

SEC. 7. WAIVERS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for each of the following vessels:

(1) *M/V GEYSIR* (United States official number 622178).

(2) *OCEAN VERITAS* (IMO number 7366805).

(3) *LUNA* (United States official number 280133).

(b) *DOCUMENTATION OF LNG TANKERS.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 and chapter 551 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for each of the following vessels:

(A) *LNG GEMINI* (United States official number 595752).

(B) *LNG LEO* (United States official number 595753).

(C) *LNG VIRGO* (United States official number 595755).

(2) *LIMITATION ON OPERATION.*—Coastwise trade authorized under paragraph (1) shall be limited to carriage of natural gas, as that term is defined in section 3(13) of the Deepwater Port Act of 1974 (33 U.S.C. 1502(13)).

(3) *TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ENDORSEMENTS.*—The coastwise endorsement issued under paragraph (1) for a vessel shall expire on the date of the sale of the vessel by the owner of the vessel on the date of enactment of this Act to a person who is not related by ownership or control to such owner.

(c) *OPERATION OF A DRY DOCK.*—A vessel transported in Dry Dock #2 (State of Alaska registration AIDEA FDD-2) is not merchandise for purposes of section 55102 of title 46, United States Code, if, during such transportation, Dry Dock #2 remains connected by a utility or other connecting line to pierside moorage.

Mr. LOBIONDO (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the reading is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, as the largest manufacturing district in the country, and as part of a jobs plan that I think is important for our country, I'm focused on manufacturing throughout not only the country, but specifically Illinois' Tenth Congressional District. That's why I have been focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, or STEM, so that those that are currently unemployed, or those students who will soon be entering the work force can learn new skills and go into a field with good, high-paying jobs.

In my district, I'm working with high schools and manufacturers on recruiting students to go into STEM fields. We're working on connecting students with manufacturers who are looking for employees.

I want to recognize the efforts of Medusa Consulting, Illinois Worknet and Manufacturing Careers, Incorporated for their leadership in bringing a manufacturing jobs fair to the District 214 Field House in Arlington Heights this upcoming December 5.

I want to encourage my colleagues to support STEM education and to work with their local businesses on hosting these important jobs fairs and manufacturing workshops. This is absolutely critical if we want to get America back to work.

□ 1410

NORTH FOREST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that I rose to the floor of the House to oppose the balanced budget amendment—and I hope the American people and our colleagues can see the value of the vigorous debate, and I applaud the Rules Committee for allowing us the time to deliberate on the issue of the balanced budget amendment—is for the very good reason that my good friend and colleague just spoke about: our young people and opportunities for jobs.

I join him in finding pathways for young people to be transitioned into jobs and others into jobs, along with a college education.

The North Forest Independent School District, a small school district in Texas designated to be closed by Governor Perry's Texas Education Agency, is trying to do just that, to have job training, to have partnerships with the Houston Community College, and I congratulate Mr. Ivory Mayhorn for getting some 7,000-plus signatures to oppose the closing of this school district, a high school that is on the verge of training individuals in the trades and the skills of manufacturing and then bridging them on to community college and then on to college.

We've got to recognize that we've got to build the human resource—and a balanced budget amendment ignores the need to protect Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid—investing in our children, providing them with the opportunity and the bridge to move on.

So I look forward to working, Mr. Speaker, with the North Forest Independent School District and working with this Congress to invest in human resources.

WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

(Mr. GARDNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of Weld County, Colorado. Weld County takes its name from Lewis Ledyard Weld. Weld was appointed by President Lincoln as Colorado's first territorial secretary.

On November 1, 1861, the Colorado Territory's General Assembly officially organized Weld County. This November marks the 150-year anniversary.

As with most Western settlements during the 1860s, Weld County had an extremely sparse population. Today it's got over 250,000 people. From a humble start as an area based predominantly on coal mining, Weld County has flourished with a thriving business sector and strong agricultural economy. In fact, Weld County is the eighth-leading agricultural county in the entire United States and the only county outside of California ranked in the top 10.

From small businesses, great land for farming, Weld County is also home to the University of Northern Colorado and the Pawnee National Grasslands. It's home to over 19 different towns, each one with a unique identity that makes this area of Colorado distinctive. And it's home to thriving energy interests and some of the Nation's leading water pioneers.

One of my favorite events every year is the Fourth of July Greeley Stampede and Parade. It reminds me of what it means to call Colorado home.

Weld County embodies everything that is great about heading West, and I am proud to recognize their 150th anniversary.

SERVING FELLOW AMERICANS ON THANKSGIVING

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, with Thanksgiving approaching, let us think about our fellow Americans and ask ourselves the question, what can we do to serve them this coming week and into the future?

Average incomes for Americans, for the average family, have gone down about 6.7 percent, and we know poverty rates have risen 15 percent. For all of those listening today as we look across our country, think about what you can do this week and every week to help our food banks that are short on supplies across our country. Every class, every religious organization, every person can do something extra to help this week to give every American a good Thanksgiving.

Think about how you can help a local feeding kitchen. Think about how you might challenge your sports team to go glean in the fields and to collect, if you live in a part of the country where agriculture exists, the extra cabbage, the extra apples that are there and will be plowed under if you don't pick them.

Across our country this is a year when Americans can say to one another, Happy Thanksgiving, we believe

in you, we want to help you through these difficult times. It reaches the true heart of the American people, the people full of goodness who know what's right to do. And let's give every American a happy Thanksgiving every day. God bless America.

AMERICAN ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week Speaker BOEHNER announced a bill that will be introduced soon to Congress to deal with our jobs issue. It's not one that raises taxes. It's not one which is going to add to the deficit. It is the American Energy & Infrastructure Jobs Act, which will be introduced soon.

It is an act that in part is related to a bill that I have presented in this Chamber for several years now in a bipartisan move to get America back to work.

Instead of importing \$129 billion worth of oil every year and sending them our wealth, it uses our oil off our coasts to create jobs.

Our infrastructure in America has a \$2 trillion pricetag to repair our roads, highways, and bridges. We also still have 14 million Americans out of work and another 10 million looking for work. It's time America got back to work, and we can do it with this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to make sure they're part of this bill when it comes out and get Americans back to work and rebuild America once again.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LANDRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I come down to the floor once a week to talk about the high level of nuclear waste in this country and the fact that this country still doesn't have a single repository to store high-level nuclear waste.

Throughout this last year, I've talked about Hanford, Washington, which has multiple gallons of high-level nuclear waste. I then went to Zion nuclear power plant right off Lake Michigan to talk about its nuclear waste right next to the lake. A couple of weeks ago, I went to Savannah, Georgia, to talk about the Savannah River and the nuclear power plant that sits right next to the river. Then I went to the Pacific Ocean between Los Angeles and San Diego, San Onofre, where there's a nuclear power plant right on the Pacific Ocean.

Today I take the Nation to Idaho, where Idaho National Laboratory is located, comparing this site, as I do weekly, to the fine location under Fed-

eral law in the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act which is Yucca Mountain.

Look at what we have at Idaho National Laboratory. At the national labs we have 5,090 canisters of nuclear waste. Yucca Mountain, none. At Idaho, the waste is stored above ground and in pools. At Yucca Mountain, the waste would be stored 1,000 feet from the surface of the ground. At Idaho, the waste would be 500 feet above the water table. At Yucca Mountain, the waste would be 1,000 feet above the water table. Idaho National Laboratory, 50 miles from Yellowstone Park; Yucca Mountain, the waste would be 100 miles from the Colorado River.

Now, why is it important to address these different locations of high-level nuclear waste across the country? Because there's 104 nuclear reactors in this country, not including all of the high-level nuclear waste that we have at our defense labs, our DOE labs, and the like.

So what this country needs to understand is there's nuclear waste all over the place and next to major population centers and next to major water reserves.

What I've also done in coming down here has been to highlight how do the Senators from the States that surround the Idaho nuclear lab—what are their positions? And their positions are as follows.

Senator BARRASSO from Wyoming is a supporter of Yucca Mountain and has stated that the end result of this saga is a 5-mile long, 25-foot-wide hole in the Nevada desert. It was meant to store America's nuclear waste but instead, because of politics, it stands as a monument to bureaucratic waste of taxpayer dollars.

What does Senator ENZI say, who's also supported and voted for Yucca Mountain in 2002? "In his campaign, President Obama promised change. He promised politics wouldn't interfere when sound science spoke. I'm disappointed that his Yucca Mountain policy ignores that campaign promise."

MIKE CRAPO voted "yes" for Yucca Mountain, and he's disappointed in the administration.

And the new Senator from Idaho, Senator RISCH, says:

"The President's decision to kill the Nation's congressionally directed repository for high-level nuclear waste as a favor to one State is politics at its worst. The Administration's decision to knowingly undermine their commitments to Idaho and 33 other States with no clear alternative cannot stand. This has become a hallmark of this administration, first with the Guantánamo prison site and now Yucca Mountain—to jump without knowing where they are going to land."

□ 1420

The other thing I've been doing has just been highlighting, as I've been taking the country through the high-level nuclear waste areas around this country: Where are the Senators based

upon their past votes or current statements?

Right now, we have 17 Senators in support; we have three in opposition; and we have four who really have no defined positions as of yet. Senator FEINSTEIN, of course, has spoken in opposition to Yucca Mountain; but with Fukushima Daiichi and with the fact that she has nuclear power plants on the shore of the Pacific Ocean, I think she is reevaluating that position.

We need 60 votes in the Senate to move forward and to finish the science on Yucca Mountain so that, by Federal law, Yucca Mountain becomes the single repository for high-level nuclear waste in this country.

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

COMMERCE CLAUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reallocates the balance of the majority leader's time to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. In Hosea 4:6, God says:

My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as My priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

This is a promise from a holy, righteous God who could do nothing else but fulfill that promise. We have to look at this and understand that, in this country, we have a tremendous lack of knowledge about our U.S. Constitution and that we have a tremendous lack of knowledge about the biblical foundations of our Nation and of how our Founding Fathers believed in liberty. We're losing that liberty tremendously because we have a tremendous lack of knowledge.

In Psalm 11, God says:

If the foundations are destroyed, what are the righteous to do?

I believe it's a call to duty to rebuild the foundational principles that are behind liberty.

Sworn officers of the United States—in fact, all public servants—have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution against enemies both foreign and domestic; and for decades, sworn officers of the United States have been violating that oath to uphold and protect our Nation's most precious document, the U.S. Constitution. Domestically, there are many by their actions, either intentionally or unintentionally, who undermine our governing document.

Every day, officials, ranging from Federal judges to U.S. Senators to Members of the House to leadership, ignore the original intent of our Founders that was put in the Constitution of the United States. The distortion is so great now that there is little correlation between their words and our actions here in Washington, D.C. This has become the norm for today's body of government, but it was not what the great lawmakers of the past envisioned for America's future.