

sends a message that hopefully cannot be missed, a clarity of purpose expressed by this Congress, the policy-making body of this Nation, that speaks for all the people of our Nation. Hopefully, those who would pose a threat and risk to us and to our allies would take note of that unanimity of purpose. Let us continue to ensure that close U.S.-Israel ties are an issue that unites us as Americans.

As I said, the House overwhelmingly passed this measure earlier this year, 411-2. Now the Senate has sent it back to us for final consideration. I congratulate my friend, Senator BOXER, and the Republican leadership of the Senate, as well.

I hope we can pass it again today. I know we will, and I hope it's with even greater support. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill—for America, for Israel, and for international security.

□ 1750

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I only have some closing remarks and have no further requests for time, so I will wait for my colleague from California to yield back.

Mr. BERMAN. After what we just heard, I would not suggest any further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 states, and it makes it very clear, that U.S. policy is to: reaffirm the commitment to Israel's security as a Jewish state; also to provide Israel with the military capabilities to defend herself and help preserve its qualitative military edge; also to expand military and civilian cooperation; to assist in a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that results in two states living side by side in peace and security, which is all of our goals; and also encourage Israel's neighbors to recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state.

This bill expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should take specified actions to assist in the defense of Israel; it amends the 2005 Department of Defense Appropriations Act to extend authority to transfer certain Department of Defense items to Israel; it amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to extend authority to make additions to foreign-based defense stockpiles; and, lastly, it amends the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 to extend specified loan guarantee authority to Israel.

This is in the U.S. national security interest, and I hope that the House overwhelmingly passes this important bill.

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of "S. 2165; U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012."

Since 1948 the U.S. and Israel have shared a special bond.

Israel is our greatest ally in a region defined by conflict.

Today, there are significant events in the Middle East that present unique security challenges.

From the upheaval in neighboring states to the defiance of the IAEA by the Iranian regime, Israel is under constant threat.

The Israelis should not be forced to live under duress from a nation that denies the holocaust and Israel's right to exist.

As a nation we must never waiver in our support of Israel's inherent right to self-defense against these threats.

Congress must provide the technology and weapons systems that provide a military advantage over aggressors.

This enhanced cooperation between the U.S. and Israel will provide stability in an increasingly unstable region.

Israel must have the capability and consent to defend themselves or the region will fall deeper into chaos.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible legislation.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

The House passed its version of this legislation in May 2012, with my strong support. The Senate has elected to improve the loan guarantee and stock-pile authorities in its version, which I am also pleased to support.

United States and Israel have built a strong, unique and special relationship, and passage of this legislation will only strengthen those bonds. The political changes that are sweeping through North Africa and the Middle East are creating new uncertainties for the United States and Israel. The revolutions that are underway may not produce the much-hoped for democratic "Arab Spring". Indeed, the ascension of Muslim Brotherhood member Mohamad Morsi to the Egyptian presidency is a development whose consequences cannot be predicted with certainty at the moment. During such times of uncertainty, it is important that America send a clear message to the region that we will continue to stand by our ally, Israel. This bill helps us do exactly that, which is why I am pleased to support it.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4133, now S. 2165, the U.S.-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

Israel continues to face unprecedented and unpredictable challenges from many of its neighbors. American support for Israel must remain unequivocally solid. This legislation is the latest important effort to continue and expand our deep mutual relationship. I am pleased that the House of Representatives is considering H.R. 4133 today, as it is of the utmost importance.

In addition to reaffirming our continued commitment to Israel, this legislation will provide Israel with many new military capabilities needed to defend itself against any threats. It is important for those who may wish to do Israel harm to know that they will not be successful. Specifically, this bill will provide Israel with new missile defense capabilities, mid-air refueling tankers, and specialized munitions. Each of these are key components for ensuring Israel's continued sovereign right to exist.

In addition to these items this bill thoughtfully provides Israel with certain defense equipment that is being left behind by the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq.

In addition to the conveyance of equipment, this bill greatly increases our intelligence sharing operations and offers the Israeli Air Force additional training resources in the United States. This is very important given the severely limited training grounds for the Israeli Air Force in its own country. I am especially pleased with the agreement for increased intelligence cooperation. This new level of intelligence collaboration will substantially assist our own intelligence services in keeping Americans safe. This legislation greatly benefits both countries; it is truly a remarkable partnership.

These efforts are paramount, but we must not rest. When we pass this legislation today, we must know that this is only the next step, and is not the final step in ensuring Israel's freedoms and right to exist. I remain committed to work with my colleagues for helping expand the US-Israeli partnership.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor and strong supporter of the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012, I rise in support of the bill.

The House originally passed this measure by a vote of 411 to 2 in May. The Senate then passed the measure by unanimous consent on June 29. The purpose of the bill is to extend to Israel a U.S. Government loan guarantee and U.S. defense stockpile transfer authority.

Israel is an essential American ally in the Middle East. The rapid change that region is undergoing will have a significant impact on the national security of both our countries. In light of this, S. 2165 helps to reinforce our support for the security of Israel by extending until Sept. 30, 2015, the U.S. Government loan guarantees. The measure also expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should take a number of actions to strengthen the defense of Israel, including: providing support for its "Iron Dome" air defense system; providing Israel with air refueling tankers and specialized munitions; and expanding intelligence cooperation between our two countries.

By passing this bill today, we reaffirm our support for the right of Israel to defend itself and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to Israel as an ally of the United States.

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, S. 2165.

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.

INSULAR AREAS ACT OF 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2009) to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2009

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 “Insular Areas Act of 2011”.

SEC. 2. CONTINUED MONITORING ON RUNIT ISLAND.

Section 103(f)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CONTINUED MONITORING ON RUNIT ISLAND.—

“(i) CACTUS CRATER CONTAINMENT AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING.—Effective beginning January 1, 2012, the Secretary of Energy shall, as a part of the Marshall Islands program conducted under subparagraph (A), periodically (but not less frequently than every 4 years) conduct—

“(I) a visual study of the concrete exterior of the Cactus Crater containment structure on Runit Island; and

“(II) a radiochemical analysis of the groundwater surrounding and in the Cactus Crater containment structure on Runit Island.

“(i) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, a report that contains—

“(I) a description of—

“(aa) the results of each visual survey conducted under clause (i)(I); and

“(bb) the results of the radiochemical analysis conducted under clause (i)(II); and

“(II) a determination on whether the surveys and analyses indicate any significant change in the health risks to the people of Enewetak from the contaminants within the Cactus Crater containment structure.

“(iii) FUNDING FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make available to the Department of Energy, Marshall Islands Program, from funds available for the Technical Assistance Program of the Office of Insular Affairs, the amounts necessary to conduct the radiochemical analysis of groundwater under clause (i)(II).”

SEC. 3. CLARIFYING THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES TO COURTS OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

Section 297(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “circuit or district judge” and inserting “circuit, district, magistrate, or territorial judge of a court”.

SEC. 4. DELAY OF SCHEDULED MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) DELAYED INCREASE PENDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Section 8103(b)(2)(C) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note; Public Law 110-28) is amended—

(1) by striking “each year thereafter until” and inserting “on September 30 of every third year thereafter until”; and

(2) by striking “except that” and all that follows through “September 30” and inserting “except that there shall be no such increase in 2012, 2013, and 2014 pending the triennial report required under section 8104(a)”.

(b) TRIENNIAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Section 8104(a) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note; Public Law 110-28) is amended by striking “April 1, 2013, and every 2 years” and inserting “April 1, 2014, and every 3 years”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill, S. 2009.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, S. 2009 the Insular Areas Act, a brief bill that passed the Senate unanimously in December before being transmitted to the House and referred to multiple committees.

The bill consists of three short sections:

The first section, which shifts to the Department of Energy the responsibility for Department of the Interior-funded radiological monitoring at former U.S. nuclear test sites, has long been overseen by the Committee on Natural Resources.

The second section, which confirms the continuing eligibility of U.S. magistrates to participate in long-standing judicial exchange programs, is primarily overseen by the Committee on the Judiciary.

And the third section, involving a domestic workforce issue, is overseen by the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

All of these committees have reviewed the bill, waived additional action, and consented to today’s suspension consideration of the bill. I want to thank those committees for their consideration and their input.

I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 20, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to convey the consent of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to be discharged from consideration of S. 2009, Insular Areas Act of 2011, in order to expedite its consideration on the House floor.

Although a formal request has not yet been prepared by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), CBO staff informally estimates that the bill should not have any direct spending or revenue effects and should have an annual discretionary cost under CBO’s de minimis threshold (\$500,000).

While agreeing to waive consideration of S. 2009, the Committee on Education and the Workforce does not waive any jurisdiction that it has over provisions in the bill, nor does it waive the right to seek appointment as conferees in the event of a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation, should such a conference be convened.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN KLINE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 28, 2012.

Hon. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chairwoman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN ROS-LEHTINEN, the Foreign Affairs Committee has primary jurisdiction over S. 2009, the “Insular Areas Act of 2011,” which the Senate passed by unanimous consent on December 16, 2011. Section 3 of the bill contains matter that falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. Having reviewed the bill, and pursuant to your request, I agree to discharge the Judiciary Committee from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

The Judiciary Committee agrees to such discharge with the understanding that, by foregoing consideration of S. 2009 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and with the further understanding that at such time that the bill may be called up on the House Floor, the bill will be identical in form to the bill as referred to the Foreign Affairs Committee. The Judiciary Committee reserves the right to insist on certain amendments to the provisions of the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction if the bill is called up under a rule permitting amendments thereto. Additionally, if you intend to call up a suspension version on the House Floor that is not identical to the bill as referred to your committee, I respectfully request that you consult further with the Judiciary Committee in advance of such floor consideration.

Sincerely,

LAMAR SMITH,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am writing to convey the consent of the Foreign Affairs Committee to be discharged from consideration of S. 2009, the Insular Areas Act of 2011, in order to expedite its consideration on the House floor.

In making this decision, the Foreign Affairs Committee conferred extensively with the Committee on Resources, which has traditionally dealt with the issues involved in the bill, even though that Committee did not receive a formal referral of S. 2009. Although a formal estimate has not yet been prepared by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), CBO staff provided an informal estimate that the bill should not have any direct spending or revenue effects, and would have annual discretionary costs under CBO’s de minimis threshold (\$500,000).

In agreeing to waive consideration of S. 2009, the Foreign Affairs Committee does not waive any jurisdiction that it has over provisions in that bill, or the right to seek to participate in any conference on that bill, should one occur.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,
Chairman.

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

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I want to express my deepest appreciation to the

gentlelady from Florida, the chairwoman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and certainly my colleague, the senior ranking member, Mr. BERMAN of California.

I would also like to express my most sincere appreciation to our Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER; our majority leader, ERIC CANTOR; our Democratic leader, NANCY PELOSI; our Democratic Whip, STENY HOYER; the chairman of our Foreign Affairs Committee, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and Ranking Member HOWARD BERMAN of California; Chairman JOHN KLINE and Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; Chairman LAMAR SMITH and Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS of the Committee on the Judiciary; Chairman DOC HASTINGS and Ranking Member ED MARKEY of the Committee on Natural Resources; and certainly Senator JEFF BINGAMAN and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, who respectively served as chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for all that they have done on behalf of the insular areas. I cannot thank my colleagues enough for standing with me because I know the passage of this bill is only possible today due to their support.

I also thank the committee staff leadership for their working in close association with my office on the provision which will benefit the Associated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Territory of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, as my chairman had alluded to earlier about this section, it's very simple.

This atoll, Runit Atoll, is located in Enewetak. For the benefit and information of my colleagues, the Enewetak Atoll is located in the Marshall Islands. This is where we exploded 43 of our nuclear bombs out of the 67 nuclear bombs that we exploded during our testing program from 1943 to 1962; and in the process, this is where we exploded our mini-hydrogen bomb, which was called a Mike shot, which was only about 700 times more powerful than the nuclear bomb that we exploded in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Only about a couple of hundred of miles away is also the atoll called Bikini Atoll, and in 1954 we exploded the most powerful and the first hydrogen bomb that was ever exploded on this planet. It was known as the Bravo shot, and it was 1,300 times more powerful than the bombs that we dropped in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Just to give my colleagues a sense of understanding and appreciation, what we did in this specific atoll, Enewetak, we had to collect all the debris, all the nuclear waste materials as a result of the 43 bombs that we exploded in this atoll for purposes of preventing nuclear contamination from getting into the water and the ocean squall of that. Well, it started to leak, and there are some very serious problems of nuclear contamination seepage coming out of

what we've done in burying, supposedly, the nuclear waste materials on this atoll called Runit Atoll.

This provision is just simply the Congress directs the Secretary of Energy to do a monitoring program and to see what is happening after some 40 years that we did all this tremendous damage, not only to property, but to the lives of these people in the Marshall Islands. This is what this provision provides. It very simply authorizes the Secretary of Energy to go over there and find out what's going on and monitor the underground water so that these people can survive properly.

In the process, and what's about good about this bill, Mr. Speaker, is it doesn't require any offsets. We don't have to worry about any financials. It will be funded by the Technical Assistance Program that is now provided by the Office of Insular Affairs.

The second provision in this bill, Mr. Speaker, it just simply amends the Compact of Free Association to authorize our judges to go there and serve temporarily in the courts of the Associated States of Micronesia. That's all it does. It doesn't require any more expense than it is but just to simply authorize them.

□ 1800

And the third provision that I want to share with my colleagues is simply to delay the increase of the minimum wage in my little Territory of American Samoa for the next 3 years. That's all that this bill provides.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, this is one of the most unusual bills. It has the support of four committee chairmen and senior ranking members. Now, you talk about bipartisanship: I don't know of any other bill that I've ever heard or known and the fact that we have something we can all work toward in solving some of the serious problems affecting the lives of our fellow Americans. And that's all I'm asking for.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2009, the Insular Areas Act of 2011, which was passed by the Senate on December 16, 2011.

At this time, I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER, Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR, Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, Chairman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member HOWARD BERMAN of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman JOHN KLINE and Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Chairman LAMAR SMITH and Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS of the Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman DOC HASTINGS and Ranking Member ED MARKEY of the Committee on Natural Resources, and Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and LISA MURKOWSKI who respectively serve as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for all they have done for and on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

I cannot thank my colleagues enough for standing with me because I know that pas-

sage of this bill is only possible today due to their support. I also thank committee and leadership staff for working in close association with my office on provisions which will benefit our Associated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Territory of American Samoa for years to come. Most of all, I thank the people of American Samoa, our tuna cannery workers, our Fono, and Governor for their support and prayers.

I want to especially commend Senator BINGAMAN and Senator MURKOWSKI for their leadership in getting S. 2009 passed by the Senate. S. 2009 includes a provision to delay minimum wage increases in American Samoa until 2015. The provision regarding minimum wage was worked out in advance with my office as well as the Senate HELP Committee, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Because S. 2009 included other provisions not related to minimum wage, the bill was referred to three different committees in the House, including Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs which has primary jurisdiction for S. 2009. With three different committees sharing jurisdiction, the bill could not move to the House floor unless the committees agreed to be discharged from consideration of S. 2009.

At my request, each of the Chairmen and Ranking Members agreed to waive consideration in order to expedite the bill's consideration. Although S. 2009 was not referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, I sought and received the support of Chairman DOC HASTINGS and Ranking Member ED MARKEY, too.

While we were hopeful that the bill could be placed on the House calendar after Congress returned from the Christmas recess, in January 2012 the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) unwittingly halted the advancement of the bill due to concerns it raised about a provision related to the monitoring of Runit Island. After explaining how important delaying further minimum wage increases is to American Samoa's economy, we were able to resolve OIA's concerns and move forward. But given these setbacks, Speaker BOEHNER's office subsequently requested that we formalize, in writing, the commitment of the Chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction and, as of March 28, 2012, we completed this request.

On Tuesday, July 10, 2012, I personally met with Majority Leader ERIC CANTOR and presented our case, and he agreed that with the support of Speaker BOEHNER, Democratic Leader PELOSI and Democratic Whip HOYER that he would schedule the bill for consideration. Once the bill was publicly placed on the House calendar for July 17, 2012, I announced the progress we had made. Given the sensitivities surrounding minimum wage, I felt like a public announcement any sooner could have jeopardized our efforts.

The matter of minimum wage is of utmost importance to American Samoa. Since 1956, until Congress enacted P.L. 110-28 which

automatically increases wage rates by \$.50 per hour effective July 2007 and every year thereafter until 2014, wage rates for American Samoa were determined by Special Industry Committees in accordance with Sections 5, 6, and 8 of the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. Sections 205, 206, 208). While these Industry Committees were phased out in other U.S. Territories due to their more diversified economies, American Samoa continues to be a single industry economy, and automatic increases have only served to exacerbate an already difficult situation for the local economy.

For more than 50 years, American Samoa's private sector economy had been nearly 80 percent dependent, either directly or indirectly, on two canneries—StarKist and Chicken of the Sea—which until recently employed more than 74 percent of our private sector workforce. However, on September 30, 2009, one day after American Samoa was struck by a powerful 8.3 Richter Scale earthquake which set off a 20-foot wave tsunami that left untold damage and loss from which the Territory has not fully recovered, Chicken of the Sea closed its operations in American Samoa and outsourced more than 2,000 jobs to Thailand where fish cleaners are paid \$0.75 and less per hour compared to wage rates of about \$4.76 per hour in American Samoa.

As noted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), before minimum wage increases went into effect tuna canneries in American Samoa were operating at about a \$7.5 million loss per year when compared to canneries, like Bumble Bee, and now Chicken of the Sea, which outsource fish cleaning jobs to low-wage rate countries. Outsourcing has adversely impacted American Samoa's economy in untold ways. Higher fish costs, higher shipping costs, higher fuel costs, better local tax incentives offered by competitors and the global economic recession have especially contributed to the weakening of the Territory's economy. Passage of S. 2009 will help resolve some of these problems by providing ASG with the time it needs to diversify the Territory's private-sector economy.

While I thank my colleagues for their support and urge them to vote in favor of S. 2009, it is my sincere hope that improvements on the territory's economy will be such that it will provide for fair wages for American Samoa's workers. So between now and 2015, it will be up to ASG and our corporate partners, including StarKist and Tri-Marine, to find new ways of succeeding without further compromising the wages of both our public and private sector workers or wage earners.

American Samoa's cannery workers have been the backbone of the U.S. tuna and fishing processing industries, and I salute them for stabilizing the Territory's economy. With heart-felt gratitude for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, I am noting their service in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for historical purposes.

Once more, I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for helping American Samoa in its time of need, and I urge passage of S. 2009.

THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE—CHALLENGES FACING THE ONLY POPULATION EVER RESETTLED ON A NUCLEAR TEST SITE

INTRODUCTION

Enewetak was the site of 43 of the 67 nuclear tests that the U.S. conducted in the Marshall Islands and the Enewetak people

are the only people ever resettled on a nuclear test site.

ENEWETAK ATOLL AS A NUCLEAR TEST SITE

Enewetak Atoll, was the site of forty-three of the sixty-six nuclear tests conducted by the United States in the Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958. One of the tests at Enewetak was especially significant as it was the first test of a hydrogen bomb. This test occurred on October 31, 1952 and was known as the "Mike" test. The test had a yield of 10.4 megatons (750 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb). The destructive power of the Mike test was exceeded only by the Bravo test (15 megatons) in all the nuclear tests conducted by the United States anywhere. The Mike test vaporized an island, leaving a crater a mile in diameter and 200 feet deep. The Mike test detonation and the detonation of the other 42 nuclear devices on Enewetak resulted in the vaporization of over 8% of the land and otherwise devastated the atoll. The devastation is so severe that to this day, fifty-four years after the last nuclear explosion, over half of the land and all of the lagoon remain contaminated by radiation. The damage is so pervasive that the Enewetak people cannot live on over 50% of our land. In fact, they can't live on Enewetak without the importation of food.

The U.S. Department of Energy described the devastating effects of the 43 nuclear tests on Enewetak as follows:

"The immense ball of flame, cloud of dark dust, evaporated steel tower, melted sand for a thousand feet, 10 million tons of water rising out of the lagoon, waves subsiding from a height of eighty feet to seven feet in three miles were all repeated, in various degrees, 43 times on Enewetak Atoll."

REMOVAL OF THE ENEWETAK PEOPLE FROM ENEWETAK ATOLL TO UJELANG ATOLL

A few days before Christmas in 1947, the U.S. removed the Enewetak people to the much smaller, resource poor, and isolated atoll of Ujelang. They were told by the U.S. that their removal would be for a short time. In fact, Captain John P. W. Vest, the U.S. Military Governor for the Marshall Islands, told them that their removal from Enewetak would be temporary and last no more than three to five years. Unfortunately, they were exiled on Ujelang for a period of over thirty-three years.

HARDSHIP ON UJELANG

The exile on Ujelang was particularly difficult for the Enewetak people leading to hopelessness and despair. During the 33-year exile on Ujelang they endured the suffering of near starvation. They tried to provide food for themselves and their children, but one meal a day and constant hunger was the norm. Malnutrition caused illness and disease. Children and the elderly were particularly vulnerable. Health care was woefully inadequate. In addition, children went largely uneducated in the struggle for survival. They became so desperate that in the late 1960's they took over a visiting government field-trip ship, demanding that they be taken off of Ujelang and returned to Enewetak.

After years of hardship, neglect and isolation the Enewetak people became increasingly insistent that they be returned home. Eventually, the U.S. said it would attempt to make Enewetak Atoll habitable.

The suffering and hardship experienced by the Enewetak people while on Ujelang, was eventually acknowledged by the U.S. The U.S. Department of Interior in a letter to the President of the U.S. Senate, dated January 14, 1978, said, in relevant part:

"The people of Enewetak Atoll were removed from their home atoll in 1947 by the U.S. Government in order that their atoll could be used in the atomic testing program.

The people were promised that they would be able to return home once the U.S. Government no longer had need for their islands.

During the thirty years that the Enewetak people have been displaced from their home atoll they have suffered grave privations, including periods of near starvation, in their temporary home on Ujelang Atoll. The people have cooperated willingly with the U.S. Government and have made many sacrifices to permit the United States to use their home islands for atomic testing purposes."

INITIAL CLEANUP ATTEMPT OF ENEWETAK ATOLL

In 1972, the U.S. said that it would soon no longer require the use of Enewetak. The U.S. recognized that the extensive damage and residual radiation at Enewetak would require radiological cleanup, soil rehabilitation, housing and basic infrastructure before the people could resettle Enewetak. An extensive cleanup, rehabilitation and resettlement effort was undertaken between 1977 and 1980.

Unfortunately, the cleanup left over half of the land mass of the atoll contaminated by radiation confining the people to the southern half of the atoll. This has prevented the Enjebi island members of the Enewetak community from resettling their home island in the northern part of the atoll, and has prevented the people from making full and unrestricted use of their atoll. In addition, the cleanup and rehabilitation was not effective in rehabilitating the soil and revegetating the islands. An extensive soil rehabilitation and revegetation effort is still required to permit the growing of food crops.

RUNIT DOME

The cleanup of Enewetak entailed removal and collection of highly contaminated topsoil, vegetation, and debris (concrete and metal) that was subsequently entombed within an unlined crater produced by an 18 kilo ton surface test and capped with a concrete dome. The site is now known as the Runit Dome. Evidence indicates open hydraulic communication between radioactive waste and intruding ocean water, with migration pathways leading to local groundwater and circulating lagoon waters.

Inside the Runit Dome lies over 110,000 cubic yards of plutonium and other radioactive debris that is radioactive for thousands of years. And, many areas of Runit Island have dangerous levels of contamination. Consequently, the dome and the surrounding area need to be monitored in the same manner that they would be monitored in the US. The reason for such monitoring is simple—the Enewetak people are entitled to the same level of protection from US created radiation as the people of the US.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Mr. FALEOMAVEGA for the warm way in which he works with every member of our committee, and that is why it is a pleasure for all of us on the Committee on Foreign Affairs to do everything that we can to help the gentleman, because we know how important these bills are to him, as we can see, as we have heard. What we may consider to be a suspension bill that will not impact our daily lives, it impacts the many thousands of people whom he is so proud to represent in a very real and meaningful way.

So I thank him for his gentle manners. I thank him for his graciousness. I thank him for the important bills that he brings to our attention. And I want to tell him what an honor it is for

all of us on our committee to work with him in a bipartisan way.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, S. 2009 is primarily concerned with U.S. responsibilities to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the other Freely Associated States in Micronesia, and with a pause in the implementation of federal minimum wage in American Samoa.

I certainly support continuing U.S. oversight of the effects of nuclear testing in the Marshalls.

And I defer to my colleague from American Samoa with respect to economic policy in his district.

In one respect, though, S. 2009 does impact my district, the Northern Marianas Islands.

The bill moves a Government Accountability Office report on the effect of minimum wage increases in the Northern Marianas and American Samoa from every two years to every three years.

These GAO reports are important. They provide a credible analysis of a complex policy, namely the annual 50¢ increase in the minimum wage in the Marianas.

Yet this decision to delay the next GAO report and stretch out the period of time between reports is being made without benefit of a hearing in this House.

Neither businesses nor workers, who are impacted by the minimum wage increases in my district, have had a chance to be heard from.

Last year, in part based on the GAO's findings, I supported a one-year break in the wage increase.

Looking ahead to next year, I had hoped to have another GAO report to guide any decision about—perhaps—skipping another year.

But S. 2009 will leave us without benefit of the GAO's advice.

And I believe this House needs that guidance.

I will not object to passage of S. 2009, but I do regret that this House did not follow its regular order before bringing the measure to the floor.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of S. 2009. This legislation includes provisions adjusting the federal minimum wage schedule for American Samoa in light of GAO's findings on its unique labor market conditions. Mr. FALOMAVAEGA of American Samoa has asked the Congress to make these adjustments for American Samoa and pass this bill.

Current law requires that the minimum wage increase in American Samoa annually until it reaches the Mainland's federal minimum wage level.

Current law also requires the GAO to regularly report to Congress on economic conditions in American Samoa over the course of these minimum wage adjustments. These GAO reports are intended to give Congress information so that, if necessary, Congress can adjust the minimum wage schedule for the territory.

Precisely because American Samoa has a unique, isolated, and relatively undiversified economy and because the path to the full federal minimum wage for this territory is a necessarily long one, Congress must be flexible over time with the minimum wage schedule in response to changing economic conditions. Congress must also maintain the clear re-

quirement that the minimum wage in American Samoa be on a schedule to reach Mainland levels. In decades past, the use of a special industry committee to periodically review and set the minimum wage in American Samoa proved ineffective, unfairly depressing wage levels below what was economically feasible.

The minimum wage provision in S. 2009 meets these standards. The adjustment proposed by S. 2009 is the result of the GAO's latest report, which lays out certain economic difficulties confronting American Samoa. These difficulties arise from a variety of factors, including recent global economic conditions and a specific set of challenges facing American Samoa's tuna canning industry.

In response to the GAO report, this bill adjusts the schedule by delaying any minimum wage increases in American Samoa until 2015. Importantly, it maintains a clear minimum wage schedule for the territory, with new increases made triennially.

This is not the first adjustment in the schedule since the increases began in 2007. Adjustments were also enacted in 2010.

Congress must continue to monitor conditions in American Samoa. Future adjustments to either accelerate or delay the minimum wage schedule may be necessary and warranted. Workers in American Samoa deserve a fair minimum wage as soon as possible, which not only improves their standard of living but generates new economic activity for everyone's benefit. To achieve that end and to be sensitive to other economic pressures on the island that may affect employment levels, it is our ongoing responsibility to calibrate the minimum wage schedule as conditions warrant.

I look forward to continuing to work with Mr. FALOMAVAEGA and other colleagues in the House and Senate to ensure workers in American Samoa receive a just wage.

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, S. 2009.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE GARY L. ACKERMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable GARY L. ACKERMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
5TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK,

July 16, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for documents, issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is not consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY L. ACKERMAN,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 17, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 17, 2012 at 12:53 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 205.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6018, by the yeas and nays;

S. 2009, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6018) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by