

we can in Congress to lower the price of gasoline. We do that by increasing production. The two go together. We don't do it by increasing taxes on the energy producers. We allow for policies to allow for more production.

We have to pass H.R. 1229 to make sure that, whether it is deliberate or not, this administration will not continue to stonewall the permitting process. It is a long and lengthy process. There are multiple environmental reviews that take place. Then to hold it up at the last and not allow for a permit to be issued is just not acceptable. All the work has been done when it becomes time to issue the permit.

So what this bill says is you have 30 days, with a couple of extensions, if necessary, to make the final decision. And you don't have to issue the permit. You can say no, if that is the best decision. Just take action, and let's have a little certainty in the business world and in the economy of our country, especially the Gulf of Mexico and the coastal States like Louisiana that are so heavily affected.

On the issue of safety, Mr. Chairman, we all do share the goal of wanting to make sure that offshore drilling is the safest in the world. Significant and fundamental changes have taken place over the past year to improve offshore drilling safety and response. Regulations have been enhanced and strengthened, standards have been increased, new technology has been developed, reviewed, tested and is being currently deployed.

BOEMRE Director Michael Bromwich came to our committee and testified in front of the Natural Resources Committee and he said, "We have confidence that offshore drilling can be conducted now more safely than it had been before and that we would be better able to deal with a blowout than we were before."

Now, if anyone on the other side of the aisle wants to act as if nothing has been changed and there have been no safety reforms imposed, they are indicting the Obama administration in saying that they have turned a blind eye to the situation since the BP crisis took place, and that is simply not true. As I said a minute ago, new regulations have been imposed and standards have been strengthened. So I am not going to sit here and indict the administration on the safety aspect. There have been a lot of safety regulations by bureaucratic regulation put into place.

This bill does acknowledge that two additional things will be part of our law when this bill passes. H.R. 1229 says, number one, the Secretary will issue a permit. The need for a permit has not been ever codified, so we are requiring that a permit has to be issued before drilling can take place. Number two, the Secretary is to conduct a safety review. That is being mandated and put into law.

Mr. Chairman, I would urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1229. We are going to be looking at some amendments shortly.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1229, the Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act, and I thank Natural Resources Committee Chairman HASTINGS for yielding me time.

At a time when hardworking Georgians are paying \$3.88 per gallon at the pump, it is critically important that we enact commonsense energy production policies to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and create jobs. Unfortunately, the Obama Administration has adopted policies that have stifled energy production in this country, and have led to 12,000 jobs lost during the moratorium imposed in the Gulf of Mexico last year.

Mr. Chair, H.R. 1229 will end the ongoing "de facto" moratorium caused by the White House's refusal to approve permits in the Gulf by requiring the Department of the Interior to grant permits for exploration of oil and natural gas. This commonsense legislation will create thousands of jobs, help recapture \$4.7 million that the Federal Government is losing on a daily basis from a lack of energy production, and will lead us to greater energy independence.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1229.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to H.R. 1229 and H.R. 1230.

In April 2010, our Nation watched as millions of gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico from an oil drilling rig off the coast of Louisiana. We saw photos of the disaster that ensued, the impact on our environment (including the damage caused to marine and coastal wildlife) and the devastating economic impact on communities in the Gulf Coast region. From the loss of fishing jobs and revenue from tourism to the harm of biodiversity in fragile wetland ecosystems and marine life breeding grounds, this oil spill caused immense destruction to a resource rich area.

I am concerned that without changes to the offshore drilling industry standards, a disaster like the Deepwater Horizon explosion of April 2010 could happen again. Today, the majority in the House is asking us to pass H.R. 1229 and to forget about the tragic events of last April and the inadequacies of our national energy policy in order to grant Big Oil access to the Gulf with less oversight—rushing lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico at an unprecedented pace and without proper environmental review. This bill is not only ill-advised, but it is unnecessary as well because the Obama Administration is already moving forward with the lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico with added reviews to ensure sound safety and environmental protections.

In addition, H.R. 1230 would require the Interior Department to hold additional lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico over the next 4 to 8 months and open the eastern seaboard for drilling by requiring a lease sale off the coast of Virginia this year. This bill would require the Interior Department to rely on environmental reviews for these areas done by the Bush Administration prior to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, with many of the same demonstrably flawed and dangerous assumptions and inadequate review processes as the BP lease that led to the disastrous spill in April 2010. The majority in Congress is using rising gasoline prices as an excuse to grant large, multi-national energy companies greater access to even more of our precious shores, including

on the Atlantic Coast which could affect New Jersey in the event of a spill.

I believe opening our coastal waters and protected wilderness areas to oil drilling is harmful, ineffective, and a step in the wrong direction that will damage our environment. We are currently drilling at a higher rate than we ever have and onshore production increased by 5% in 2010. Production in the Gulf of Mexico is at an all time high. Yet, of the 41 million acres of public lands now leased for oil and gas development, just 12 million acres are producing. Offshore, 38 million acres of the outer continental shelf are leased for oil and gas drilling, but just 6.5 million acres are producing. We have approved drilling leases on land where no drilling is taking place; the potential for higher production is there without expanding leasing to environmentally sensitive wildlife refuges or populated shore regions.

Moreover, the proposed drilling will not significantly lower gas prices. According to a 2009 study from the Energy Information Administration, opening up waters that are currently closed to drilling off the East Coast, West Coast and the Gulf coast of Florida would yield an extra 500,000 barrels a day by 2030, meaning that gas prices might drop a total of 3 cents a gallon. And that is years away. In the meantime, Big Oil companies continue to rake in record profits while taxpayers subsidize their costs. The American people have had enough, New Jersey has had enough and I have had enough. We need to stop Big Oil subsidies and explore alternatives.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANDRY) having assumed the chair, Mr. WOMACK, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1229) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to facilitate the safe and timely production of American energy resources from the Gulf of Mexico, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ASSESSING PROGRESS IN HAITI ACT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1016) to measure the progress of relief, recovery, reconstruction, and

development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1016

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 “Assessing Progress in Haiti Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter magnitude scale struck the country of Haiti.

(2) According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS)—

(A) the earthquake epicenter was located approximately 15 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti; and

(B) the earthquake was followed by 59 aftershocks of magnitude 4.5 or greater, the most severe measuring 6.0.

(3) According to the Government of Haiti, more than 316,000 people died as a result of the earthquake, including 103 citizens of the United States and more than 100 United Nations personnel.

(4) According to the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration—

(A) an estimated 3,000,000 people were directly affected by the disaster, nearly one-third of the country's population; and

(B) more than 2,100,000 people were displaced from their homes to settlements.

(5) Casualty numbers and infrastructure damage, including to roads, ports, hospitals, and residential dwellings, place the earthquake as the worst cataclysm to hit Haiti in over two centuries and, proportionally, one of the world's worst natural disasters in modern times.

(6) The Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conducted by the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other experts estimates that damage and economic losses totaled \$7,804,000,000, approximately 120 percent of Haiti's gross domestic product in 2009.

(7) Haiti is the poorest, least developed country in the Western Hemisphere with, prior to the earthquake—

(A) more than 70 percent of Haitians living on less than \$2 per day; and

(B) a ranking of 149 out of 182 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index.

(8) House Resolution 1021, which was passed on January 21, 2010, on a vote of 411 to 1 expressed—

(A) the House of Representatives' “deepest condolences and sympathy for the horrific loss of life” caused by the earthquake; and

(B) bipartisan support for Haiti's recovery and reconstruction.

(9) The initial emergency response of the men and women of the United States Government, led by the United States Agency for International Development and United States Southern Command, was swift and resolute.

(10) United States urban search and rescue (USAR) teams were immediately activated after the earthquake and deployed from Fairfax County, Virginia, Los Angeles County, California, Miami-Dade, Florida, the City of Miami, Florida, and Virginia Beach, Virginia, to assist the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), and New York City's first responders asked the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)

to activate a New York City urban search and rescue shortly thereafter.

(11) A month after the earthquake, the House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 1059 which expressed gratitude to these USAR units, and highlighted that the 511 United States rescue workers comprised roughly one-third of the entire international USAR effort in Haiti, and more than 130 people were rescued from under the rubble in Haiti by these units.

(12) Individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations across the United States and throughout the international community responded in support of Haiti and its populace during this crisis, sometimes in innovative ways such as fundraising through text messaging.

(13) The Haitian diaspora in the United States, which was integral to emergency relief efforts—

(A) has annually contributed significant monetary support to Haiti through remittances; and

(B) continues to seek opportunities to partner with the United States Agency for International Development and other agencies to substantively contribute to the reconstruction of Haiti.

(14) Significant challenges still remain in Haiti as it works to recover and rebuild.

(15) According to the International Organization for Migration, approximately 680,000 people remain in spontaneous and organized camps in Haiti.

(16) According to numerous nongovernmental organizations and United States contractors, the pace of reconstruction has lagged significantly behind the original emergency relief phase.

(17) The widespread irregularities that occurred in the elections held in Haiti on November 28, 2010, led to outbursts of violence which undermined the recovery efforts.

(18) On October 21, 2010, an outbreak of cholera was detected in the Lower Artibonite region.

(19) Initial efforts to contain the epidemic were disrupted by Hurricane Tomás and resulting widespread flooding, which led to the spreading and entrenchment of the disease throughout the country.

(20) According to the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population, as of March 28, 2011—

(A) approximately 4,766 people have died from cholera; and

(B) approximately 270,991 have been infected from the disease.

(21) According to the Pan American Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cholera could spread to as many as 400,000 people within the first year of the epidemic, potentially causing 7,600 deaths at the current case fatality rate.

(22) The United States has provided more than \$62,523,017 worth of assistance to combat the cholera epidemic, including by assisting with stockpiling health commodities, equipping cholera treatments centers, providing public information, and improving water and sanitation systems.

(23) The efforts to combat the cholera epidemic have helped to drive the mortality rate from cholera down from nearly 7 percent to 1.7 percent of all contracted cases as of February 25, 2011.

(24) Throughout the series of crises, the people of Haiti continue to demonstrate unwavering resilience, dignity, and courage.

(25) On March 20, 2011, presidential and parliamentary elections were held in Haiti without major disruptions or problems.

(26) At the international donors conference “Towards a New Future for Haiti” held on March 31, 2010, 59 donors pledged over \$5,000,000,000 to support Haiti.

(27) The United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti estimates that nearly \$1,900,000,000 has been disbursed, with an additional amount of approximately \$2,000,000,000 committed.

(28) Haiti will need the support of the international community in order to confront the ongoing cholera epidemic and to promote reconstruction and development.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, in consultation with the heads of all relevant agencies, including the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Defense, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall transmit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake humanitarian, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti, including efforts to prevent the spread of cholera and treat persons infected with the disease.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a description, analysis, and evaluation of the—

(1) overall progress of relief, recovery, and reconstruction in Haiti, including—

(A) programs and projects of the United States Government;

(B) programs and projects to protect vulnerable populations, such as internally displaced persons, children, women and girls, and persons with disabilities; and

(C) projects to improve water, sanitation, and health, and plans for improvements in these areas in the long-term;

(2) extent to which United States and international efforts are in line with the priorities of the Government of Haiti and are actively engaging and working through Haitian ministries and local authorities;

(3) coordination among United States Government agencies, and coordination between the United States Government and United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, and other bilateral donors;

(4) mechanisms for communicating the progress of recovery and reconstruction efforts to Haitian citizens, as well as recommendations on how these can be improved;

(5) mechanisms through which Haitian civil society, including vulnerable populations, is actively participating in all major stages of recovery and reconstruction efforts, and recommendations on how these can be improved;

(6) mechanisms through which the Haitian diaspora is involved in recovery and reconstruction efforts; and

(7) suitability of Haiti to receive aliens who are removed, excluded, or deported from the United States pursuant to United States law, and steps Haiti is taking to strengthen its capacity in this regard.

(c) USE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Funding for the report required under subsection (a) shall derive from existing discretionary funds of the departments and agencies specified in such subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN).

Ms. ROSELEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1016, a bill introduced by my

friend Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California which requires a report to Congress regarding the status of post-earthquake humanitarian reconstruction and development efforts in Haiti.

This bill supplements my efforts under the Haiti Act, which I introduced last Congress, to exercise greater oversight over the disbursement of U.S. assistance to Haiti to ensure that it is meeting the intended recipients and purposes, that it is advancing U.S. priorities, that it is promoting Haiti's recovery, and that it is not being derailed by waste, duplication or corruption.

This past January, Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Haiti with Secretary Clinton's Chief of Staff and point person on Haiti to observe some of the tremendous work the United States is doing and to learn about U.S. plans for the future as well.

Much progress has been seen in Haiti over the past 16 months. More than 2 million cubic meters of rubble have been cleared, there is now a better medical system and increased access to more clean water than before the earthquake, and the interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission has approved 86 reconstruction projects, accounting for about one-third of the total pledges made by international donors last year.

However, Mr. Speaker, with each stated achievement, we are reminded of how much further Haiti has to go. Hundreds of thousands of Haitians are reportedly still without safe and secure sustainable shelter. A recent U.N. report found that peacekeepers in Haiti may have contributed to the environmental contamination which could have led to the cholera outbreak, crime is reportedly on the upswing, rising food and gasoline prices will make day-to-day survival even more difficult for many of the people of Haiti, and Haiti is still dealing with lingering questions regarding the recently announced parliamentary election results.

In order for progress in Haiti to continue, it is important that allegations of election corruption are resolved quickly, that the concerns of the Haitian people are put to rest, and that the duly-elected parliamentarians are seated as soon as possible.

This weekend, President-elect Martelly is scheduled to be inaugurated; and as the new government takes office, it has its work cut out for it. The new leadership must make a commitment to root out corruption at all levels in order to build trust within Haiti and with all of Haiti's partners.

□ 1710

The President-elect's recent statements regarding his intent to pursue allegations of electoral fraud in the parliamentary election results are a step in the right direction. The government must also make certain that the Haitian people are fully consulted on the direction in which their country is heading and that they will have oppor-

tunities to create a better future for themselves and their families. Civil society and local governments must increasingly become a partner at the table of Haiti's future.

With the security situation reportedly deteriorating, it will be important for Haiti's new leaders to commit to the necessary resources to support the expansion of the Haitian National Police as well as implement updates to the criminal code and other reforms to strengthen its judicial system. I understand the United States intends to work with the new Haitian government to help Haiti become a more business-friendly environment.

As a proud representative of Florida's 18th Congressional District, I can tell you firsthand the interest of U.S. businesses, organizations, and private citizens, including the Haitian diaspora, to participate in the recovery and the development efforts in Haiti—and that only continues to grow stronger. More importantly, it is imperative that the United States take every appropriate measure to ensure that our funding and our efforts in Haiti and around the world are not squandered. This includes accountability for U.N. contractors who owe a duty of care for the civilians whom they are there to protect.

The report called for in this bill, H.R. 1016, will provide Members of Congress and the public an opportunity to see what is working and, yes, to see what is not working. I would also note that the funding that will be needed to develop this report is directed to be pulled from already appropriated funding. Further, CBO found that the cost of this report in this bill is so minimal that it did not meet the threshold of an estimate.

I would like to thank Ranking Member BERMAN and his staff for working with us on this measure. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in support of our oversight efforts, and I'm so pleased to join Congresswoman WILSON's efforts in making sure that we can provide our great partner, Haiti, with the resources it needs to build itself up.

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this bill, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act. A year and a half ago, on January 12, 2011, the world for the Caribbean island of Haiti and for too many of my constituents changed forever. An earthquake measuring an incredible 7.0 on the Richter scale shook the Earth in Haiti. It killed elected officials, toppled the President's palace, the Senate, and all of the Cabinet buildings. People are still missing. The effect of this earthquake is still being felt today. Basic needs such as food, water, clothing, shelter, and health services are lacking.

Thanks to our military—the U.S. Coast Guard, which performed thou-

sands of hours of rescue in the first 24 hours of the earthquake; the U.S. Marine Corps, which provided stability and protection; the U.S. Army, which helped to establish logistics and additional protection; the U.S. Navy, with floating hospitals and surgeons; and the U.S. Agency for International Development—this disaster was not the total disaster it could have been. USAID worked then and continues to work coordinating and implementing programs with other international organizations.

Adding further hurdles to the recovery operation has been the widespread outbreak of cholera last October. Cholera, a disease caused due to the lack of access to clean, clear water, has killed hundreds of Haitians and has further set back progress in one of our closest Caribbean neighbors. The people of Haiti deserve the opportunity to live in a clean, safe, and economically thriving country. The people of America deserve and want to know how their tax dollars are being spent, and need to know that the \$1.8 billion invested in Haiti will speedily facilitate Haiti's transition to a bastion of comfort and economic stability. That is why I support House bill 1016, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act.

This bill provides for one of the first times a strong, fair, and objective accountability of how the people's money is being spent in Haiti. This report will also analyze how well the United Nations and other organizations and groups are coordinating their efforts to reduce duplication. Finally, this bill thanks the heroic efforts of Miami-Dade County's urban search and rescue teams, which hail from the 17th Congressional District of Florida, who volunteered their time, effort, and energy to save lives. These people saved lives and helped find loved ones for those trapped in the rubble of the earthquake and for those who were worried about the safety and well-being of their loved ones.

I also would like to thank respectively the chairman and ranking minority members of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, CONNIE MACK and ELIOT ENGEL, and their staff for making this happen. Representative ENGEL was kind enough to carry the language of my amendment during subcommittee consideration, and Chairman MACK and both the Democratic and Republican staff worked tirelessly toward a compromise that worked for both sides. I also want to thank our full committee chairman, and one who I am so proud of, my Florida colleague, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for managing this language in her amendment during full committee consideration of this bill.

Perhaps a bright spot in this ongoing calamity is that Haitians recently elected a new President, Michel Martelly, with whom we expect to work arm-in-arm with to help rebuild Haiti. His inauguration is next weekend. On Saturday, I traveled to Haiti. I

met with Mr. Martelly. I met with the senators as they debated their new constitution. I'm hoping that that constitution will help guide them towards the next centuries in Haiti.

There are 1,400 tent cities—not tents; tent cities—that house 850,000 residents in the streets of Haiti. No running water and one porta-toilet for every 80 residents. Families are huddled under the tents—mostly women and children. And because the national prison was destroyed during the earthquake, armed bandits roam the tent cities and sexual abuse against women and girls is rampant. The police force is extremely compromised and not trained. The army is nonexistent. And many bodies have not been found from this earthquake. It is inhumane to send anybody back to such conditions. We must help rebuild Haiti. We must support Haiti. We must support the new President from this moment on. We must include the peasants and the agricultural community at the table of negotiation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is an affirmation of the generosity and will of the American people to come to the aid of a country in our neighborhood that desperately needs our help. The report required by this bill should help us channel our assistance efforts to make them as effective and efficient as possible. The Haitian people deserve nothing less.

I strongly urge passage of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1016, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

□ 1720

Ms. WATERS. I would like to thank the gentlelady from Florida for extending time to me to rise in support of this bill.

I am now—and have been for many years—a big supporter of the people of Haiti. I am the proud author of H.R. 4573, the Haiti Debt Relief and Earthquake Recovery Act. It was that bill that freed up \$828 million that they would have had to have paid out for their debts, money that can now go toward helping with the earthquake response.

Immediately following the earthquake, there was an outpouring of sympathy from people in the United States and around the world; and I am very appreciative for what our government

did and for what the people of this country did—individuals, churches. We've not always had our politics right in Haiti, but we sure rose to the occasion with regard to this devastating earthquake that hit Haiti.

The international community pledged a total of \$9.9 billion in reconstruction funds, including \$5.3 billion for the first 2 years. Yet, more than 1 year later, little, if any, of the money has reached the people of Haiti. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, 680,000 displaced people are still living in tent camps, and the conditions in many of these camps are appalling. There is a critical need for food, clean water, and sanitation facilities. A deadly outbreak of cholera has already killed more than 4,800 people and has infected more than 280,000 people. The effects of the epidemic were exacerbated by the lack of clean water and sanitation infrastructure. Foreign aid without transparency will accomplish nothing.

We owe it to the Haitian people and the American people to find out how much of this money has actually been delivered to Haiti and where that money went. That is why I strongly support this bill, which requires the President to report on the status of post-earthquake relief, recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti. The report must evaluate coordination among various international agencies and donors, the extent to which U.S. and international efforts are in line with the priorities of the Government of Haiti, and mechanisms for Haitian civil society to participate in recovery efforts.

I am in awe of the strength and resiliency of the Haitian people. We owe it to them to assist them in their time of need. We also owe it to them to make certain our assistance reaches the people who need it the most.

As I said, we've not always had our act together in Haiti. Well, there has been a new election, and they've elected a President. There was a lot of turmoil and disorder around this election, but it's over now; it has been done, and we want to work with the new government to make sure that there is transparency and that we do know what happened to this money. So I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentlelady from California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, who is the author of this legislation.

Ms. LEE. First, let me thank the gentlelady from Florida for yielding and for her leadership on so many issues, especially as it relates to her community, her district, Haitians, Haiti, and the Haitian diaspora.

I rise in support of H.R. 1016, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, legislation which I authored to direct the United States Government to report on the status of humanitarian, recon-

struction, and development efforts in the aftermath of the tragic earthquake of January 12, 2010.

Let me thank Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership and for her assistance in helping bring this bill to the floor. I also thank Ranking Member BERMAN, Chairman MACK, Ranking Member ENGEL, the staffs of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my staff, as well as the Republican and Democratic leaders' offices for bringing this bill to the floor.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of my Congressional Black Caucus colleagues. You just heard from Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS in terms of her leadership and her commitment to the people of Haiti and of so many others who have worked tirelessly in support of the Haitian people in ongoing United States humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Haiti.

Today, we are provided with an opportunity to not only remember those who have lost their lives but to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to support Haitians as they struggle to combat the ongoing cholera epidemic and to rebuild their neighborhoods, their country, and their lives following the devastation of January 12.

Following the earthquake, many of us came together to pass a bill that I authored, H. Res. 1021. This was passed by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 411-1. This resolution expressed solidarity with the Haitian people and our support for the long-term reconstruction needs of the country. Through the bill on the floor today, we are provided with the next step—with an opportunity to assess the progress that we have made, the extraordinary challenges that remain, and the areas in which improvement is greatly needed.

As many of us have been many, many times over the years, I traveled to Haiti immediately following the earthquake and again in November during Haiti's recent elections. Once again, let me just say that I saw real progress being made. Of course, the cholera outbreak, an ongoing devastating setback, though, revealed the ramped-up capacity of Haiti's national laboratory. The lab was able to identify the cholera strain very rapidly, improving our ability to respond to the outbreak—a feat that would really have been impossible just a year earlier. However, significant improvements remain desperately needed.

The unprecedented relief effort has given way to a sluggish, at best, reconstruction effort. Part of this pace can be attributed to the sheer magnitude of the problems Haiti faces as well as Haiti's legal and bureaucratic hurdles, including the lack of an adequate land tenure policy. Without a doubt, though, part of the blame rests in the lack of urgency—mind you, the lack of urgency—on the part of the international community.

At the International Donors' Conference in March 2010, 58 donors

pledged over \$5.5 billion to support Haiti's Action Plan for Recovery and Development. According to the United Nations, as of March of this year, only 37 percent of these funds have been disbursed. This is unacceptable. If we are to break the cycle of disaster-emergency relief-disaster, in which Haiti has been trapped for many years, we must act with the same sense of urgency in reconstruction as we did immediately following the quake.

In addition to delivering on our promises, we must ensure that those promises are in line with the will of the Haitian people. The international community recognized early on that, if our efforts were to be sustainable, they had to reflect the priorities of the people of Haiti. The establishment of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission was a very good idea in this regard; and moving forward, we must ensure that it is inclusive, transparent, and adequately resourced.

Additionally, we must substantially improve our communication with and the participation of Haitian civil society. The United States and the United Nations are sponsoring outreach for civil society organizations; however, many Haitians still hold the perception that recovery efforts are dominated by exclusive foreign actors. Unless civil society, which are the people of Haiti, is involved in every major stage of the post-earthquake response, this perception will remain, and it will prove detrimental to the sustainability of our efforts.

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE. In this vein, we must give special priority to programs that protect vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons—women, children, persons with disabilities, and others. We must ensure that these populations are significantly involved in recovery efforts, which reinforces their protection. The United Nations Secretary General, for example, has specifically stated that women should be involved in security decisions that affect their daily lives as a means of combating the alarming level of gender-based violence since the earthquake.

On the topic of vulnerable populations, we must take a critical look at the resumption of deportations to Haiti. Given the fragile state in which Haiti remains, I call on the Department of Homeland Security to halt deportations until it proves that its policy does not violate international human rights laws and until it demonstrates that Haiti is able to support the influx of deportees. If we are truly committed to helping our neighbors, we must ensure that we are not assisting Haiti with one hand while undermining its stability with the other.

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

□ 1730

Ms. LEE. Finally, we must continue to support the Haitian Public Health Ministry to prevent the spread of cholera, treat those affected with the disease, and build up health systems. The international community must plan for the long-term presence of this disease, unfortunately, which is now endemic, and provide the necessary resources to ensure that this planning is thorough and complete.

Throughout this unceasing series of tragedies and crises, Haitians have continued to demonstrate unwavering resilience, dignity, and courage.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity this past Saturday to go to Haiti and take a helicopter ride to survey all of the damage on Haiti and all of the hope for Haiti, all of the islands and the connecting islands of Haiti to see what was happening.

The African diaspora, which is mostly members of District 17, they all want to help rebuild Haiti. They will apply for contracts; and if dual nationality is granted, they will also run for office and lend their expertise to the recovery of Haiti.

We all know that TPS expires in June. TPS, temporary protected status, was extended to the Haitian nationals. We, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, and Congressman PAYNE, were working on trying to extend that deadline for at least another year. Haiti is in no disposition to accept any further deportations.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 1016, a bill to measure the progress of relief, recovery, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti following the earthquake of January 12, 2010, introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE of California.

Immediately following the earthquake, Congress passed a bipartisan resolution expressing our determination to aid Haiti through this tragedy. I strongly believe that our nation needs to once again pledge unwavering support to continue to lead an aggressive, coordinated effort to aid Haiti's ongoing recovery and reconstruction.

In the wake of the disaster, the American people and the global community rallied in solidarity with the Haitian people to provide one of the largest relief efforts in history. And today, nearly one and a half years after this tragedy, we must renew our support for the people of Haiti as they struggle to combat an ongoing cholera epidemic, curb post-election violence, and rebuild their neighborhoods, livelihoods, and their country.

As this legislation stipulates, President Obama, "in consultation with the heads of all relevant agencies . . . shall transmit to Congress a report on the status of post-earthquake humanitarian, reconstruction, and development efforts in Haiti . . ." and analyze the recovery efforts being made in Haiti to

date, and ensure that "our government is in line with the priorities of the Government of Haiti and actively engaging and working through Haitian ministries and local authorities" to assist the island nation in their attempt to recover.

As the representative of Florida's Third Congressional District, I have been a staunch advocate for the Haitian people throughout my congressional career of nearly 20 years, and have led numerous Codels to the island nation of Haiti. Moreover, as a Member from Florida with a large Haitian community in my district, and considering the island nation is located less than 700 miles from the Florida Keys, I feel it is my duty to do everything I can to provide assistance and improve the lives of the Haitian people.

Certainly, even before the January 12th earthquake, Haiti was the least-developed country in our Hemisphere and one of the poorest in the world. The island nation had a per capita income around \$400, horribly acute economic inequality, and over 80 percent of its 9 million inhabitants surviving below the poverty level. To me, this is entirely unacceptable, particularly given the island's proximity to the state of Florida.

In October 2009, just two months before the earthquake, I led a Congressional delegation to Haiti to meet with President René Préal to discuss issues ranging from improving the nation's infrastructure, the high unemployment rate and poor standard of living. Yet the horrific earthquake that struck last January 12th made a dire situation for the majority of the people of Haiti unimaginably worse.

Today, the nation remains devastated. A million displaced Haitians remain in tent camps. Mountains of rubble are piled in the streets, and billions in assistance pledged by the international community has yet to be delivered. Meanwhile, there have been many quests regarding the recent elections and incoming government's ability to capably lead in recovery and development efforts.

As I'm sure everyone here knows, the massive earthquake that struck Haiti killed 230,000 people, displaced an estimated 2 million people from their homes, and affected one third of the country's population. The main port, the presidential palace, the parliament, the majority of ministry buildings, more than 50 hospitals and health centers, 1300 educational institutions, and more than 100,000 homes were left in ruins. The earthquake, which came less than 2 years after a series of devastating hurricanes, left millions of people in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country living in absolutely horrific conditions.

Immediately following the earthquake, there was an outpouring of sympathy from people in the United States and around the world. American families opened their hearts and contributed millions to non-profit organizations that were working around the clock to save lives. The United States Government provided emergency medical care and distributed food, water, and tents to the displaced, and world governments committed more than \$9 billion in aid for reconstruction at a donors' conference in March, including more than \$1 billion pledged by the United States.

For my part, immediately following the earthquake, along with the local community and tremendous assistance from church leaders, we organized food and clothing drives, and encouraged people to make donations to

non-profits on the ground in Haiti. With assistance of area churches, businesses, local community leaders and nonprofit organizations, we transported seven 53-foot tractor-trailers filled with supplies with nearly \$50,000 of food, water and other items from the Jacksonville and Orlando areas to Haiti's shores, and had the Coast Guard's assistance in their delivery to Food for the Poor, a non-profit group operating in Port-au-Pays, on the north side of the island.

As a key Member of the House Transportation Committee and Chair of the Railroad subcommittee, I will continue to work hard on Capitol Hill to find ways in which the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure can provide technical assistance to the nation; in particular, in the area of rebuilding the ports, roads and general infrastructure system throughout the island. Indeed, getting the ports up and running, including improving customs procedures, is an essential element in the nation's struggle to turn the corner and prosper economically. If successfully carried out, this advancement would be a key component in the nation's efforts to successfully recover and prosper in the future, and improve the standard of living for the proud, hard-working people of the island nation Haiti.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1016, 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.

PUTTING THE GULF OF MEXICO BACK TO WORK ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). Pursuant to House Resolution 245 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1229.

□ 1734

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1229) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to facilitate the safe and timely production of American energy resources from the Gulf of Mexico, with Mr. WOMACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment printed in the bill is adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an

original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1229

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 "Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act".

TITLE I—AMENDMENT TO THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT

SEC. 101. AMENDMENT TO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 11(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1340(d)) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) DRILLING PERMITS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall by regulation require that any lessee operating under an approved exploration plan—

"(A) must obtain a permit before drilling any well in accordance with such plan; and

"(B) must obtain a new permit before drilling any well of a design that is significantly different than the design for which an existing permit was issued.

"(2) SAFETY REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall not issue a permit under paragraph (1) without ensuring that the proposed drilling operations meet all—

"(A) critical safety system requirements, including blowout prevention; and

"(B) oil spill response and containment requirements.

"(3) TIMELINE.—

"(A) The Secretary shall decide whether to issue a permit under paragraph (1) within 30 days after receiving an application for the permit. The Secretary may extend such period for up to two periods of 15 days each, if the Secretary has given written notice of the delay to the applicant. The notice shall be in the form of a letter from the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary, and shall include the names and titles of the persons processing the application, the specific reasons for the delay, and a specific date a final decision on the application is expected.

"(B) If the application is denied, the Secretary shall provide the applicant—

"(i) in writing, clear and comprehensive reasons why the application was not accepted and detailed information concerning any deficiencies; and

"(ii) an opportunity to remedy any deficiencies.

"(C) If the Secretary has not made a decision on the application by the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, the application is deemed approved."

(b) DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN PERMIT APPLICATIONS UNDER EXISTING LEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the amendment made by subsection (a), a lease under which a covered application is submitted to the Secretary of the Interior shall be considered to be in directed suspension during the period beginning May 27, 2010, and ending on the date the Secretary issues a final decision on the application, if the Secretary does not issue a final decision on the application—

(A) before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, in the case of a covered application submitted before such date of enactment; or

(B) before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the application is received by the Secretary, in the case of a covered application submitted on or after such date of enactment.

(2) COVERED APPLICATION.—In this subsection the term "covered application"

means an application for a permit to drill under an oil and gas lease under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, that—

(A) represents a resubmission of an approved permit to drill (including an application for a permit to sidetrack) that was approved by the Secretary before May 27, 2010; and

(B) is received by the Secretary after October 12, 2010, and before the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEASES.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED LEASE.—In this section, the term "covered lease" means each oil and gas lease for the Gulf of Mexico outer Continental Shelf region issued under section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) that—

(1)(A) was not producing as of April 30, 2010; or

(B) was suspended from operations, permit processing, or consideration, in accordance with the moratorium set forth in the Minerals Management Service Notice to Lessees and Operators No. 2010-N04, dated May 30, 2010, or the decision memorandum of the Secretary of the Interior entitled "Decision memorandum regarding the suspension of certain offshore permitting and drilling activities on the Outer Continental Shelf" and dated July 12, 2010; and

(2) by its terms would expire on or before December 31, 2011.

(b) EXTENSION OF COVERED LEASES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall extend the term of a covered lease by 1 year.

(c) EFFECT ON SUSPENSIONS OF OPERATIONS OR PRODUCTION.—The extension of covered leases under this section is in addition to any suspension of operations or suspension of production granted by the Minerals Management Service or Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement after May 1, 2010.

TITLE II—JUDICIAL REVIEW OF AGENCY ACTIONS RELATING TO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS FOR TITLE.

In this title—

(1) the term "covered civil action" means a civil action containing a claim under section 702 of title 5, United States Code, regarding agency action (as defined for the purposes of that section) affecting a covered energy project in the Gulf of Mexico; and

(2) the term "covered energy project" means the leasing of Federal lands of the Outer Continental Shelf (including submerged lands) for the exploration, development, production, processing, or transmission of oil, natural gas, wind, or any other source of energy in the Gulf of Mexico, and any action under such a lease, except that the term does not include any disputes between the parties to a lease regarding the obligations under such lease, including regarding any alleged breach of the lease.

SEC. 202. EXCLUSIVE VENUE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS RELATING TO COVERED ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Venue for any covered civil action shall not lie in any district court not within the 5th circuit unless there is no proper venue in any court within that circuit.

SEC. 203. TIME LIMITATION ON FILING.

A covered civil action is barred unless filed no later than the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the final Federal agency action to which it relates.