

Schrader	Spratt	Velázquez
Scott (GA)	Stark	Walden
Scott (VA)	Stearns	Walz
Sensenbrenner	Stupak	Wamp
Serrano	Sullivan	Wasserman
Sessions	Sutton	Schultz
Sestak	Tanner	Waters
Shadegg	Taylor	Watson
Sherman	Teague	Waxman
Shimkus	Thompson (CA)	Weiner
Shuler	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Shuster	Thompson (PA)	Westmoreland
Simpson	Thornberry	Whitfield
Sires	Tiahrt	Wilson (OH)
Skelton	Tiberi	Wilson (SC)
Slaughter	Titus	Wittman
Smith (NE)	Tonko	Wolf
Smith (NJ)	Towns	Woolsey
Smith (TX)	Tsongas	Wu
Smith (WA)	Turner	Yarmuth
Snyder	Upton	Young (AK)
Space	Van Hollen	
Speier		

## NOT VOTING—23

Ackerman	Fallin	Rush
Bishop (GA)	Fleming	Schwartz
Blunt	Hodes	Shea-Porter
Braley (IA)	Marchant	Tierney
Camp	McClintock	Visclosky
Davis (AL)	Meek (FL)	Watt
Ellsworth	Mollohan	Young (FL)
Eshoo	Putnam	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1212

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, September 16, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 527 and 528.

Had I been present for rollcall 527, on agreeing to H. Res. 1620, providing for the consideration of H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall 528, on a motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 3562, a measure to designate the Federal building under construction at 1220 Echelon Parkway in Jackson, Mississippi, as the Chaney, Goodman, Schwerner Federal Building, I would have voted "aye."

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas a reconvening of Congress between the regularly scheduled Federal election in November and the start of the next session of Congress is known as a lame-duck session of Congress;

Whereas Democrats have recently insinuated that significant legislative matters

would deliberately not be addressed during the 111th Congress until after the midterm 2010 elections;

Whereas this Congress began its mortgage of the Nation's future with a "stimulus" package costing \$1.1 trillion that failed to lower unemployment, spur economic growth, or actually address the needs of struggling American businesses and families;

Whereas this Congress continued its free-wheeling spending with an increase of \$72.4 billion in nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2009 to reach a total spending level of \$1.01 trillion for the first time in United States history;

Whereas this Congress approved a budget resolution in 2009 that proposed the 6 largest nominal deficits in American history and included tax increases of \$423 billion during a period of sustained high unemployment;

Whereas the House of Representatives disregarded the interests and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a national energy tax bill that would increase costs on nearly every aspect of American lives by up to \$3,000 per person per year, eliminate millions of jobs, reduce workers' income, and devastate economic growth;

Whereas this Congress disregarded the interests and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a massive government takeover of health care that will force millions of Americans from their health insurance plans, increase premiums and costs for individuals and employers, raise taxes by \$569.2 billion, and fund abortions—all at a cost of \$2.64 trillion over the first 10 years of full implementation;

Whereas this Congress nationalized the student loan industry with a potential cost of 30,000 private sector jobs and \$50.1 billion over 10 years;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed the DISCLOSE Act, which would violate the First Amendment and hinder the free speech of citizens associations and corporations while leaving all unions exempt from many of the new requirements, in order to try to influence the outcome of the midterm 2010 elections;

Whereas in spite of the House Budget Committee Chairman's 2006 statement that "if you can't budget, you can't govern", the Democrat leadership has failed to introduce a budget resolution in 2010 as mandated by law, but instead self-executed a "deeming resolution" that increases nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2011 by \$30 billion to \$1.121 trillion, setting another new record for the highest level in United States history;

Whereas this Congress has failed Main Street through passage of a financial system takeover that fails to end the moral hazard of too-big-to-fail, does not address Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and creates numerous new boards, councils, and positions with unconstitutionally broad authorities that will interfere with the creation of wealth and jobs;

Whereas this Congress has wasted taxpayer funds on an unnecessary and unconstitutional auto industry bailout, a "cash for clunkers" program, a home remediation program ("cash for caulkers"), and countless other special interest projects while allowing the public debt to reach its highest level in United States history;

Whereas the New York Times reported on June 19, 2010, that "[f]or all the focus on the historic federal rescue of the banking industry, it is the government's decision to seize Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in September 2008 that is likely to cost taxpayers the most money. . . . Republicans want to sever ties with Fannie and Freddie once the crisis abates. The Obama administration and Congressional Democrats have insisted on post-

poning the argument until after the midterm elections";

Whereas the Washington Times reported on June 22, 2010, that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer stated, "a budget, which sets out binding one-year targets and a multiyear plan, is useless this year because Congress has shunted key questions about deficits to the independent debt commission created by President Obama, which is due to report back at the end of this year";

Whereas the Hill reported on June 24, 2010, that Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, suggested that "Democrats might attempt to move 'card-check' legislation this year, perhaps during a lame-duck session. . . . 'A lot of things can happen in a lame-duck session, too,' he said";

Whereas the New York Times published an article on June 28, 2010, titled "Lame-Duck Session Emerges as Possibility for Climate Bill Conference" that declares, "many expect the final energy or climate bill to be worked out during the lame-duck session between the November election and the start of the new Congress in January";

Whereas the Hill reported on July 1, 2010, that "Democratic leaders are likely to punt the task of renewing Bush-era tax cuts until after the election. Voters in November's midterms will thus be left without a clear idea of their future tax rates when they go to the polls";

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported on July 13, 2010, that "there have been signs in recent weeks that party leaders are planning an ambitious, lame-duck session to muscle through bills in December they don't want to defend before November. Retiring or defeated members of Congress would then be able to vote for sweeping legislation without any fear of voter retaliation";

Whereas the Hill reported on July 27, 2010, that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, at the recent Netroots Nation conference of liberal bloggers, in reference to Democrats' unfinished priorities, "We're going to have to have a lame duck session, so we're not giving up";

Whereas the Hill reported in the same piece on July 27, 2010, that the lame-duck session will include priorities such as "comprehensive immigration reform, climate change legislation and a whole host of other issues";

Whereas during NBC's Meet the Press on August 8, 2010, White House advisor Carol Browner stated that Congress would "potentially" deal with a national energy tax bill in a lame-duck session;

Whereas the Hill reported on August 20, 2010, that Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) said, "I'm more hopeful about the lame duck session. I have faith that we're going to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell";

Whereas the members of the House Republican Conference, as an alternative to passing a massive omnibus spending bill for next year during a lame-duck session, have called on members of both parties, as a starting point, to work together this month to enact legislation that cuts nonsecurity discretionary spending to 2008 levels (the last year before the wave of bailouts, stimulus spending sprees, and takeovers that have dismayed the American people) for the next year and provides much-needed certainty to American small businesses by freezing tax rates at their current levels for the next 2 years;

Whereas recent public polling shows that the American people clearly oppose the idea of dealing with major new legislation in a lame-duck session;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence notes that governments "[derive] their just powers from the consent of the governed";

Whereas the American people have expressed their loss of confidence through self-organized and self-funded taxpayer marches on Washington, at countless "tea party" events, at townhalls and speeches, and with numerous letters, emails, and phone calls to their elected representatives;

Whereas the Democrat majority has all but announced plans to use any lame-duck Congress to advance currently unattainable, partisan policies that are widely unpopular with the American people or that further increase the national debt against the will of most Americans;

Whereas reconvening the House of Representatives in a lame-duck session to address major new legislation subverts the will of the American people, lessens accountability, and does lasting damage to the dignity and integrity of this body's proceedings; and

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi and the Democrat majority, and largely due to the current trends of expanding governmental power and limiting individual liberty, the American people have lost confidence in their elected officials, and that faith must be restored: Now, therefore, be it—

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives pledges not to assemble on or between November 2, 2010, and January 3, 2011, except in the case of an unforeseen, sudden emergency requiring immediate action from Congress, and that the consideration of any of the following matters does not constitute an unforeseen, sudden emergency:

- (1) Card check, including H.R. 1409 (111th).
- (2) A national energy tax, including H.R. 2454 (111th).
- (3) Any legislation that would provide more authority to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.
- (4) Any legislation pertaining to the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- (5) Any legislation making regular appropriations for fiscal year 2011 that would be an increase over previous funding levels.
- (6) Any legislation increasing any tax on any American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Georgia will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on H.R. 4785.

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

There was no objection.

#### RURAL ENERGY SAVINGS PROGRAM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1620 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4785.

□ 1223

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4785) to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use, with Mr. SALAZAR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the bill we are considering today, H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, will greatly benefit our rural residents. The agriculture provisions in this bill build on existing U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and will reduce energy consumption and, as a result, reduce energy costs in rural America.

Rural electric cooperatives estimate that the Rural Energy Savings Program Act has the potential to create between 20,000 and 40,000 jobs per year and will make loans available to between 1.1 and 1.6 million rural households, depending on the average consumer size. It is clear that this is a win-win proposition for our rural constituents and our rural economy.

This Act furthers the Agriculture Committee's commitment to expand renewable and alternative sources of power and discover new technologies to improve the efficiency and sustainability of existing power generation across rural America.

H.R. 4785 authorizes USDA's rural utility service to make interest-free loans to eligible entities. These enti-

ties will use these funds to make low-interest loans to rural consumers allowing them to implement energy-efficient measures on their property. Using the existing Rural Utilities Service structure, with the rural electric cooperatives as the delivery system, rural consumers can more quickly obtain the benefits of energy-efficient investments and ultimately decrease their energy bills.

Rural customers are facing increasing energy costs and rural electric cooperatives, which serve 42 million member owners across the country, are facing growing demand for electric power, yet are constrained from building new generation capacity.

The upfront costs to make energy-efficient upgrades are often beyond the reach of most consumers. This is true even if the costs can be recovered over time or a tax credit or a rebate would reduce the initial price. Additionally, consumers often lack the necessary knowledge about what technologies would be the most effective.

H.R. 4785 is an opportunity to meet these challenges and enact policy that we know will reduce energy costs and consumption and improve the quality of life in our rural communities.

I would like to thank Congressman CLYBURN and Congressman PERRIELLO for their hard work and dedication to improving energy efficiency and their support for the agriculture provisions within this Act.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the agriculture provisions contained in this Act and encourage its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I must rise today in opposition to H.R. 4785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act. As a result of the Democratic leadership's failed policies, we are now considering a bill that creates two new government funded programs to address high energy bills and energy demand. We are considering creating a program that duplicates thousands of other efficiency measures that Congress has passed and funded in the billions of dollars over the last several years.

H.R. 4785, as reported by the Agriculture Committee, would require the government, through USDA, to front nearly a billion dollars to rural electric cooperatives so that they can, in return, make what might potentially be risky loans to their customers for energy-efficiency projects in their homes. The investments made in this program would only benefit an estimated 1.5 million of the 43 million customers served by rural electric cooperatives. Energy efficiency is an important step in an overall energy plan. But creating a new government funded program is not the solution.

This issue can be addressed in the farm bill by making adjustments to current programs. The 2008 farm bill included a provision that would have allowed rural electric cooperatives to