater exploration and production activities, including—

“(I) wellbore integrity, well control, and blowout prevention;

“(II) capture and containment of oil at or near the wellhead; and

“(III) expanding operational capabilities and efficiency of remotely operated devices and mechanics;

“(ii) safe and environmentally responsible deepwater exploration and production technologies, integrated systems, and architectures for enhancing oil and natural gas drilling and recovery, including under extreme conditions;

“(iii) methods and technologies for severe weather and ocean surface condition preparedness;

“(iv) utilization of exploration and production methods and materials that reduce the potential impact of such activities on the environment; and

“(v) other areas as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(B) UNCONVENTIONAL ONSHORE RESOURCES.—Awards from allocations under section 999H(d)(2) shall focus on research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in areas that include—

“(i) advanced coalbed methane, deep drilling, natural gas production from tight sands, natural gas production from gas shales, stranded gas, innovative exploration and production techniques, and enhanced recovery techniques;

“(ii) increased efficiency of energy use in exploration and production activities;

“(iii) utilization of exploration and production methods and materials that reduce the potential impact of such activities on the environment;

“(iv) recovery, utilization, reduction, and improved management of produced water from exploration and production activities; and

“(v) accident prevention and mitigation of unconventional natural gas and other petroleum resources exploration and production.

“(C) SMALL PRODUCERS.—Awards from allocations under section 999H(d)(3) shall be made to consortia consisting of small producers or organized primarily for the benefit of small producers, and shall focus on areas that include—

“(i) safety and accident prevention, environmental mitigation, waste reduction, reduction of energy use, and well control and systems integrity;

“(ii) complex geology involving rapid changes in the type and quality of the oil and gas reserves across the reservoir;

“(iii) low reservoir pressure and unconventional natural gas reservoirs in coalbeds, deep reservoirs, tight sands, or shales; and

“(iv) advancing energy efficient, safe, and environmentally responsible production of unconventional oil reservoirs in tar sands and oil shales.

“(D) SAFETY, AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION AND MITIGATION, TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT.—Awards from allocations under section 999H(d)(4) shall focus on safety, and accident prevention and mitigation, research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities in areas that may include—

“(i) improved technologies and best management practices for enhanced well integrity including—

“(I) cementing;

“(II) casing;

“(III) wellbore sealant technologies;

“(IV) well-plugging and abandonment;

“(V) improvement and standardization of blowout prevention devices;

“(VI) actuation and pressure testing; and

“(VII) other well control activities;

“(ii) research to aid in the development of industry best practices and standards for workforce training, design of safe workplace environments, and safety related decision-making processes, including by drawing on existing research into human factors and safety related practices in fields such as the nuclear energy, aviation, and automotive industries;

“(iii) secondary control systems to activate blowout prevention devices and terminate well-flow, including—

“(I) deadman switches;

“(II) automatic shears; and

“(III) remote acoustic switches;

“(iv) technologies and methods for accident mitigation, including—

“(I) capture, containment, or dispersing of oil at or near the wellhead;

“(II) estimating flow rate;

“(III) diagnostic sensors to determine equipment malfunction; and

“(IV) procedures to terminate flow;

“(v) continuing ongoing efforts, including in resource assessment and characterization, and in simulation of safe and effective drilling under extreme conditions, including high temperatures and pressures;

“(vi) development of methodologies for risk management decisionmaking, including comparative risk analysis and quantitative risk assessment of potential for failure in the technologies, management practices, and systems studies under this subsection; and

“(vii) other activities as described in this paragraph or as determined appropriate by the Secretary.”;

(6) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence of subparagraph (A), by inserting “to the Secretary for review” after “submit”; and

(ii) in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking “Ultra-Deepwater” and all that follows through “and such Advisory Committees” and inserting “Program Advisory Committee established under section 999D(a), and the Advisory Committee”;

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(ii) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) a summary of ongoing and planned activities aimed at improving operational safety and reducing potential environmental impacts of exploration and production.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) RESEARCH FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register an annual report on the research findings of the program carried out under this section and

any recommendations for implementation that the Secretary determines to be necessary.”;

(7) in subsection (f)(2), by inserting “In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that safety and accident prevention and mitigation be regularly included as specific focus areas for solicitations.” after “consortium.”;

(8) in subsection (i)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY” and inserting “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR”; and

(B) by striking “, through the United States Geological Survey,”; and

(9) in subsection (j), by striking “National Energy Technology Laboratory” and inserting “Office of Fossil Energy of the Department”.

#### SEC. 4. PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Section 999D of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16374) is amended to read as follows:

##### “SEC. 999D. PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Act, the Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the ‘Program Advisory Committee’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Advisory Committee’).

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of members appointed by the Secretary, each of whom shall be qualified by education, training, and experience to evaluate scientific and technical information relevant to the research, development, and demonstration under this subtitle. Members shall include—

“(A) individuals with extensive research experience or operational knowledge of oil and natural gas exploration and production;

“(B) individuals broadly representative of the affected interests in oil and natural gas production, including interests in environmental protection and operational safety;

“(C) State regulatory agency representatives; and

“(D) other individuals, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee shall not include individuals who are board members, officers, or employees of the program consortium.

“(B) CATEGORICAL REPRESENTATION.—In appointing members of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary shall ensure that no class of individuals described in any of subparagraphs (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1) comprises more than 1/3 of the membership of the Advisory Committee.

“(c) SUBCOMMITTEES.—The Advisory Committee may establish subcommittees or ad hoc working groups for the research focus areas described in section 999B(d)(7).

“(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

“(1) advise the Secretary on the development and implementation of programs under this subtitle; and

“(2) carry out section 999B(e)(2)(B).

“(e) COMPENSATION.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to receive travel expenses in accordance with subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

“(f) PROHIBITION.—The Advisory Committee shall not make recommendations on funding awards to particular consortia or other entities, or for specific projects.”.

#### SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

Section 999G of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16377) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “200 but less than 1,500 meters” and inserting “1,000 feet”;

(2) by striking paragraphs (8), (9), and (10);

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (7) and (11) as paragraphs (4) through (9) and (10), respectively; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) DEEPWATER ARCHITECTURE.—The term ‘deepwater architecture’ means the integration of technologies for the safe and environmentally responsible exploration for, or production of, natural gas or other petroleum resources located at deepwater depths.

“(3) DEEPWATER TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘deepwater technology’ means a discrete technology that is specially suited to address 1 or more challenges associated with the safe and environmentally responsible exploration for, or production of, natural gas or other petroleum resources located at deepwater depths.”.

#### SEC. 6. FUNDING.

Section 999H of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16378) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a) by striking “Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Research Fund” and inserting “Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Fund”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “35 percent” and inserting “32.5 percent”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “32.5 percent” and inserting “25 percent”; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “25 percent” and inserting “35 percent”; and

(ii) by striking “contract management,” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “and contract management.”;

(3) in subsection (f), by striking “Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Research Fund” and inserting “Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Fund”; and

(4) at the end of the section, by inserting the following new subsection:

“(g) COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.—The Secretary shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the research activities carried out by the consortium funded under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (d), and the research activities carried out by the Department of Energy as funded by subsection (d)(4), shall be coordinated and not duplicative of one another.”.

#### SEC. 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended—

(1) by amending the item relating to subtitle J of title IX to read as follows:

“Subtitle J—Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Program”;

(2) by amending the item relating to section 999B to read as follows:

“Sec. 999B. Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Program.”;

and

(3) by amending the item relating to section 999D to read as follows:

“Sec. 999D. Program Advisory Committee.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. 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 H.R. 5716, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Advances in drilling technologies have allowed industry to venture into ever deeper waters in search of the enormous oil and gas reserves found there. Operating in such extreme environments entails immense engineering and technological challenges, the complexity of which is encountered in few other endeavors.

In the hypercompetitive field of energy, the industry is naturally guarded about sharing information and collaborating on proprietary technology development. But safety is universal, and it's time we use Federal resources in pushing the technology envelope towards safer and more environmentally responsible oil and natural gas exploration and production.

My bill, H.R. 5716, the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Act, does just that by realigning the focus and funding of existing programs set-up under section 999 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 on environmental and worker safety and accident prevention and mitigation. I introduced this bill after close collaboration with my friend from Texas, Mr. HALL, who has been a long-time champion of this program.

As we look toward Federal resources to rapidly advance this field, it is somewhat fortuitous that the 999 program is already in place. Both the outside research consortium, RPSEA, and the program at the National Energy Technology Laboratory are well-suited to take on challenges of R&D into the technologies for drilling safety and accident prevention mitigation.

As a DOE lab for fossil energy, NETL has an extensive research infrastructure and a long history of expertise and excellence in this field and through the relatively new RPSEA, currently has approximately 170 members from across industry, academia, NGOs, and government research entities. Furthermore, the program does not require new spending since it's already funded from \$50 million in royalty revenues.

If properly realigned to meet the current challenges, this research program, authorized by section 666, represents the Department of Energy's best resources for improving safety and reducing the environmental impact of offshore and onshore oil and natural gas exploration and production activities.

As I said, H.R. 5716 is the product of significant bipartisan collaboration, and I want to thank Mr. HALL, his

staff, and the other members of the Science and Technology Committee for their continuing good work as we move this legislation forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5716, the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Act.

As we near the 100-day mark since the beginning of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, our understanding of the precise causes of the accident—and the missteps in the days that followed—remain unclear.

However, regardless of the ultimate causes of and best responses to the disaster, it makes sense to continue pursuing improvements to safe and environmentally responsible drilling operations as well as effective spill response systems.

The two oil spill-related bills under consideration by the House today represent the Science and Technology Committee's contribution to this effort and are likely to have a significant impact on future drilling and response mitigation efforts.

The program offered by this bill, H.R. 5716, was established in section 999 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It supports through a collaborative effort between the Department of Energy and a university industry research consortium cutting-edge technologies to enhance safe and environmentally responsible offshore and onshore oil and gas development.

The program has contributed significantly to transformational advances in deep offshore and onshore drilling technologies that are helping to efficiently and responsibly recover energy supplies long known to exist but which were previously inaccessible. The recovery of these resources has resulted in significant benefits to taxpayers in the form of domestic jobs and affordable energy, as well as increasing royalties to the fund that pays for the program in the first place.

The changes to EPCA section 999 made by H.R. 5716 are the product of extensive negotiations with the majority to develop compromised legislation in response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Specifically, the bill makes three changes to the existing statute. First, it shifts the focus of each of the program's four elements towards advancing safety and accident prevention and mitigation technologies associated with oil and natural gas exploration and production.

Second, it adjusts the award allocations among these four programs reducing deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas programs by a small amount while increasing the allocation for Department of Energy in-house research from 25 percent to 35 percent.

And, third, it redefines and expands the scope of offshore R&D activities to those involving water depths of a thou-

sand feet or greater, a reduction from the 5,000 feet in current law, and in doing so, modifies the current focus on "ultra-deepwater" activities to pertain simply to deepwater activities.

Additionally, the bill makes numerous additional minor changes to the management and structure of the 999 program while preserving its original goals and objectives which recognize America's domestic oil and natural gas resources are important national priorities that contribute significantly to job growth and to the economy while reducing dependence on foreign sources of energy.

While this precise focus and detailed language in this bill is not ideal, it represents a fair and responsible and reasonable compromise that preserves and strengthens the section 999 program. This is the only R&D program in the Federal Government capable of ramping up its activities quickly and effectively to address renewed interest in drilling technology research in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Given the administration's efforts to terminate any and all research and development relating to oil and natural gas, this program is all the more vital.

I want to again extend my thanks to Chairman GORDON for working with me and with us on this bill and the staffs working with one another. I look forward to continued bipartisan cooperation on this bill as the legislative process moves forward. I urge Members to support my bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY).

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the distinguished chairman of the Science Technology Committee, Mr. GORDON. I would also like to thank both Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their generosity in letting me voice suggestions to this very important piece of legislation.

As this legislation demonstrates, Congress will not allow the Deepwater Horizon incident to end safe exploration for American energy resources. If America fails to safely and securely produce our own energy resources, we increase our dependence on foreign oil, weaken our national security, and stand to lose good-paying jobs. I commend the chairman for this legislation making deepwater drilling technologies safer and want to call particular attention to the work of the National Energy Technology Laboratories.

These workers have scientific expertise related to fluid flow, imaging, fire science, and ultra-deepwater, and can integrate research across academia, national labs, and industry. The national energy labs have unique capabilities related to the containment of high-pressure fluids/gases in the subsurface under extreme conditions, like the prediction of materials' behavior under extreme conditions.

The Federal Government has a critical role to play in the research of new drilling technologies. In representing the interests of the taxpayers, the Federal Government is the fair arbiter—weighing the risk of exploration against the environmental impacts, unrelated to the value of economic return. The workers at these labs have demonstrated themselves to be responsible stewards of taxpayer money with respect to ultra-deepwater programs, and I hope they'll continue to do so.

Although H.R. 5716 eliminates specific reference to the National Energy Technology Labs, it is not the chairman's firm belief that this vital research that is so necessary to ensuring America's energy independence will continue to be coordinated and overseen by the dedicated and experienced Federal employees in the award-winning laboratories in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Oregon. Would that be correct, Mr. Chairman?

I yield to the gentleman.

□ 1240

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I certainly respect the gentleman's opinion on this matter and do, in fact, foresee that employees at the National Energy Technology Laboratories will continue their work on ultra deepwater research under the program's new name of Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research. They've done an excellent job in the past, and I'm sure they will continue to do an excellent job.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for his response.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, Dr. BAIRD.

Mr. BAIRD. I thank the chairman.

My earlier comments acknowledged the many people who are working so hard down in the gulf, and I want to pay particular respect and admiration to a great public servant, Admiral Thad Allen. As many of us know, Thad Allen in effect essentially retired from the Coast Guard, but recognizing the importance of this mission and the urgency of his role there he has stayed on, working many, many long hours in an incredibly complex endeavor. I have immense respect for him and hope that people appreciate the kind of contribution not only that Admiral Allen is making but that all of the coasties and other government employees are making down there, as well as the many local residents as well.

I also want to acknowledge the great work of the committee staff on both sides of the aisle in drafting this legislation, and I particularly want to speak about an aspect of this legislation that I've worked on and that I think is particularly important and often overlooked.

In many other areas of activity, the role of human factors has been recognized as playing an increasingly important role. That's the case with the nuclear power industry, which realized in

the post-Three Mile Island analyses that the complex information that was being provided to the operators of the plant was easily overwhelming and contributed to that disaster.

It has been recognized for a long time by the Federal Aviation Administration. Indeed, the tragic accident in which an airliner crashed into the Potomac not far from this very building was believed strongly related to ice on the wings, but not just the ice on the wing, but how the pilot and the copilot interacted in their discussion about whether or not it would be safe to fly under those conditions.

As they looked at that analysis, it became apparent that the rules for cockpit interactions and making decisions about safety needed to be changed.

When we looked at this event that happened in the gulf and you follow the dialogue that has been reported between BP and the drilling operators, it is clear that human factors and risk analysis needs dramatic improvement. Witnesses at the committee hearing testified that we have to not only improve, as I mentioned earlier, the training of the personnel on the rigs, but I think the management needs to be addressed and the decisionmaking process.

If you can have a circumstance wherein someone says we're going to go ahead with this operation as we deem appropriate, and effectively the response was, well, that's I guess why we have the blowout prevention devices, meaning somebody thought that if we do this, we're likely to have a blowout. Now, when one looks at the history of safety and efficacy of those blowout preventers, it's pretty clear that they had a high failure rate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield 2 additional minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. BAIRD. If we have an interaction system wherein people are making decisions with a known possibility of a blowout and blowout preventers that have a fairly high probability of failure, somebody needs to intervene and say what the heck is going on here if people can make these decisions when, and I want to underscore this, when the consequence is the loss of human life. Eleven souls lost their lives on that rig that day. We talk so much about the cleanup and the environmental catastrophe that's resulted. Let us not forget those eleven lives. When people's decisionmaking leads to the loss of human life and leads to an environmental and economic tragedy of this magnitude, we've got to make sure they make those decisions in the right way, with the right information and the right communication strategy, and as important as this bill is in improving the technology for drilling and drilling safety, essential to that technology are the human elements, and I'm grateful that the committee saw fit to include those elements in the legislation.

I thank the chairman again.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, in conclusion, I want to once again thank Ranking Member HALL for his initiating this bill. He is the father of this bill, and I think we all recognize his good work there.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5716, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL AEROSPACE WEEK

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 292) supporting the goals and ideals of National Aerospace Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 292

Whereas the missions to the Moon by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are recognized around the globe as one of the most outstanding achievements of humankind;

Whereas the United States is a leader in the International Space Station, the first permanent human habitation and scientific laboratory in space;

Whereas the first aircraft flight occurred in the United States, and the United States operates the largest and safest aviation system in the world;

Whereas the United States aerospace industry is a powerful, reliable source of employment, innovation, and export income, directly employing 831,000 people in the United States and supporting more than 2,000,000 jobs in related fields;

Whereas space exploration is a source of inspiration that captures the interest of young people;

Whereas aerospace education is an important component of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and helps to develop the science and technology workforce in the United States;

Whereas aerospace innovation has led to the development of advanced meteorological forecasting, which has saved lives around the world;

Whereas aerospace innovation has led to the development of the Global Positioning System, which has strengthened national security and increased economic productivity;

Whereas the aerospace industry assists and protects members of the Armed Forces with military communications, unmanned aerial systems, situational awareness, and satellite-guided ordnances; and

Whereas the third week in September is an appropriate week to observe "National Aerospace Week": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Aerospace Week"; and

(2) recognizes the contributions of the aerospace industry to the history, economy, security, and educational system of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. 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 H. Con. Res. 292, the concurrent resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

No matter how many times you fly, there is still something magical about the first moment of takeoff when acceleration gives way to the sudden lift and you soar into the clouds. Behind that moment of wonder lies over a century of hard work, long hours, and sacrifice spent uncovering the secrets of aerodynamics and mastering the engineering of heavier-than-air flight. It should be a point of great pride that the United States was a leader in making aviation a reality. So in recognition of National Aerospace Week, we honor a national history of achievement in both aeronautics and in space.

America's achievements in aerospace inspire awe and admiration around the world. From the very first heavier-than-air flight in 1903 to the Moon landing in 1969, America has led the way in aerospace.

Today, we continue to move forward by sending robotic probes to the far reaches of the solar systems, sending observatories into space, and leading the international team that constructed the international space station.

American superiority in aerospace is part of the foundation on which our security rests. Satellites provide our troops in distant lands with everything from vital intelligence about local weather and terrain to updates on NBA finals. Unmanned aerial vehicles and communications, and satellite-based navigation and position systems are essential tools that members of the Armed Forces rely on to do their job safely and effectively.

Space-derived systems like GPS and weather satellites have become integral to civil society as well.

The aerospace industry employs many hundreds of thousands of Americans and is one of the most vibrant and innovative sectors of our economy. Industry sales are estimated to reach \$215 billion in 2010.