

House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6184, 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.

FEDERAL BUILDINGS PERSONNEL TRAINING ACT OF 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3250) to provide for the training of Federal building personnel, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3250

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 “Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. TRAINING OF FEDERAL BUILDING PERSONNEL.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF CORE COMPETENCIES.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with representatives of relevant professional societies, industry associations, and apprenticeship training providers, and after providing notice and an opportunity for comment, shall identify the core competencies necessary for Federal personnel performing building operations and maintenance, energy management, safety, and design functions to comply with requirements under Federal law. The core competencies identified shall include competencies relating to building operations and maintenance, energy management, sustainability, water efficiency, safety (including electrical safety), and building performance measures.

(b) DESIGNATION OF RELEVANT COURSES, CERTIFICATIONS, DEGREES, LICENSES, AND REGISTRATIONS.—The Administrator, in consultation with representatives of relevant professional societies, industry associations, and apprenticeship training providers, shall identify a course, certification, degree, license, or registration to demonstrate each core competency, and for ongoing training with respect to each core competency, identified for a category of personnel specified in subsection (a).

(c) IDENTIFIED COMPETENCIES.—An individual shall demonstrate each core competency identified by the Administrator under subsection (a) for the category of personnel that includes such individual. An individual shall demonstrate each core competency through the means identified under subsection (b) not later than one year after the date on which such core competency is identified under subsection (a) or, if the date of hire of such individual occurs after the date of such identification, not later than one year after such date of hire. In the case of an individual hired for an employment period not to exceed one year, such individual shall demonstrate each core competency at the start of the employment period.

(d) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—The Administrator, in consultation with representatives of relevant professional societies, industry associations, and apprenticeship training

providers, shall develop or identify comprehensive continuing education courses to ensure the operation of Federal buildings in accordance with industry best practices and standards.

(e) CURRICULUM WITH RESPECT TO FACILITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator, acting through the head of the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, and the Secretary of Energy, acting through the head of the Office of Commercial High-Performance Green Buildings, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies and representatives of relevant professional societies, industry associations, and apprenticeship training providers, shall develop a recommended curriculum relating to facility management and the operation of high-performance buildings.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF THIS SECTION TO FUNCTIONS PERFORMED UNDER CONTRACT.—Training requirements under this section shall apply to non-Federal personnel performing building operations and maintenance, energy management, safety, and design functions under a contract with a Federal department or agency. A contractor shall provide training to, and certify the demonstration of core competencies for, non-Federal personnel in a manner that is approved by the Administrator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 3250.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 3250. This bill has bipartisan sponsorships in the Senate by Senators CARPER and COLLINS. It is the Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act. The legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent, and it is identical to H.R. 5112, introduced by me and my Republican colleague, Representative JUDY BIGGERT of Illinois. The bill also passed out of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on a voice vote.

At a time when many people are tired of partisan gridlock here in Washington, I believe this legislation is a good example of what we can do when we work across the aisle to accomplish commonsense legislation that will safeguard taxpayer investments, will provide certainty to small business and, most importantly, will save taxpayers money.

□ 1650

Madam Speaker, when we invest in our Federal facilities, we also need to invest in the people operating and maintaining them. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included a substantial investment of \$5.5 billion apportioned to the GSA to upgrade its facilities. In order to safeguard this substantial investment, I want to ensure that GSA and other Federal agencies have the tools necessary to properly maintain and operate these buildings at their highest performance levels.

Late last year, a Government Accountability Office report found that a lack of proper expertise and training was a major challenge for the Federal Government in reaching its energy reduction goals. This legislation will fill the training gap. Most importantly, by filling the training gap, the Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act will save taxpayer dollars on operations and maintenance costs.

The Federal Government currently consumes about 2 percent of the Nation's total energy, or about \$17.5 billion in annual energy costs. The potential for cost savings here is huge. In fact, a recent study by the International Facility Management Association showed that for every dollar spent on facility management training, organizations reported receiving an average of \$3.95 in return. If we are to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, in addition to investing in energy-efficient buildings, we must invest in the people maintaining those buildings so we can recoup the largest energy and cost savings possible.

This legislation will help ensure that our Federal buildings are run in a way that maximizes their performance, assuring that they retain value throughout their lifecycles and that the taxpayer investments in these properties are both protected and leveraged to reap the cost savings involved with efficient operations and management.

I want to personally thank the Republican cosponsor, my colleagues, Representative PETE SESSIONS and Representative JUDY BIGGERT, for their support throughout this process. Representative BIGGERT and I cochair the High-Performance Buildings Caucus and we have continually advocated for the Federal Government to lead by example in high-performance building practices.

I also want to give special thanks to Chairman OBERSTAR—for his long and distinguished leadership on this issue—and to Ranking Member MICA for their support to bring this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD a support letter from over 50 of the country's leading building professionals, manufacturers, and small businesses. They are pleased to support this legislation and are poised to provide the necessary training to achieve both public and private sector goals.

HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING
CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS COALITION,
December 1, 2010.

Speaker NANCY PELOSI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Minority Leader JOHN BOEHNER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Re: Federal Buildings Personnel Training
Act of 2010

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MINORITY LEADER BOEHNER: As the leading organizations involved in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of buildings, we applaud Congress's continued efforts to improve our nation's buildings. We are particularly pleased to support H.R. 5112/S. 3250, "Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act of 2010." In the final days of the 111th Congress, we encourage passage of this important legislation—it has already passed the Senate by voice vote.

As you know, Congress and the President have established stringent goals for Federal agencies to achieve reductions in energy and water use and greenhouse gas emissions. Agencies also have additional needs related to other high-performance building attributes, including safety and security. Achieving these goals requires personnel engaged in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of federal buildings to have the appropriate skills and training. This bill will provide federal agencies with these necessary tools with no significant impact on the deficit.

Federal agencies have long been looked to as an example of what can be done within the built environment. As the Nation's largest holder of real estate, the Federal Government has the opportunity and resources to influence the development and implementation of building design, construction, operations and maintenance tools, technologies and practices. Federal buildings should serve as public showcases and leading examples of energy efficiency and indoor environmental quality (IEQ) through their design, construction, equipment, and operations and maintenance.

As both public and private sector buildings become increasingly complex to meet our nation's energy and environmental goals, personnel with the necessary competencies will be critical to achieving these goals. The undersigned organizations representing the breadth of the building community including building professionals, manufacturers, and small businesses, are pleased to support this legislation and are poised to provide the necessary training to achieve both public and private sector goals.

We look forward to continued work with you in realizing the full potential of high-performance buildings.

Sincerely,

National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS); American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); International Facility Management Association (IFMA); National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA); U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO); Federation of American Scientists (FAS); National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); International Code Council (ICC); Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA); American Institute of Architects (AIA); Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (SPFA); United Association—Union of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders and HVAC Service Techs; Green Mechanical Council; The Stella Group,

Ltd.; Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE); Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA); National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE); BuildingInsight, LLC; American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC); Green Building Initiative (GBI); Ecobuild America/AEC Science & Technology, LLC; American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA); Air-conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI); National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC); Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing (CEIR); The Radiant Panel Association; Carbon Monoxide Safety Association (COSA); Educational Standards Corporation Institute (ESCO Institute); HVAC Excellence; Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association (AC&R); Federal Performance Contracting Coalition; Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC); National Insulation Association (NIA); InfoComm International; Building Intelligence Group; Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc. (SMACNA); Architecture 2030; LonMark International; Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI); American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE); BASF; EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA); Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC); Johnson Controls; APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities; International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD); The Vinyl Institute; Illuminating Engineering Society (IES); DuPont; Brick Industry Association; Association of Energy Engineers (AEE); Siemens.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill would require, as we have just heard, the General Services Administration to consult with various professional associations in order to establish training and certification requirements for Federal and private personnel who maintain Federal buildings. Now, the purpose of this bill is a very good one. With all of the taxpayer money and dollars that have been invested in the high-performance green buildings, we obviously need to ensure that those maintaining them are, frankly, properly trained; otherwise, that money is, frankly, just thrown away. So I want to thank Representative CARNAHAN as well as—and he has mentioned also—Representative BIGGERT and Representative SESSIONS for their leadership and work on this really, really important issue.

There are a few caveats that I just want to put out there, and we have had this conversation and there is no disagreement here. It is going to be very important, Madam Speaker, after passage of this legislation, that we ensure that GSA implements this appropriately. In particular, it would be important that GSA doesn't develop such broad training requirements that it becomes, frankly, too costly and burdensome for small businesses to be able to do that. In addition, it is going to be really important, Madam Speaker, for

GSA to ensure that conflicts, potential conflicts, conflicts of interest are not created and that appropriate Federal laws and rules governing advice from private entities are strictly followed. As this bill is implemented, our committee will be conducting close oversight to ensure the requirements in this bill are carried out in a reasonable manner.

I am not going to object to the passage of this legislation. As I mentioned, I want to thank the sponsors for their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the chairwoman of the Federal Buildings Subcommittee of Transportation, Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding, but I need to thank him for much more, for not only sponsoring this bill, but for shepherding this bill. It was not always smooth sailing, but it was mostly smooth sailing because its underlying purpose is so clear and necessary. I appreciate that it has been a bipartisan bill both here and in the Senate. I certainly appreciate its bipartisan sponsorship by Representative BIGGERT and you, Mr. CARNAHAN. I know that this bill will be gratifying to Mr. OBERSTAR, who has presided over much of the building of the Federal inventory during his extraordinary service here in the House.

May I thank my good friend, the ranking member, Mr. Diaz-Balart, with whom I've worked so closely and so well since I became chair, for his work not only on this bill but on the many bills and the many hearings we have held together.

Madam Speaker, what we have to consider is that the Federal building inventory amounts to \$43 billion of investment of the taxpayers of the United States over many decades. It is clearly irreplaceable. Some of it is familiar to us all—the buildings here in Washington, such as the Justice Department, or your own office building when you go home to invite in your constituents and to do your constituent service, the courthouses where you are. But there has been little investment in this inventory, even inventory close to home.

We had a hearing in our subcommittee that showed scores of violations in the buildings of the Capitol complex, which I am pleased to say are now being quickly remedied, but some of them would have endangered the lives of the millions of people who visit the Capitol every year, not to mention the many thousands who live here. So this is a particularly gratifying piece of legislation.

Every year, our committee approves hundreds of millions of dollars in projects of construction and repair and modernization, nothing, however, like what we have done recently. Because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Congress took the opportunity to invest in the updating of

more than \$5 billion in GSA inventory which had been untouched and was a growing backlog. And we didn't simply invest in it by saying fix the roofs. We said save the taxpayers money by upgrading to state-of-the-art energy systems so that we save the taxpayers more money than we are investing today and we begin to catch up on the backlog of many decades of disinvestment in our own priceless inventory.

So we are upgrading these federally owned facilities with more energy-efficient and sustainable building components for the first time in memory. This investment will be important; but if we allow these buildings to deteriorate as so much of our inventory has, we will pour the investment right down the drain. That means that you now will have contractors, subcontractors, yes, and many employees who are being asked to maintain inventory that has entirely new components of the kind they have never had to operate and maintain before, because these are energy-efficient, new state-of-the-art materials.

□ 1700

In order to maintain this extraordinary investment, this once-in-a-lifetime investment for the Congress, we will want a workforce that is trained and operating to keep this inventory at peak performance so that we don't see it deteriorate before our eyes as we have seen so much of the Federal inventory.

We now know that design and construction costs, for example, represent only about 5 or 10 percent of the costs of a facility.

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. I yield 1 additional minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. NORTON. But operations and maintenance represents 60 to 85 percent of the costs of a facility over its lifetime. Look what we're doing here today. We've saved the taxpayer money by investing in energy efficiency. Now we're going to save money for all of us, and especially the taxpayers, by investing in what it will take, curriculum and training, to keep these buildings at peak performance and thereby maximize our investment.

I thank the gentleman for his hard work and for yielding.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Before I recognize the following distinguished Member, I do want to just mention, I don't know how many other opportunities as ranking member I'm going to have here on the floor, and I just want to mention what a privilege it has been to work with my chairwoman. She has been, frankly, wonderful to work with. We have enjoyed a great working relationship, and I think that working relationship has really grown into a bit of a personal friendship. And I want to thank her for always being exceedingly courteous to me.

And I also need to mention Chairman OBERSTAR. I was able to speak to him

at length a couple days ago, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention how much I've enjoyed working with him.

With that, Madam Speaker, I'd like to recognize—she's already been mentioned a couple of times—the gentlelady from the State of Illinois, Representative BIGGERT, for such time as she may consume.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my colleagues, Senator TOM CARPER and SUSAN COLLINS, and especially the cochair of the Congressional High-Performance Building Caucus, Representative Russ Carnahan, and also Representative Pete Sessions for all of their hard work in bringing this bipartisan legislation before us today.

The Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act of 2010 will save taxpayers dollars, it's been mentioned many times, by putting Federal buildings on the cutting edge of energy efficiency and will help build expertise among America's workforce needed for tomorrow's green jobs.

As my colleagues are aware, the Federal Government is the Nation's largest property manager, with more than 500,000 buildings and structures worldwide. So this bill presents an opportunity to lead by example and to demonstrate the immense savings and efficiency that can be achieved by making smart investments in human energy through the Federal workforce.

This bill will help ensure that Federal buildings are operating at peak efficiency. It will equip Federal employees who maintain our buildings with the resources they need to utilize green building technologies, implement industry best practices, and cut energy costs for the public.

Madam Speaker, thanks to America's scientists and engineers, we are making rapid strides in sustainable building technologies and designs. But the full rewards of this work, both to the environment and to taxpayers, cannot be realized unless our building managers have the training to utilize them.

The Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act of 2010 will require the General Services Administration to identify core competencies necessary for Federal personnel to utilize high-performance building practices and technologies. The GSA will then work with private industry and institutions of higher learning to create comprehensive continuing education courses to ensure that the Federal employees know how to employ green technologies. This training will ensure that the Federal Government can meet its energy reduction goals and get a proper return on taxpayers' investment.

Madam Speaker, American taxpayers are demanding a renewed focus on eliminating wasteful government spending, and this bipartisan bill presents an opportunity to do just that while conserving our domestic energy supply.

The Federal Buildings Personnel Training Act will put us on the forefront of building technology and transform our Nation's building stock for years to come. Just as importantly, it makes an investment in the training of our workforce that will help American workers compete for the green jobs of tomorrow.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from Missouri, my colleague and cochair of the High-Performance Building Caucus, for his hard work in bringing forward this bill. And I'd like to thank Chairman NORTON for her support and Ranking Member MICA and particularly Chairman OBERSTAR. He will certainly be missed here on this House floor, and I know that we all wish him well.

I would urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3250, a bill to promote professionalism and competency among the ranks of individuals, both Federal employee and contractor, who operate and maintain building systems in Federal buildings. For a number of building operation functions and disciplines, the bill requires the Administrator of General Services, in consultation with other Federal agencies and building industry representatives, to identify core competencies and appropriate training and certifications, which will enable personnel working in these fields to demonstrate acquisition and mastery of the skills and knowledge that will help ensure that Federal buildings perform and are maintained in accordance with industry best practices.

This Committee has been instrumental, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in providing the General Services Administration with \$4.5 billion to upgrade Federally owned facilities with more energy efficient and sustainable building components and systems. S. 3250 is an effort to safeguard this investment, as well as other Federal investment in energy-efficient building infrastructure, to ensure that this infrastructure is well maintained and operating at peak performance.

Findings by the Government Accountability Office and the National Research Council indicate that, over a building's full life cycle, operations and maintenance expenses account for 60 to 85 percent of the total cost of a facility, compared to 10 percent for initial design and construction. These findings underscore the importance of optimizing the performance and care of building equipment and components which play a vital role in the energy efficiency of facilities. By establishing core competencies for building operations personnel, S. 3250 enhances the likelihood that this optimization occurs. The bill has the support of the High-Performance Building Congressional Caucus Coalition, and over 40 building industry associations and professional societies. Moreover, this legislation helps support energy efficiency goals established for Federal buildings in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

On July 29, 2010, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider the House version of this bill, H.R. 5112, and ordered the bill reported favorably to the House by voice vote.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 3250.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3250.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION ON ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1669) congratulating the National Air Transportation Association for celebrating its 70th anniversary, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1669

Whereas the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) was founded 70 years ago on December 28, 1940, with 83 charter member companies who were instrumental in supporting the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP);

Whereas on December 27, 1938, the CPTP was formed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt who approved a Civil Aeronautics Authority plan to boost the private flying industry by annually teaching 20,000 college students to fly;

Whereas the CPTP trained thousands of new pilots;

Whereas in 1940, NATA was instrumental in working with Congress to support the CPTP;

Whereas the current general aviation industry owes much to the foresight and resiliency of the founders of NATA, William A. Ong and Leslie H. Bowman, the association's first two presidents, as well as George E. Haddaway, John L. Gaylord, and others who played a strong role in the organization's formation;

Whereas the general aviation industry accounts for hundreds of thousands of American jobs and contributes approximately \$90 billion to the United States economy;

Whereas today NATA represents over 2,000 member companies that own, operate, or service aircraft and provide for the needs of the traveling public by offering services and products to aircraft operators and others such as fuel sales, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, storage, rental airline servicing, flight training, Part 135 on-demand air charter, fractional aircraft program management, and scheduled commuter operations for smaller aircraft;

Whereas NATA continues to represent the legislative, regulatory, and business interests of general aviation businesses;

Whereas NATA provides education, services, and benefits to its members to ensure their long-term economic success;

Whereas NATA is dedicated to establishing programs to improve general aviation safety; and

Whereas NATA established the Air Charter Safety Foundation to continuously enhance the safety and security practices of charter and shared aircraft owners and operators in the United States and worldwide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the National Air Transportation Association for celebrating its 70th anniversary;

(2) applauds the National Air Transportation Association for creating programs and resources to enhance the safety of general aviation operators; and

(3) commends the National Air Transportation Association for being instrumental in bolstering the general aviation industry during a time of turmoil in the 1940s.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CARNAHAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNAHAN. 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. 1669.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1669, as amended, which congratulates the National Air Transportation Association for celebrating its 70th anniversary.

As this resolution recognizes, NATA played an indispensable role in the development of general aviation in the United States. Since its founding in 1940, at a time when general aviation in the U.S. was at a crossroads, NATA has grown to represent more than 2,000 companies that own, operate, or service aircraft and provide services to general aviation pilots and aircraft owners. NATA serves as these companies' advocate before Federal policymakers and lawmakers.

The general aviation industry supports thousands of American jobs and is an essential contributor to the U.S. economy. Since its founding, the National Air Transportation Association has played a major role in advocating for a vibrant and healthy general aviation industry.

H. Res. 1669 recognizes NATA's historical contributions to general aviation and congratulates them for its 70th anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution before us, my colleague from Tennessee, JAMES DUNCAN.

□ 1710

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1669, to congratulate and compliment the National Air Transportation Association on its 70th anniversary, and for its advocacy of general aviation in the United States of America. NATA is the leading organization representing aviation service businesses such as fixed base operators, charter providers, and aircraft management companies.

At the start of World War II, the Federal Government drafted plans to ground all private aviation for the duration of the war. Such a ban would have crippled general aviation in this country for years to come. However, 83 founding members started the NATA in 1940 with the purpose of showing how private aviation could be an asset to our country and to its national security, and certainly not a threat. In fact, the NATA helped save the Civilian Pilot Training Program that was created by President Franklin Roosevelt just a few years earlier. This program trained thousands of college students to fly, many of whom later contributed to the war effort.

Today, NATA represents over 2,000 member companies that own, operate, or service aircraft, and provide for the needs of the traveling public by offering services and products to aircraft operators and others such as fuel sales, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, storage, rental airline services, flight training, Part 135 on-demand air charters, fractional aircraft program management, and scheduled commuter operations from smaller aircraft.

There are more than 230,000 general aviation aircraft in the United States, which use nearly 19,000 small and regional airports. These airports help connect people and industries that do not always have easy access to our larger commercial airports. In addition, the general aviation industry represents millions of jobs, and contributes \$150 billion to the U.S. economy. General aviation is a vital component of the transportation industry in the United States.

Not only does the association represent aviation interests in Washington, it takes an active role in promoting aviation in our communities. NATA provides grants to schools for the purpose of purchasing educational materials. The NATA also provides scholarships to young people who are interested in pursuing a career in aviation.

Madam Speaker, I served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation for 6 years. I personally witnessed the National Air Transportation Association's tireless efforts on behalf of private aviation.

Finally, I would like to mention that the president of this association is our former colleague, former Congressman Jim Coyne. While in Congress, Congressman Coyne regularly flew to and from his congressional district in Pennsylvania. He has served in this position since 1994. And I would like to