

Today, the USDA is in the process of conducting economic analyses as well as a comprehensive review of the comments submitted on the proposed rule.

H.R. 2112 would stop the USDA in its tracks and prevent it from completing its year of work on GIPSA.

Two of our Nation's largest member organizations who work to support farmers, ranchers and producers are opposed to the provision which would cut off funding for the GIPSA rule—the National Farmers Union and the Farm Bureau.

Like me, these Iowa members and the national organizations believe that this is an issue under the jurisdiction of the authorizing committee, not the appropriating committee, and that regardless of which side of the regulation you may fall, that the comment review and economic analyses deserve completion.

NFU President Roger Johnson said in a recent statement: "I urge that funds for the enforcement of the GIPSA rule be reinstated in future versions of the agriculture appropriations bill."

The American Farm Bureau Federation sent a letter to my colleague, Congresswoman KAPTUR, on May 31, 2011, the day of the full committee markup, that stated: "We oppose language to preclude USDA from reviewing the comments and completing their economic analysis and are strongly opposed to any action that would stop work on that [GIPSA] rule."

However, appropriators ignored this call to action, and instead chose to move forward on behalf of large processors.

The rulemaking process on the GIPSA rule was started with the issuance of the draft rule on June 22, 2010—nearly one year ago and more than 60,000 comments were submitted on the GIPSA rule docket. To end the process now would equate to an unfortunate waste of government resources.

Thirty years ago there were 1.3 million beef cattle operations. Today there are 740,000. In 1980, there were 660,000 hog farms. Today there are 67,000. Last year alone, approximately 2,300 additional hog producers went out of business.

On behalf of producers and competition in our marketplace, I urge my colleagues to oppose defunding the GIPSA rule, and allow the USDA to complete their work and review on this issue.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS—CORBIN PALMER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our Nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Corbin Palmer, a United States Air Force Academy Appointee. Corbin is a graduate of Centennial High School and attended the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School. Corbin was involved in club gymnastics, and actively participated in Preparatory School leadership and in his church as a Priest Quorum Secretary. Corbin aspires to follow gymnastics through college and eventually enter into a medical career through the Air Force as a surgeon. Corbin also plans to become a fighter pilot for the Air Force. He hopes to continue strengthening his leadership abilities and character, and be challenged not just physically but mentally in the United States Air Force Academy.

BERG CONGRATULATES NORTH DAKOTAN DR. DORI CARLSON FOR BECOMING FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

HON. RICK BERG

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. BERG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Dori Carlson, who will soon be sworn in as the 90th President of the American Optometric Association, the first woman to ever serve in this prestigious position, at their 114th annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, on June 18, 2011.

The American Optometric Association represents approximately 36,000 doctors of optometry, optometry students and optometric professionals and is centered on improving the quality and availability of eye and vision care. Doctors of optometry provide two-thirds of all primary eye care in the United States; optometrists serve patients in nearly 6,500 communities across the country and in 3,500 of those communities are the only eye doctors.

Dr. Carlson is a 1989 graduate of the Pacific University College of Optometry. Following graduation from optometry school, she completed a residency in hospital-based rehabilitative optometry at the American Lake and Seattle Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in Tacoma and Seattle, Washington. In 1994, she was honored as the North Dakota Young Optometrist of the Year and as the Optometrist of the Year in 2003.

She is a founding member of InfantSEE, a no-cost public health program developed to provide professional eye care for infants nationwide. Through this program, great strides are being made to ensure that potential eye and vision problems are detected early. Infant eye assessments have been available in North Dakota since the InfantSEE program launched in 2005, and Dr. Carlson has made it her mission to see as many infants as she can.

Dr. Carlson is in private practice in Park River and Grafton, North Dakota, where she provides primary care to rural North Dakotans of all ages. Her advocacy on behalf of optometrists and their patients has earned her the respect of her colleagues, and it is a high honor to be recognized by her peers to lead the profession of optometry in the coming year.

Today I join her family, friends and colleagues in congratulating her on this achieve-

ment and wishing her the best of luck in this endeavor.

HONORING SALLY SCHWAB

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sally Schwab of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Sally is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in the Workplace.

As Team Leader and Chaplain for Spiritual Health Services at Heartland Health, Sally is a 25-year employee who is continually described by her coworkers as analytical, caring and loyal. She serves as national president of her professional organization, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc., and has received numerous awards, including the Buchanan County Medical Society's Humanitarian Award. She also leads the Ethics Committee and works throughout regional hospitals to advise chaplains and provide education toward meeting patients' spiritual needs.

Sally teaches Clinical Pastoral Education students, has led an educational process on advanced directives, and serves on several organizations including the P-20 Council and the Missouri Hospice and Palliative Care Association.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Sally Schwab. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker. I was not present during the rollcall vote No. 417–419, on June 14, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 417 I would have voted, "yes;" on rollcall vote No. 418 I would have voted, "yes;" on rollcall vote No. 419 I would have voted, "no."

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTH LOUISIANA

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The Community Foundation of North Louisiana on its 50 years of exemplary service to the people of North Louisiana. Since its establishment on June 26, 1961, by Colonel John Hellums Tucker, Jr., the Foundation has demonstrated exceptional service and leadership throughout the many communities it serves in my district, bettering the lives of countless families and individuals.

Starting out with a modest \$21,000 in funds, The Community Foundation of North Louisiana

has since grown to being a steward of more than \$75 million of charitable assets. In pursuing its mission of strengthening communities and supporting the citizens of North Louisiana, the Foundation has awarded more than 4,000 grants totaling nearly \$40 million. In addition to its vital stewardship of charitable investments, The Community Foundation has exhibited leadership by working with other non-profits to promote philanthropy and service in the community. Through managing innovative projects, responding in times of disaster, investing in critical research, and convening leaders to discuss issues facing the area, the Foundation's activities have served as a catalyst for positive change.

Today, I am pleased to express my support and gratitude to The Community Foundation of North Louisiana as it celebrates this important milestone. With great honor and enthusiasm, I wish it continued success over its next 50 years of service.

IN HONOR OF LANCE CORPORAL
ROBERT "BOBBY" THRAILKILL,
USMC

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American hero, Lance Corporal Robert "Bobby" Threlkill of Pentwater, Michigan.

While out on foot patrol in Sagen, Afghanistan, on October 26, 2010, Bobby found a roadside bomb. After motioning for his fellow Marines to step back, the bomb exploded, causing traumatic injuries to Bobby, including the loss of his legs. Bobby faced months of rehabilitation at Walter Reed with courage and has come far in his recovery.

Today, June 16th, Bobby will marry his fiancé Karra Barr. I want to congratulate Bobby on this day and wish him a life of happiness, as well as thank him for his service to our country. In honor of Bobby, the following poem was written by Albert Caswell.

THE KILL ZONE

On battlefields of honor bright. . . .
There are but all of those who but bring their light. . . .
All in the darkness of these days. . . . these nights. . . .
Are but all of those heroes who but carry that fight, all In The Kill Zone. . . .
Brave Hearts, men of courage and might. . . .
Whose blind faith but wins that battle, that fight. . . .

Who into darken buildings will walk. . . .
Knowing full well what death before them so lies, all in that dark. . . .

All in that Kill Zone. . . .
As they but lead with their fine hearts. . . .
The ones who so kick in all those doors, who are thou art. . . .

Envoy from God, our Lord's heart!
United States Marines, men like Lcpl Threlkill who so do their part. . . .
Who all in his most magnificent shades of green, is one darn fine United States Marine. . . .

As ever up ahead, out on point as he was so courageously seen!

And on that day Robert when you so faced death; lying there with but not much left. . . .

As defeat you would not except. . . .
As Robert your fine heart would so crest. . . .
With two legs gone as on the morning as you awoke, with not much left to hold on to. . . .
As deep down inside of you, your fine heart so spoke. . . .
As you wiped all of those tears from your eyes, and Marine you so told yourself. . . .
that you had new mountains to so climb. . . .
Yea, Michigan Marines are just that kind. . . .
Who all in shades of green, the word courage so define. . . .
For you have miles to go before you sleep. . . .
Hills to climb, all in your heart of courage so very deep. . . .
As Robert, there is nothing from your new mission that will you so keep!
All on your road to recovery. . . . as to all souls you so speak!
For once you walked upon those killing fields. . . .
All for your God and Country Tis of Thee, this man of steel. . . .
As now your new war to be won. . . .
As for all of your lost Brothers In Arms these ones, you will feel upon you face the new day's sun!
Because, Strength In Honor. . . . is but from where you come. . . .
The kind of man that every father, so wished he had as a son. . . .
As You So Teach Us Robert, As You So Be-seech Us Robert. . . .
Oh look Marine, from where you've come, so far, so fast, shining like the morning sun!
As out on point, up ahead your new life has just begun. . . .
As with your strong heart we now so see you run. . . .
One of Michigan's greatest of all son's. . . .
And on this day, get down on your knees. . . .
And but thank all of these!
All of these fine sons, sons like Robert who into the Kill Zone must venture to do what must be done!
Could you in your life, so find the strength. . . . to walk into such that valley of death?
Could you but find the courage and faith, to rebuild your life when you've so lost your strong legs as left?
Oh yes Robert how you have so shown us all the way!
As one of the finest Americans, who never took. . . . but gave!

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENTS—MICHAEL ROBERTO

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so

proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Michael Roberto, a United States Military Academy Appointee. Michael is a graduate of Cistercian Preparatory School where he was highly involved in athletics, including being cross country varsity team captain, track team, soccer as a right forward, and football as a receiver and a cornerback. Michael is also the founder and president of his high school debate team, an officer in the Economics club, a writer for his school newspaper, and served on the Third District Congressional Youth Advisory Committee. Michael desired nothing more than to attend a United States Service Academy and become an officer in the military. Michael is not only interested in pursuing the superior education that an Academy will offer him, but he is also seeking the unrivaled development he will experience in becoming one of the best military officers his country deserves.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 2112, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This bill ignores the plight of hundreds of thousands of women and children who struggle to obtain nutritious food in neighborhoods across America. The measure originally put forward by the Republican majority proposed \$833 million in cuts to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, commonly known as WIC. This program provides assistance to new mothers, babies, and children under five who have been identified as nutritionally at risk. In any decent society, this is the most basic obligation we have to our fellow citizens. Yet the funding level proposed by the majority would have left 400,000 to 550,000 women and children without this aid.

I am pleased that the Appropriations Committee adopted an amendment by my colleague, Representative DELAURO, to reinstate \$147 million in WIC funding. Even with this restoration, however, between 200,000 and 350,000 low-income women and children around the country would be dropped from the program next year. In New Jersey, as many as 6,500 citizens could lose this assistance.

I would remind those who claim that we cannot afford the cost of this program that just one week of lost revenue from the Bush tax breaks for millionaires, which were extended over my objection, would more than fill the gap in funding for this program to ensure that every mother and child has access to healthy