

200 other local municipalities, organizations, and statewide organizations throughout the United States holding communitywide vigils, memorials, and service events. With the support of more than twelve national organizations, including the National Coalition for the Homeless, the National Consumer Advisory Board, and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day brings attention to the tragedy of homelessness and memorializes our homeless neighbors and friends who have lost their lives because of our collective failure to end homelessness.

More than half a million people in the United States do not have a place to call home each night and half of them are without shelter. Nationwide each year, an estimated 2,000,000 people experience homelessness. Furthermore, the mortality rate among homeless populations has been shown to be almost four times that of the general population. Homelessness is expensive and can be prevented.

This resolution provides us with the opportunity to commend the efforts of the States, territories, and possessions of the United States who support the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, to encouraged those not already doing so, and to salute the dedicated professionals and organizations who provide assistance 365 days a year to people in need.

Most importantly, a national memorial day will ensure that we keep the problem in perspective. Through all the statistics on homelessness, all too often, we forget that numbers correspond to actual individuals with actual lives and families.

As the 2010 Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness declares: "There are no 'homeless people,' but rather people who have lost their homes who deserve to be treated with dignity and respect." In remembering those who died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent as is the Nation's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we must remember their lives—men, women, and children—and we must remember why they died.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and reaffirm Congress' commitment to ending homelessness by promoting a comprehensive national response that addresses the housing, health care, income, and civil rights causal factors and consequences of extreme poverty. Let us make this year's first night of winter and longest night of the year, December 21, 2010, a true National Memorial Day.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Con. Res. 325.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5866) to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 requiring the Secretary of Energy to carry out initiatives to advance innovation in nuclear energy technologies, to make nuclear energy systems more competitive, to increase efficiency and safety of civilian nuclear power, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5866

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 "Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. OBJECTIVES.

Section 951(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

"(2) Reducing the costs of nuclear reactor systems.

"(3) Reducing used nuclear fuel and nuclear waste products generated by civilian nuclear energy.

"(4) Supporting technological advances in areas that industry by itself is not likely to undertake because of technical and financial uncertainty."; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (11), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

"(12) Researching and developing technologies and processes so as to improve and streamline the process by which nuclear power systems meet Federal and State requirements and standards.".

SEC. 3. FUNDING.

Section 951 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271) is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

"(1) \$419,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

"(2) \$429,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

"(3) \$439,000,000 for fiscal year 2013."; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking "under subsection (a)" and inserting "under subsection (b)";

(B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) For activities under section 953—

"(A) \$201,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

"(B) \$201,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

"(C) \$201,000,000 for fiscal year 2013."; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraphs:

"(4) For activities under section 952, other than those described in section 952(d)—

"(A) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

"(B) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

"(C) \$64,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

"(5) For activities under section 952(d)—

"(A) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

"(B) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

"(C) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

"(6) For activities under section 958—

"(A) \$99,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

"(B) \$99,000,000 for fiscal year 2012; and

"(C) \$99,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.".

SEC. 4. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES STUDY.

Section 951 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) PROGRAM OBJECTIVES STUDY.—In furtherance of the program objectives listed in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall, within one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, transmit to the Congress a report on the results of a study on the scientific and technical merit of major State requirements and standards, including moratoria, that delay or impede the further development and commercialization of nuclear power, and how the Department in implementing the programs can assist in overcoming such delays or impediments.".

SEC. 5. NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

Section 952 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16272) is amended by striking subsections (c) through (e) and inserting the following:

"(c) REACTOR CONCEPTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to advance nuclear power systems as well as technologies to sustain currently deployed systems.

"(2) DESIGNS AND TECHNOLOGIES.—In conducting the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall examine advanced reactor designs and nuclear technologies, including those that—

"(A) are economically competitive with other electric power generation plants;

"(B) have higher efficiency, lower cost, and improved safety compared to reactors in operation as of the date of enactment of the Nuclear Energy Research and Development Act of 2010;

"(C) utilize passive safety features;

"(D) minimize proliferation risks;

"(E) substantially reduce production of high-level waste per unit of output;

"(F) increase the life and sustainability of reactor systems currently deployed;

"(G) use improved instrumentation;

"(H) are capable of producing large-scale quantities of hydrogen or process heat; or

"(I) minimize water usage or use alternatives to water as a cooling mechanism.

"(3) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—In carrying out the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall seek opportunities to enhance the progress of the program through international cooperation through such organizations as the Generation IV International Forum, or any other international collaboration the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(4) EXCEPTIONS.—No funds authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities described in this subsection shall be used to fund the activities authorized under sections 641 through 645.".

SEC. 6. SMALL MODULAR REACTOR PROGRAM.

Section 952 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16272) is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) SMALL MODULAR REACTOR PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—

"(A) The Secretary shall carry out a small modular reactor program to promote research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of small modular reactors, including through cost-shared projects for commercial application of reactor systems designs.

"(B) The Secretary shall consult with and utilize the expertise of the Secretary of the Navy in establishing and carrying out such program.

"(C) Activities may also include development of advanced computer modeling and simulation tools, by Federal and non-Federal entities, which demonstrate and validate new design capabilities of innovative small modular reactor designs.

“(2) **DEFINITION.**—For the purposes of this subsection, the term ‘small modular reactor’ means a nuclear reactor—

“(A) with a rated capacity of less than 300 electrical megawatts;

“(B) with respect to which most parts can be factory assembled and shipped as modules to a reactor plant site for assembly; and

“(C) that can be constructed and operated in combination with similar reactors at a single site.

“(3) **LIMITATION.**—Demonstration activities carried out under this section shall be limited to individual technologies and systems, and shall not include demonstration of full reactor systems or full plant operations.

“(4) **ADMINISTRATION.**—In conducting the small modular reactor program, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to support small modular reactor designs that enable—

“(A) lower capital costs or increased access to private financing in comparison to current large reactor designs;

“(B) reduced long-term radiotoxicity, mass, or decay heat of the nuclear waste produced by generation;

“(C) increased operating safety of nuclear facilities;

“(D) reduced dependence of reactor systems on water resources;

“(E) increased seismic resistance of nuclear generation;

“(F) reduced proliferation risks through integrated safeguards and security proliferation controls; and

“(G) increased efficiency in reactor manufacturing and construction.

“(5) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary under this subsection, an applicant shall submit to the Secretary a proposal for the small modular reactor project to be undertaken. The proposal shall document—

“(A) all partners and suppliers that will be active in the small modular reactor project, including a description of each partner or supplier’s anticipated domestic and international activities;

“(B) measures to be undertaken to enable cost-effective implementation of the small modular reactor project;

“(C) an accounting structure approved by the Secretary;

“(D) all known assets that shall be contributed to satisfy the cost-sharing requirement under paragraph (6); and

“(E) the extent to which the proposal will increase domestic manufacturing activity, exports, or employment.

“(6) **COST SHARING.**—Notwithstanding section 988, the Secretary shall require the parties to a cooperative agreement under this subsection to be responsible for not less than 50 percent of the costs of the small modular reactor project.

“(7) **CALCULATION OF COST SHARING AMOUNT.**—A recipient of financial assistance under this section may not satisfy the cost sharing requirement under paragraph (6) by using funds received from the Federal Government through appropriation Acts.

“(8) **PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA.**—The Secretary shall consider the following factors in entering into a cooperative agreement under this subsection:

“(A) The domestic manufacturing capabilities of the parties to the cooperative agreement and their partners and suppliers.

“(B) The viability of the reactor design and the business plan or plans of the parties to the cooperative agreement.

“(C) The parties to the cooperative agreement’s potential to continue the development of small modular reactors without Federal subsidies or loan guarantees.

“(D) The cost share to be provided.

“(E) The degree to which the following goals will be advanced:

“(i) Lower capital costs or increased access to private financing in comparison to current large reactor designs.

“(ii) Reduced long-term radiotoxicity, mass, or decay heat of the nuclear waste produced by generation.

“(iii) Increased operating safety of nuclear facilities.

“(iv) Reduced dependence of reactor systems on water resources.

“(v) Increased seismic resistance of nuclear generation.

“(vi) Reduced proliferation risks through integrated safeguards and security proliferation controls.

“(vii) Increased efficiency in reactor manufacturing and construction.”

SEC. 7. CONVENTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

Section 952 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16272) is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **CONVENTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may carry out a Nuclear Energy Research Initiative for research and development related to steam-side improvements to nuclear power plants to promote the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of—

“(A) cooling systems;

“(B) turbine technologies;

“(C) heat exchangers and pump design;

“(D) special coatings to improve lifetime of components and performance of heat exchangers; and

“(E) advanced power conversion systems for advanced reactor technologies.

“(2) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Secretary may undertake initiatives under this subsection only when the goals are relevant and proper to enhance the performance of technologies developed under subsection (c). Not more than \$10,000,000 of funds authorized for this section may be used for carrying out this subsection.”

SEC. 8. FUEL CYCLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 953 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16273) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking “**ADVANCED FUEL CYCLE INITIATIVE**” and inserting “**FUEL CYCLE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**”;

(2) by striking subsection (a);

(3) by redesignating subsections (b) through (d) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively; and

(4) by inserting before subsection (e), as so redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection, the following new subsections:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a fuel cycle research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program (referred to in this section as the ‘program’) on fuel cycle options that improve uranium resource utilization, maximize energy generation, minimize nuclear waste creation, improve safety, mitigate risk of proliferation, and improve waste management in support of a national strategy for spent nuclear fuel and the reactor concepts research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program under section 952(c).

“(b) **FUEL CYCLE OPTIONS.**—Under this section the Secretary may consider implementing the following initiatives:

“(1) **OPEN CYCLE.**—Developing fuels, including the use of nonuranium materials, for use in reactors that increase energy generation and minimize the amount of nuclear waste produced in an open fuel cycle.

“(2) **MODIFIED OPEN CYCLE.**—Developing fuel forms, reactors, and limited separation and transmutation methods that increase fuel utilization and reduce nuclear waste in a modified open fuel cycle.

“(3) **FULL RECYCLE.**—Developing advanced recycling technologies, including Generation IV Reactors, to reduce the risk of proliferation, radiotoxicity, mass, and decay heat to the greatest extent possible.

“(4) **ADVANCED STORAGE METHODS.**—Developing advanced storage technologies for both onsite and long-term storage that substantially prolong the effective life of current storage devices or that substantially improve upon existing nuclear waste storage technologies and methods, including repositories.

“(5) **ALTERNATIVE AND DEEP BOREHOLE STORAGE METHODS.**—Developing alternative storage methods for long-term storage, including deep boreholes into stable crystalline rock formations and mined repositories in a range of geologic media.

“(6) **OTHER TECHNOLOGIES.**—Developing any other technology or initiative that the Secretary determines is likely to advance the objectives of the program established under subsection (a).

“(c) **ADDITIONAL ADVANCED RECYCLING AND CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES.**—In addition to and in support of the specific initiatives described in paragraphs (1) through (6), the Secretary may support the following activities:

“(1) Development and testing of integrated process flow sheets for advanced nuclear fuel recycling processes.

“(2) Research to characterize the byproducts and waste streams resulting from fuel recycling processes.

“(3) Research and development on reactor concepts or transmutation technologies that improve resource utilization or reduce the radiotoxicity of waste streams.

“(4) Research and development on waste treatment processes and separations technologies, advanced waste forms, and quantification of proliferation risks.

“(5) Identification and evaluation of test and experimental facilities necessary to successfully implement the advanced fuel cycle initiative.

“(6) Advancement of fuel cycle-related modeling and simulation capabilities.

“(d) **BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION REPORT.**—

“(1) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall give consideration to the final report on a long-term nuclear waste solution produced by the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future.

“(2) Not later than 180 days after the release of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future final report, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report, which shall include—

“(A) any plans the Department may have to incorporate any relevant recommendations from this report into the program; and

“(B) how those recommendations for long-term nuclear waste solutions that will be incorporated into the plan compare with plans for a long-term nuclear waste solution of a repository at Yucca Mountain, that may or may not be incorporated into the plan, with regard to the safety, security, legal, cost, and technological and site readiness factors associated with any recommendations related to final disposition pathways for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the same factors associated with permanent deep geological disposal at the Yucca Mountain waste repository.

“(3) The analysis described in paragraph (2)(B) shall be conducted using scientific and technical materials and information used to support policy actions related to the Yucca Mountain project.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The item relating to section 953 in the table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 953. Fuel cycle research and development.”

SEC. 9. NUCLEAR ENERGY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Subtitle E of title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16271 et seq.) is amended by adding at the following new section:

“SEC. 958. NUCLEAR ENERGY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall conduct a program to support the integration of activities undertaken through the reactor concepts research, development, demonstration, and commercial application program under section 952(c) and the fuel cycle research and development program under section 953, and support cross-cutting nuclear energy concepts. Activities commenced under this section shall be concentrated on broadly applicable research and development focus areas.

“(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—Activities conducted under this section may include research involving—

- “(1) advanced reactor materials;
- “(2) advanced radiation mitigation methods;
- “(3) advanced proliferation and security risk assessment methods;
- “(4) advanced sensors and instrumentation;
- “(5) advanced nuclear manufacturing methods; or

“(6) any crosscutting technology or transformative concept aimed at establishing substantial and revolutionary enhancements in the performance of future nuclear energy systems that the Secretary considers relevant and appropriate to the purpose of this section.

“(c) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall submit, as part of the annual budget submission of the Department, a report on the activities of the program conducted under this section, which shall include a brief evaluation of each activity's progress.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended by adding at the end of the items for subtitle E of title IX the following new item:

“Sec. 958. Nuclear energy enabling technologies.”.

SEC. 10. EMERGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT AND PREPAREDNESS REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress a report summarizing quantitative risks associated with the potential of a severe accident arising from the use of civilian nuclear energy technology, including reactor technology deployed or likely to be deployed as of the date of enactment of this Act, and outlining the technologies currently available to mitigate the consequences of such an accident. The report shall include recommendations of areas of technological development that should be pursued to reduce the potential public harm arising from such an incident.

SEC. 11. NEXT GENERATION NUCLEAR PLANT.

(a) **PROTOTYPE PLANT LOCATION.**—Section 642(b)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16022(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) **PROTOTYPE PLANT LOCATION.**—The prototype nuclear reactor and associated plant shall be constructed at a location determined by the consortium through an open and transparent competitive selection process.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall transmit to the Congress a report providing a status update of the Next Generation Nuclear Plant program that provides analysis of—

- (A) its progress;
- (B) how Federal funds appropriated for the project have been distributed and spent; and
- (C) the current and expected participation by non-Federal entities.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall include—

(A) an analysis of the proposed facility's technical capabilities and remaining technological development challenges, and a cost estimate and construction schedule;

(B) an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of funding a pilot-scale research reactor project in lieu of a full-scale commercial power reactor;

(C) an assessment of alternative construction sites proposed by private industry;

(D) an assessment of the extent to which the Department of Energy is working with industry and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure that the Next Generation Nuclear Plant program meets industry expectations for long-term application of technologies and addresses potential licensing procedures for deployment;

(E) an assessment of the known or anticipated challenges to securing private non-Federal cost share funds and any measures to overcome these challenges, including any alternative funding approaches such as front loading the Federal share;

(F) an assessment of project risks, including those related to—

- (i) project scope, schedule, and resources;
- (ii) the formation of partnerships or agreements between the Department and the private sector necessary for the project's success; and
- (iii) the Department's capabilities to identify and manage such risks; and

(G) an assessment of what is known about the potential impact of natural gas and other fossil fuel prices on private entity participation in the project.

SEC. 12. TECHNICAL STANDARDS COLLABORATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish a nuclear energy standards committee (in this section referred to as the “technical standards committee”) to facilitate and support, consistent with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995, the development or revision of technical standards for new and existing nuclear power plants and advanced nuclear technologies.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The technical standards committee shall include representatives from appropriate Federal agencies and the private sector, and be open to materially affected organizations involved in the development or application of nuclear energy-related standards.

(2) **CO-CHAIRS.**—The technical standards committee shall be co-chaired by a representative from the National Institute of Standards and Technology and a representative from a private sector standards organization.

(c) **DUTIES.**—The technical standards committee shall, in cooperation with appropriate Federal agencies—

(1) perform a needs assessment to identify and evaluate the technical standards that are needed to support nuclear energy, including those needed to support new and existing nuclear power plants and advanced nuclear technologies;

(2) formulate, coordinate, and recommend priorities for the development of new technical standards and the revision of existing technical standards to address the needs identified under paragraph (1);

(3) facilitate and support collaboration and cooperation among standards developers to address the needs and priorities identified under paragraphs (1) and (2);

(4) as appropriate, coordinate with other national, regional, or international efforts on nuclear energy-related technical standards in order to avoid conflict and duplication and to ensure global compatibility; and

(5) promote the establishment and maintenance of a database of nuclear energy-related technical standards.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013 to the Director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology for activities under this section.

SEC. 13. EVALUATION OF LONG-TERM OPERATING NEEDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Energy shall enter into an arrangement with the Na-

tional Academies to conduct an evaluation of the scientific and technological challenges to the long-term maintenance and safe operation of currently deployed nuclear power reactors up to and beyond the specified design-life of reactor systems.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress, and make publicly available, the results of the evaluation undertaken by the Academies pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 14. AVAILABLE FACILITIES DATABASE.

The Secretary of Energy shall prepare a database of non-Federal user facilities receiving Federal funds that may be used for unclassified nuclear energy research. The Secretary shall make this database accessible on the Department of Energy's website.

SEC. 15. NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL.

To the extent consistent with the requirements of current law, the Department of Energy shall be responsible for disposal of high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel generated by reactors under the programs authorized in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. 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. 5866, 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The ongoing national discussion on our path forward towards a comprehensive energy strategy necessarily raises questions about climate change, national security, and economic stability. In having this discussion, most experts have come to agree that any realistic strategy will require a diverse portfolio of energy sources. Renewables, clean coal and gas, and nuclear power must all play a role in moving our Nation towards energy independence while balancing our Nation's economic interests.

Before us today is H.R. 5866, which amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to modernize and improve our Federal nuclear energy R&D programs. I introduced this legislation after close collaboration with my friend from Texas, RALPH HALL, Mrs. BIGGERT, and many others on the committee on a bipartisan basis who share my belief that we must continue to seek the answers to the challenges of high capital costs for nuclear power systems and management and recycling of nuclear waste. Our Nation's 104 commercial reactors today produce 20 percent of our electricity, 70 percent of our emissions-free energy. Clearly, if we are to increase our energy independence, nuclear must

continue to be a large part of our Nation's energy mix.

Once the world's leader in nuclear energy technologies, the U.S. is losing its competitive edge after decades of being dormant. Of the nearly 60 reactors currently under construction worldwide, most are in Asia, with China making up the bulk of that using its own CPR-1000 reactor technology. This trend will represent billions of dollars in foregone opportunities for the U.S.

As I mentioned, this bill is the result of a truly bipartisan effort over the past 8 months that has won the support of the nuclear industry, nuclear suppliers, and numerous trade associations. I would like to take a moment to thank the committee staff who worked on this bill, specifically Rob Walther and Chris King of the majority side and Dan Byers on the minority side. And I would like to thank Energy Subcommittee Ranking Member Mr. INGALLS and Subcommittee Chair Dr. BAIRD for their effort to bring this bill before us today. I call on my colleagues to support H.R. 5866.

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

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

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 5866, and I thank Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL for their leadership on this legislation.

Due to population and estimated economic growth over the next 25 years, the United States' demand for electricity is expected to rise by 30 percent. To meet rising demand for power for our homes and businesses, we need to expand our domestic and electricity production and create affordable, reliable electricity production in an environmentally responsible way. Nuclear power is the only way to do this.

My home State of Illinois already leads the way, deriving half of its electricity from nuclear energy, but we need to do more to expand nuclear here and across the country. That is why I cosponsored this legislation which supports the development and deployment of small modular nuclear reactors and reauthorizes nuclear R&D activities at the Department of Energy.

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A complement to existing large-scale reactors, small modular reactors create less time and money to construct and are based on current reactor designs, thereby reducing the burdensome licensing process. This is an ideal solution for growing communities and cash-strapped utilities that need extra generation capacity at a fraction of the cost.

More importantly, H.R. 5866 extends and modifies R&D activities that promote advanced research to close the nuclear fuel cycle and recycle spent nuclear fuel. My district's scientists and engineers at Argonne National Laboratory lead the Nation in research and development for nuclear fuel or recycling.

Recycling is not just important for the reduction of waste created but also for the conservation of worldwide uranium resources. It will also encourage the deployment of expanded nuclear power for industry and States that want to provide affordable electricity without unnecessary liabilities.

In summary, H.R. 5866 is a strong bipartisan bill. It will complement the current revival of the nuclear industry by extending DOE's research and development activities to pursue longer term advances in three ways: reactor designs, fuel cycle R&D, and in cross-cutting areas such as materials and computer modeling and simulation.

I do want to note that there are a few minor changes made to the bill that was reported by the committee in section 4 and section 15. These changes should in no way be interpreted to change the intent or purpose of the language.

This bill is endorsed by a comprehensive group of key stakeholders, including the Nuclear Energy Institute, the Next Generation Nuclear Plant Industry Alliance, the American Chemical Society, Toshiba-Westinghouse, and GE-Hitachi.

I urge Members to support H.R. 5866.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my friend from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to express my deep appreciation of the ranking member as well as the chairman now of the full committee. And again, you have heard these accolades many times, but you will be missed in the next Congress. We have worked together in a very bipartisan way to accomplish things through technology for our country and our people and the people of the world.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5866. Nuclear power has been a cornerstone of American domestic energy policy for decades, and it could have had a greater positive impact had we not succumbed to irrational attacks by environmental radicals who seem to oppose any type of energy. They ended up costing us hundreds of billions of dollars for imports that we otherwise would not have needed.

We now, however, have a tremendous opportunity to use the latest nuclear technology developments to produce safe, clean, cost-effective energy for our country and for the world. This bill updates America's nuclear energy research and funds those technologies that show the greatest possibilities. We are on the cusp of a new era, a new era of nuclear energy. Small modular reactors will provide safe, cost-effective electricity without the significant risks evident in the current, large-scale reactor system.

The next generation of reactors will be using as fuel the waste of today's reactors. Thus America's waste storage needs will be drastically cut. Advanced,

gas-cooled nuclear systems will meet industrial needs without relying on a lot of water sources, eliminating conflict over water use and leftover waste and other environmental concerns. New high-temperature, gas-cooled reactor systems will leave behind less waste, and it will be impossible for them to melt down; this, based on their pebble bed design.

Investments in such innovations now will provide long-term benefits of energy production, waste disposal, and environmental stewardship; all of these enhanced by this legislation and the use of these reactors.

The security implications, of course, of weaning ourselves off of foreign oil is evident to all Americans. Obviously, a sustainable long-term, domestically produced clean energy future is in the best interests of all Americans. Investing in new nuclear technologies can accomplish this and will put our country back on the path to energy self-sufficiency.

One admonition, however. Powerful interests would have us waste money on old technologies like light water reactors or on nuclear fusion, which has had little demonstrable progress after decades of massive investment. So it is time for us to start building what is possible for us to build, especially when it has come so far already and is ready to go.

It is for these reasons that I strongly endorse the American nuclear energy industry, and I ask all of my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 5866.

Mrs. BIGGERT. In closing, I would like to thank the chairman for all of the work he has done as chairman of the Science Committee, and this bill shows what you've been able to accomplish in the research and development, the basic science, and how this will benefit so much our country, and we really thank you for all the work that you put into this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I will conclude by saying it's a "we," not "you." Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. ROHRABACHER have been a strong part and, again, a bipartisan effort in an effort to bring forth good legislation. I'm proud of the fact this is the 151st bill and resolution that we have been able to bring forth here in a bipartisan way in the last 4 years. I think that's a record. And I thank you for being a part of that.

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. 5866, 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.

HONORING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1622) honoring the historic contributions of veterans throughout all conflicts involving the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1622

Whereas veterans of service in the United States Armed Forces have served the Nation with honor and great sacrifices;

Whereas the people of the United States owe the security of the Nation to those who defended it;

Whereas United States veterans past and present have served the Nation in times of peace and war at great personal sacrifice for both themselves and their families;

Whereas historic contributions include involvement in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Eastern Indian Wars, Mexican War, Civil War, Western Indian Wars, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam Conflict, Lebanon crisis of 1958, Persian Gulf War, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other conflicts;

Whereas veterans have served the United States in hundreds of deployments, large and small, responding to acts of aggression against the United States and its allies, protecting and evacuating civilians, bringing stability to areas experiencing political turmoil, and providing comfort and support in the wake of natural disasters;

Whereas the service and sacrifice of generations of men and women have shaped the history of the United States and transformed its society;

Whereas as civilians, veterans continue to provide a valuable service by working and volunteering in their communities across the Nation;

Whereas on Veterans Day each year, the Nation honors those who have defended democracy by serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of Veterans Day is an expression of faith in democracy, faith in American values, and faith that those who fight for freedom will defeat those whose cause is unjust;

Whereas section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, provides that "Veterans day, November 11th" is a legal public holiday;

Whereas we must honor and express the Nation's gratitude to all veterans for their unwavering commitment to country, justice, and democracy; and

Whereas the Nation reaffirms its obligation to provide veterans and their families with the essential support they were promised and have earned: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the courage, service, and sacrifice of all veterans and their historic contributions to the United States;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to demonstrate their support for Veterans Day each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection;

(3) encourages schools and teachers to educate students on the historic contributions veterans have made to the country and its history, both while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces and after completing their service; and

(4) requests that the President issue a proclamation each year in connection with the observance of Veterans Day calling on

the people of the United States to recognize the historic contribution of all veterans by observing that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1622.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, as we all know, Americans came together to honor Veterans Day and pay tribute to the over 23 million veterans that have served our Nation. We have a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform and have made great sacrifices. We know that we owe the security of this Nation to those who defended it.

This resolution before us encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans also. No other group of Americans has stood stronger and braver for our democracy than our troops and our veterans.

I firmly believe that Veterans Day should not be observed for just one day a year but that our Nation's heroes must be celebrated, honored, and remembered for their service to our Nation the whole year through. So I encourage all Americans to reach out to veterans, thank them and their families for their amazing sacrifice, learn more about their great contribution to our Nation, and gain the wisdom of their personal stories of this Nation's history.

This year, like the last, our country observed Veterans Day while engaged in conflicts abroad that required the dedication of our uniformed troops. Our thoughts remain with those who are in uniform engaged in conflicts abroad.

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We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion that this grateful Nation can bestow. This democracy must stand together to support our veterans because our freedom and liberty depend on it. On Veterans Day and this whole year through, join me and take the time to show your gratitude to those who have answered the call to duty.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1622, a bill honoring the historic contributions of veterans throughout all conflicts involving the United States. All of our veterans have provided a great service to our country through their personal sacrifices. As a Nation, we owe them our gratitude for their service.

Section 6103 of title 5 of the United States Code provides that Veterans Day, November 11, is a legal public holiday. House Resolution 1622 reaffirms the Nation's obligation to support our veterans and their families.

H.R. 1622 would resolve that the House of Representatives recognizes the honor, the courage, sacrifice, of all veterans, and their historic contributions to the United States. It encourages the people of the United States to demonstrate their support for Veterans Day each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection. It encourages schools and teachers to educate students on the historic contributions veterans have made to the country and its history, both while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces, and after completing their service, and requests that the President issue a proclamation each year in connection with the observance of Veterans Day, calling on the people of the United States to recognize the historic contribution of all veterans by observing that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

However, I am saddened that the House of Representatives was unable to pass this worthy resolution before Veterans Day, November 11.

Again I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1622, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I do want to again say that in our district and in many districts around the country it's not just Veterans Day, it's Veterans Week. We spend an entire week celebrating the service and sacrifice made by our veterans. During this past 2 weeks ago we had Veterans Day during the entire week because many of us as Congressmen like to attend as many of these as we can. To show you the support, in one small community of Morristown, Tennessee, there were almost 6,000 people at an event for veterans. Our keynote speaker was General Livingston, who is a Medal of Honor winner, a Marine.

I attended church the following Sunday with Arnold "Bud" Pate, who lost his arm in Vietnam, who is a Baptist pastor there. And on and on we see stories of these heroes who served our Nation. So I would encourage all of us to support this resolution.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of House Resolution 1622, legislation I introduced to honor the historic contributions of veterans throughout all conflicts involving the United States.

Every Veterans Day, Americans come together to remember those who have served