and the newest member of our delegation, Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI, from the First Congressional District of Oregon.

SUZANNE is a former Oregon State legislator, an attorney who has worked on consumer and small business issues with a distinguished record of accomplishments and service for the people of Oregon. I know she'll be a strong and effective addition to our delegation in the House of Representatives.

SUZANNE, welcome, and we look forward to working with you.

With that, I would yield to my col-

league from Oregon.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the entire Republican delegation from Oregon, I extend a very warm welcome to the newest representative from the Beaver State, SUZANNE BONAMICI. She cuts a similar path to the people's House as the one I traveled, having served in Salem as a State representative and a State senator, and as my colleague from Eugene points out, is a fellow Duck, having also earned a journalism degree, as I did, from the University of Oregon.

She joins a congressional delegation that has a long history of embracing what we call the Oregon way, to set aside our differences and pursue solutions to take care of the State's most

pressing priorities.
From Congressmen Defazio, Schrader, and Blumenauer to Senators Wyden and Merkley are on the floor today, we have mounted a number of bipartisan efforts in the Congress. So we are delighted to have you as part of this team. I think I can speak for the entire delegation in saying we look forward to working with you and continuing in the great service to the State of Oregon. Thank you, and welcome to the Congress.

The SPEAKER. The gentlewoman from Oregon is recognized.

□ 1400

Ms. BONAMICI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, members of the Oregon delegation, new colleagues from across this great country, friends and family. This afternoon I'm honored to accept the responsibility and opportunity to represent the people of northwest Oregon in the United States Congress.

I want to start by thanking my family for your love, encouragement, patience, and sacrifice. My husband Michael Simon, and my children, Andrew and Sara, thank you. Thank you also to my mother, Marie Bonamici Woodcock, who's also here with us today, for giving me my first job in your small business and for instilling in me the values I hold today. And thank you to all the individuals and organizations who stood by me and worked so hard over the past several months to help me reach this day.

Finally, and most importantly, to the people across the First Congressional District of Oregon, thank you for giving me this honor. It's great to be back in Washington, D.C. I started my legal career here more than 27 years ago as a consumer protection attorney at the Federal Trade Commission. A lot has changed in our world since then, but the importance of the work that happens here in the Capitol and the significance of the decisions that are made in this historic Chamber have not.

Oregon's First Congressional District is full of promise and potential. From the vineyards in Yamhill County to the Port of Astoria in Clatsop County, the family communities in Columbia County, the engines of industry in Washington County, and the arts and culture and business districts in Portland, it's a very diverse and dynamic part of the State. Yet there are too many families still struggling to make ends meet, and they want to know that their voices are heard in our deliberations.

Now, our economy and the Nation's confidence are both in need of rebuilding. As we work together, let us remember that the unparalleled prosperity and creativity of this great Nation over the last century can be traced to this promise—that if you work hard and play by the rules, you can succeed in America. That's the America my grandparents crossed the ocean for. That's the America too many people believe is slipping away. That's the America I want to work to rebuild.

I'm excited to begin. I'm humbled by the tremendous responsibility, and very appreciative of the trust that the people of northwest Oregon have placed in me.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. Bonamici), the whole number of the House is 434.

CIVILIAN PROPERTY REALIGNMENT ACT

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill, (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. MICHAUD. I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Michaud moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1734 to the Committee on Transpor-

tation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 4, after line 21, insert the following:

(x) Properties owned by the Department of Veterans Affairs or other properties used in connection with providing services for veterans, including hospitals, clinics, and facilities that provide job training, post traumatic stress disorder treatment, housing assistance, homeless services, and rehabilitative care.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping today we will see a rare bipartisan moment here in the House when both sides can come together in support of our veterans.

The final amendment I'm offering here today will exempt certain VA facilities from the decommissioning process outlined in the legislation today. It will not kill this bill or even delay its passage. If it's adopted, my amendment will incorporate into the bill and the bill will be immediately voted upon.

I agree with my friends across the aisle that we need to address government waste, especially in this fiscal environment. I can understand why it makes sense to target the poor management and underutilization of government properties to reduce government waste, but I don't think our desire to address these issues should come at the expense of our veterans.

The underlying bill already includes plenty of exemptions to the CPRA process, namely for bases, camps, or stations under jurisdiction of DOD. It seems to me that if the bill already excludes buildings from the consolidation process because our troops rely on them, we should also exclude the buildings for our veterans because they rely on those buildings also.

As ranking member of the VA Health Subcommittee, I've heard testimony after testimony from veterans about the difficulties they face in accessing all the VA health services they need. The VA already provides health care to approximately 7.8 million veterans. As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan wind down, more and more of the 2.3 million soldiers from those wars will start to seek care from the Veterans Administration.

DOD says that nearly 45,000 veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan have been wounded in action. Even this high number grossly underestimates the number of wounded soldiers who rely on the VA system for health care because of unseen wounds like PTSD, TBI, etc. We can't consider shutting down VA facilities when the need to help our heroes is increasing.

In addition to health care needs, these soldiers will need help finding jobs. The veterans unemployment rate was more than 15 percent in January of 2011. It's great news that it fell 6 percent over the last year, but at 9 percent, it's still above the national average. That is why we have to ensure that the VA's ability to provide career

services to returning soldiers isn't undermined.

We don't know exactly when, where, or how these veterans will try to access the system, or whether they will be able to access PTSD treatment or to find a job, but we should not jeopardize their ability to do so by subjecting the VA to the same consolidation process as other Federal agencies. If this bill exempts DOD facilities, it should also exempt VA facilities.

Even GAO, whose analysis was used to justify this underlying legislation, cites the unique needs of the VA given the increasing demands that our returning troops will put on the system. As a result of an aging veteran population and a growing number of younger veterans returning from the military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, GAO found that, "budgeting for the VA's vital health care mission is inherently complex. It is based on current assumptions and imperfect information, not only about program needs, but also on future economic and policy actions that may affect demand and the cost of providing these services.' This means that a one-size-fits-all approach for consolidation of government property does not work for the VA.

There are a couple of other reasons why the VA should be exempt from this bill. First, the VA has already recognized that it needs to upgrade, modernize, and realign its property portfolio to provide accessible and cost-effective services. In fact, they've been working on that since 1999. In 2008, GAO said the Department has reduced its underutilized space over 4 years by nearly two-thirds.

□ 1410

Second, GAO has found that 66 percent of VA's underutilized and vacant buildings are historic properties or eligible for historic designation and require more effort for disposal.

I applaud the other side for looking for ways to cut government spending; and there are, clearly, improvements to be made in the area of Federal properties. But we can't pursue the goal of reducing government spending at the expense of our veterans.

In Congress, we frequently mention how grateful we are for our troops, and we often talk about the need to make sure that no veteran is left behind. Well, I'm offering the final amendment on this bill to make sure that we leave no veteran behind.

On behalf of our heroes, they deserve our commitment. I urge my colleagues to support the final amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, first of all, the President's Commission, in his BRAC, includes VA properties. As well, former VA Secretary Anthony Principi testified in front of our committee that we ought to be looking at all properties, including VA.

If we're going to do the best interest of American taxpayers, we've got to address waste in government overall, across the entire Nation, across every agency. If there's a property not being used today, then we ought to look at either redeveloping it or selling it off. And this gives us an opportunity to have Republicans and Democrats come together on something that the President included in his jobs bill to actually create American jobs.

The Old Post Office right here in Washington, DC is the perfect example of waste in government. We've had a property sitting well over a decade that costs us \$6.5 million in upkeep every single year. Now we've got redevelopment happening, where we've got different hotel companies coming in and not only bidding on it, creating 150 new jobs in construction, but an additional 150 jobs in ongoing jobs once the facility is redone; keeping it in its historic fashion and actually being able to utilize it once again; an opportunity to redevelop things that aren't being used today, but also selling off things that have been sitting for decades.

Our Federal Government has a horrible track record of selling properties that aren't being used. In fact, we've sold 82 properties in the last 25 years. We can do much better, and the American taxpayers demand that we do much better.

Here's a bipartisan opportunity to get both parties to come together and just sell things that we don't need. If you want to bring in revenue to reduce our debt, here's an opportunity to get rid of the things we don't need, redevelop the things that aren't being used, and get rid of the waste in government. Almost \$2 billion we waste every year just in maintaining properties that, again, aren't needed in government.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 1734, if ordered, and adoption of House Resolution 539.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 186, noes 238, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 37] AYES—186

Ackerman Fudge Altmire Garamendi Andrews Gonzalez Baca Green, Al Baldwin Green, Gene Barrow Grijalya. Bass (CA) Gutierrez Becerra Hahn Hanabusa Berkley Hastings (FL) Berman Bishop (GA) Heinrich Bishop (NY) Higgins Blumenauer Himes Bonamici Hinchey Boren Hinojosa Boswell Hirono Hochul Brady (PA) Braley (IA) Holden Brown (FL) Holt Butterfield Honda Capps Hoyer Capuano Inslee Cardoza Israel Jackson (IL) Carney Carson (IN) Jackson Lee Castor (FL) (TX) Johnson (GA) Chandler Chu Johnson, E. B. Cicilline Jones Clarke (MI) Kaptur Clarke (NY) Keating Clav Kildee Cleaver Kind Clyburn Kissell Cohen Kucinich Connolly (VA) Langevin Conyers Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Cooper Lee (CA) Costello Levin Courtney Lewis (GA) Critz Lipinski Crowley Loebsack Lofgren, Zoe Cuellar Cummings Lowey Davis (CA) Luián Davis (IL) Lynch DeFazio Maloney DeGette Markey Matheson DeLauro Matsui Deutch McCarthy (NY) Dicks Dingell McCollum Doggett McDermott Donnelly (IN) McGovern Doyle McIntyre Edwards Meeks Engel Michaud Eshoo Miller (NC) Farr Miller, George Fattah Moore Filner Moran Frank (MA) Murphy (CT)

Nadler Napolitano Olver Owens Pallone Pascrell Pastor (AZ) Pelosi Perlmutter Peters Peterson Pingree (ME) Polis Price (NC) Quigley Rahall Rangel Reves Richardson Richmond Ross (AR) Rothman (NJ) Roybal-Allard Ruppersberger Rush Ryan (OH) Sanchez, Loretta Sarbanes Schakowsky Schiff Schrader Schwartz Scott (VA) Scott, David Serrano Sewell Sherman Shuler Slaughter Smith (WA) Speier Stark Sutton Thompson (CA) Thompson (MS) Tierney Tonko Towns Tsongas Van Hollen Velázquez Visclosky Walz (MN) Wasserman Schultz Waters Watt Waxman Welch Wilson (FL) Woolsey Yarmuth

NOES-238

Adams Burton (IN) Aderholt Calvert Akin Camp Alexander Campbell Amash Canseco Amodei Cantor Austria Capito Bachmann Carter Bachus Cassidy Barletta Chabot Chaffetz Bartlett Barton (TX) Coble Coffman (CO) Bass (NH) Benishek Cole Conaway Berg Biggert Cravaack Bilbray Crawford Bilirakis Crenshaw Bishop (UT) Culberson Black Davis (KY) Blackburn Denham Bonner Dent Bono Mack DesJarlais Boustany Diaz-Balart Brady (TX) Dold Brooks Dreier Broun (GA) Duffy Duncan (SC) Buchanan Duncan (TN) Bucshon Buerkle Ellmers

Emerson

Burgess

Farenthold Fincher Fitzpatrick Flake Fleischmann Fleming Flores Forbes Fortenberry Foxx Franks (AZ) Frelinghuysen Gallegly Gardner Garrett Gerlach Gibbs Gibson Gingrey (GA) Gohmert Goodlatte Gosar Gowdy Granger Graves (GA) Graves (MO) Griffin (AR) Griffith (VA) Grimm Guinta

Guthrie

Nunnelee

Olson

Owens

Palazzo

Paulsen

Pearce

Pence

Petri

Pitts

Polis

Posey

Quayle

Rehberg

Reichert

Renacci

Ribble

Rigell

Rivera

Roe (TN)

Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher

Ros-Lehtinen

Rokita

Rooney

Roskam

Ross (AR)

Ross (FL)

Royce

Runyan

Scalise

Schilling

Schmidt

Schock

Schrader

Schweikert

Scott (SC)

Sessions

Shimkus

Shuster

Simpson

Stearns

Stivers

Stutzman

Thompson (PA)

Thornberry

Turner (OH)

Sullivan

Terry

Tiberi

Tipton Turner (NY)

Upton

Walberg

Walden

Webster

West

Walsh (IL)

Westmoreland

Whitfield Wilson (SC)

Wittman

Womack

Woodall

Young (AK)

Young (FL)

Young (IN)

Yoder

Wolf

Smith (NE)

Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)

Southerland

Scott, Austin

Sensenbrenner

Rvan (WI)

Robv

Reed

Platts

Poe (TX)

Pompeo

Price (GA)

Perlmutter

Graves (GA)

Graves (MO)

Griffin (AR)

Griffith (VA)

Grimm

Guinta

Guthrie

Harper

Harris

Heck

Herger

Himes

Hochul

Huelskamp

Hultgren

Hunter

Jenkins

Jones

Kelly

Jordan

King (IA)

King (NY)

Kinzinger (IL)

Kingston

Labrador

Lamborn

Lankford

Latham

Latta

Long

Lucas

Mack

Maloney

Manzullo

Marchant

Matheson

McCarthy (CA)

Marino

McCaul

McClintock

McCotter

McHenry

McIntvre

McKinley

McMorris

Meehan

Michaud

Myrick

Noem

Nunes

Ackerman

Altmire

Andrews

Baldwin

Becerra

Berman

Bishop (GA)

Blumenauer

Bonamici

Brady (PA)

Braley (IA)

Boswell

Ba.ca.

Nugent

Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)

Miller, Gary

Mulvaney Murphy (PA)

Neugebauer

Mica

Rodgers

McKeon

Lummis

Larsen (WA)

LaTourette

Lewis (CA)

Luetkemeyer

Lungren, Daniel

LoBiondo

Kissell

Kline

Lance

Landry

Johnson (IL)

Johnson (OH)

Johnson, Sam

Hurt

Issa

Huizenga (MI)

Hartzler

Havworth

Hensarling

Hastings (WA)

Herrera Beutler

Hall

Barletta

Bartlett

Barton (TX)

Bass (NH)

Benishek

Berg Berkley

Biggert

Bilbray

Black

Bilirakis

Bishop (NY)

Bishop (UT)

Barrow

| February | 7, 2012 |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Hall | McCotter |
| Hanna | McHenry |
| Harper | McKeon |
| Harris | McKinley |
| Hartzler | McMorris |
| Hastings (WA) | Rodgers |
| Hayworth | Meehan |
| Heck | Mica |
| Hensarling | Miller (FL) |
| Herger | Miller (MI) |
| Herrera Beutler | Miller, Gary |
| Huelskamp | Mulvaney |
| Huizenga (MI) | Murphy (PA) |
| Hultgren | Myrick |
| Hunter | Neugebauer |
| Issa | Noem |
| Jenkins | Nugent |
| Johnson (IL) | Nunes |
| Johnson (OH) | Nunnelee |
| Johnson, Sam | Olson |
| Jordan | Palazzo |
| Kelly | Paulsen |
| King (IA) | Pearce |
| King (NY) | Pence |
| Kingston | Petri |
| Kinzinger (IL) | Pitts |
| Kline | Platts |
| Labrador | Poe (TX) |
| Lamborn | Pompeo |
| Lance | Posey |
| Landry | Price (GA) |
| Lankford | Quayle |
| Latham | Reed |
| LaTourette | Rehberg |
| Latta | Reichert |
| Lewis (CA) | Renacci |
| LoBiondo | Ribble |
| Long | Rigell |
| Lucas | Rivera |
| Luetkemeyer | Roby |
| Lummis | Roe (TN) |
| Lungren, Daniel | Rogers (AL) |
| E. | Rogers (KY) |
| Mack | Rogers (MI) |
| Manzullo | Rohrabacher |
| Marchant | Rokita |
| Marino | Rooney |
| McCarthy (CA) | Ros-Lehtinen |
| McCaul | Roskam |
| McClintock | Ross (FL) |
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Royce Runvan Ryan (WI) Sánchez, Linda т Scalise Schilling Schmidt Schock Schweikert Scott (SC) Scott, Austin Sensenbrenner Sessions Shimkus Shuster Simpson Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Stearns Stivers Stutzman

Smith (NE) Southerland Sullivan Terry Thompson (PA) Thornberry Tiberi Tipton Turner (NY) Turner (OH) Upton Walberg Walden Walsh (IL) Webster West Westmoreland Whitfield Wilson (SC) Wittman Wolf Womack Yoder Young (AK) Young (FL) Young (IN)

NOT VOTING-

Carnahan McNerney Payne Ellison Nea1 Sires Woodall Hurt Paul

□ 1433

Messrs. CRAWFORD and SMITH of New Jersey changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

So the motion to recommit was reiected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HURT. Madam Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote No. 37, on the motion to recommit with instructions on H.R. 1734, the Civilian Property Realignment Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 259, noes 164, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 38] AYES-259

Alexander Austria Adams Aderholt Amash Bachmann Amodei Bachus Akin

Blackburn Bonner Bono Mack Boren Boustany Brady (TX) Brooks Buchanan Bucshon Buerkle Burgess Burton (IN) Calvert Camp Campbell Canseco Cantor Capito Cardoza Carter Cassidy Chabot Chaffetz Coble Coffman (CO) Cole Conaway Cooper Costa Cravaack Crawford Crenshaw Culberson Davis (KY) Denham Dent. DesJarlais Diaz-Balart Dold Donnelly (IN) Dreier Duffv Duncan (SC) Duncan (TN) Ellmers Emerson Farenthold Fincher Fitzpatrick Flake Fleischmann Fleming Flores Forbes Fortenberry Foxx Franks (AZ) Frelinghuysen Gallegly Gardner Garrett Gerlach Gibbs Gibson Gingrev (GA) Gohmert Goodlatte Gosar Gowdy Granger

NOES-164

Broun (GA) Clay Brown (FL) Cleaver Butterfield Clyburn Capps Cohen Capuano Connolly (VA) Carney Carson (IN) Conyers Costello Castor (FL) Courtney Chandler Critz Crowley Chu Cicilline Cuellar Clarke (MI) Clarke (NY) Cummings Davis (CA)

Davis (IL) DeFazio DeGette DeLauro Deutch Dicks Dingell Doggett Doyle Edwards Engel Eshoo Farr Fattah Filner Frank (MA) Fudge Garamendi Gonzalez Green, Al Green Gene Grijalva Gutierrez Hahn Hanabusa Hastings (FL) Heinrich Higgins Hinchey Hinoiosa Holden Holt Honda Hoyer Inslee Israel Jackson (IL) Jackson Lee (TX) Johnson (GA) Johnson, E. B. Kaptur Keating Bass (CA) Carnahan Ellison Hanna.

Kildee Rothman (NJ) Kind Rovbal-Allard Ruppersberger Kucinich Langevin Rush Larson (CT) Rvan (OH) Lee (CA) Sánchez, Linda Levin Lewis (GA) Sanchez, Loretta Lipinski Sarbanes Loebsack Schakowsky Lofgren, Zoe Schiff Lowey Schwartz Luián Scott (VA) Lynch Scott, David Markey Serrano Matsui Sewell McCarthy (NY) Sherman McCollum Shuler McDermott Slaughter McGovern Smith (WA) Meeks Speier Miller (NC) Stark Miller, George Sutton Moore Thompson (CA) Moran Thompson (MS) Murphy (CT) Tierney Nadler Tonko Napolitano Olver Towns Tsongas Pallone Van Hollen Pascrell Velázquez Pastor (AZ) Visclosky Pelosi Walz (MN) Peters Peterson Wasserman Pingree (ME) Schultz Price (NC) Waters Quigley Watt Waxman Rahall Rangel Welch Wilson (FL) Reves Richardson Woolsev Richmond Yarmuth

NOT VOTING-10

Hirono McNerney Nea1 Pau1

Payne Sires

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1440

SCOTT of South Carolina Mr. changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3581, BUDGET AND AC-COUNTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 539) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3581) to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to increase transparency in Federal budgeting, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 181, not voting 13, as follows: