

H.R. 3501. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the "SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office".

H.R. 3772. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 150 South Union Street in Canton, Mississippi, as the "First Sergeant Landres Cheeks Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and agreed to a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1409. An act to intensify efforts to identify, prevent, and recover payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse within Federal spending.

S.J. Res. 49. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Barbara Barrett as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1905) "An Act to strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and other threatening activities, and for other purposes".

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1005

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 10 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.

#### 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 motions 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.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### EXTENDING CERTAIN TRADE PROGRAMS

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5986) to amend the African Growth and Opportunity Act to extend the third-country fabric program and to add South Sudan to the list of countries eligible for designation under that Act, to make technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States relating to the textile and apparel rules of origin for the Do-

minican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5986

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS TO AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) EXTENSION OF THIRD-COUNTRY FABRIC PROGRAM.—Section 112(c)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking "2012" and inserting "2015";

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "2012" and inserting "2015"; and

(3) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "2012" and inserting "2015".

(b) ADDITION OF SOUTH SUDAN.—Section 107 of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3706) is amended by inserting after "Republic of South Africa (South Africa)," the following:

"Republic of South Sudan (South Sudan)."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 102(2) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3701(2)) is amended by striking "48".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO TEXTILE AND APPAREL RULES OF ORIGIN FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" has the meaning given the term in section 3(1) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109-53; 19 U.S.C. 4002(1)).

(2) CAFTA-DR COUNTRY.—The term "CAFTA-DR country" has the meaning given the term in section 3(2) of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 109-53; 19 U.S.C. 4002(2)).

(3) HTS.—The term "HTS" means the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

(4) TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.—The term "Trade Representative" means the United States Trade Representative.

(b) MODIFICATIONS TO THE TEXTILE AND APPAREL RULES OF ORIGIN.—

(1) INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF RULES OF ORIGIN.—Subdivision (m)(viii) of general note 29 of the HTS is amended as follows:

(A) The matter following subdivision (A)(2) is amended by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "Any elastomeric yarn (except latex) contained in the originating yarns referred to in subdivision (A)(2) must be formed in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement."

(B) Subdivision (B) is amended—

(i) in the matter preceding subdivision (B)(1), by striking "exclusive of collars and cuffs where applicable," and inserting "exclusive of collars, cuffs and ribbed waistbands (only if the ribbed waistband is present in combination with cuffs and identical in fabric construction to the cuffs) where applicable,";

(ii) in subdivision (B)(2), by inserting "or knit to shape components" after "one or more fabrics";

(iii) by amending subdivision (B)(3) to read as follows:

"(3) any combination of the fabrics referred to in subdivision (B)(1), the fabrics or knit to shape components referred to in subdivision (B)(2), or one or more fabrics or knit to shape components originating under this note."; and

(iv) in the matter following subdivision (B)(3), by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: "Any elastomeric yarn (except latex) contained in an originating fabric or knit to shape component referred to in subdivision (B)(3) must be formed in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement."

(C) Subdivision (C) is amended—

(i) in subdivision (C)(2), by inserting "or knit to shape components" after "one or more fabrics";

(ii) by amending subdivision (C)(3) to read as follows:

"(3) any combination of the fabrics referred to in subdivision (C)(1), the fabrics or knit to shape components referred to in subdivision (C)(2) or one or more fabrics or knit to shape components originating under this note."; and

(iii) in the matter following subdivision (C)(3), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: "Any elastomeric yarn (except latex) contained in an originating fabric or knit to shape component referred to in subdivision (C)(3) must be formed in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement."

(2) CHANGE IN TARIFF CLASSIFICATION RULES.—Subdivision (n) of general note 29 of the HTS is amended as follows:

(A) Chapter rule 4 to chapter 61 is amended—

(i) by striking "5401 or 5508" and inserting "5401, or 5508 or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread,"; and

(ii) by inserting "or yarn" after "only if such sewing thread".

(B) The chapter rules to chapter 61 are amended by inserting after chapter rule 5 the following:

"Chapter rule 6: Notwithstanding chapter rules 1, 3, 4 or 5 to this chapter, an apparel good of chapter 61 shall be considered originating regardless of the origin of any visible lining fabric described in chapter rule 1 to this chapter, narrow elastic fabrics as described in chapter rule 3 to this chapter, sewing thread or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread described in chapter rule 4 to this chapter or pocket bag fabric described in chapter rule 5 to this chapter, provided such material is listed in U.S. note 20 to subchapter XXII of chapter 98 and the good meets all other applicable requirements for preferential tariff treatment under this note."

(C) Chapter rules 3, 4, and 5 to chapter 62 are each amended by striking "nightwear" each place it appears and inserting "sleepwear".

(D) Chapter rule 4 to chapter 62 is amended—

(i) by striking "5401 or 5508" and inserting "5401, or 5508 or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread,"; and

(ii) by inserting "or yarn" after "only if such sewing thread".

(E) The chapter rules to chapter 62 are amended by inserting after chapter rule 5 the following:

"Chapter rule 6: Notwithstanding chapter rules 1, 3, 4 or 5 to this chapter, an apparel good of chapter 62 shall be considered originating regardless of the origin of any visible lining fabric described in chapter rule 1 to this chapter, narrow elastic fabrics as described in chapter rule 3 to this chapter, sewing thread or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread described in chapter rule 4 to this chapter or pocket bag fabric described in

chapter rule 5, provided such material is listed in U.S. note 20 to subchapter XXII of chapter 98 and the good meets all other applicable requirements for preferential tariff treatment under this note.”.

(F) Tariff classification rule 33 to chapter 62 is amended to read as follows:

“33. A change to pajamas and sleepwear of subheadings 6207.21 or 6207.22, tariff items 6207.91.30 or 6207.92.40, subheadings 6208.21 or 6208.22 or tariff items 6208.91.30, 6208.92.00 or 6208.99.20 from any other chapter, provided that the good is cut or knit to shape, or both, and sewn or otherwise assembled in the territory of one or more of the parties to the Agreement.”.

(G) Chapter rule 2 to chapter 63 is amended—

(i) by striking “5401 or 5508” and inserting “5401, or 5508 or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread.”; and

(ii) by inserting “or yarn” after “only if such sewing thread”.

(H) The chapter rules to chapter 63 are amended by inserting after chapter rule 2 the following:

“Chapter rule 3: Notwithstanding chapter rule 2 to this chapter, a good of this chapter shall be considered originating regardless of the origin of sewing thread or yarn of heading 5402 used as sewing thread described in chapter rule 2 to this chapter, provided the thread or yarn is listed in U.S. note 20 to subchapter XXII of chapter 98 and the good meets all other applicable requirements for preferential tariff treatment under this note.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this subsection apply to goods of a CAFTA-DR country that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date that the Trade Representative determines is the first date on which the equivalent amendments to the rules of origin of the Agreement have entered into force in all CAFTA-DR countries.

(B) PUBLICATION OF DETERMINATION.—The Trade Representative shall promptly publish notice of the determination under subparagraph (A) in the Federal Register.

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AND RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.**

(a) EXTENSION OF BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.—Section 9(b)(3) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-61; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “nine years” and inserting “twelve years”.

(b) RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) and section 3A (b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall be deemed to be a “renewal resolution” for purposes of section 9 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act or July 26, 2012, whichever occurs first.

**SEC. 4. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.**

Notwithstanding section 6655 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) in the case of a corporation with assets of not less than \$1,000,000,000 (determined as of the end of the preceding taxable year), the amount of any required installment of corporate estimated tax which is otherwise due in July, August, or September of 2017 shall be 100.25 percent of such amount; and

(2) the amount of the next required installment after an installment referred to in

paragraph (1) shall be appropriately reduced to reflect the amount of the increase by reason of such paragraph.

**SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF CUSTOMS USER FEES.**

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “August 2, 2021” and inserting “October 22, 2021”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “December 8, 2020” and inserting “October 29, 2021”;

(3) by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation to strengthen trade and investment ties with Africa and the CAFTA-DR countries and support well-paying jobs in the United States. The legislation also extends the President's authority to impose the import ban on products from Burma for an additional 3 years and reauthorizes the actual imposition of the import sanctions for 1 year. The legislation has broad bipartisan support and is supported by all stakeholders.

AGOA has succeeded in deepening trade and investment ties with sub-Saharan Africa and underscoring U.S. commitment to the region. The apparel industry has been a major driver of employment growth in Africa under AGOA. In Lesotho alone, jobs in the textile and apparel industry have more than doubled—growing from 19,000 to 45,000—because of AGOA. This bill extends the third-country fabric provisions which are vital to ensuring the continued success of the AGOA program and ensures that the new Republic of South Sudan is eligible to benefit from AGOA.

Under the CAFTA-DR trade agreement, trade has grown substantially. And since the implementation of this agreement, the trade deficit the United States previously had with these countries has turned into a trade surplus. Today's legislation builds upon that success by further improving the agreement's textile rules of origin. These changes encourage greater use of U.S. inputs in the CAFTA-DR countries, which supports U.S. jobs and improves trade integration in our hemisphere.

In 2003, Congress passed the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act, which included an import ban on products of

Burma renewable once a year for a total of 3 years. The law has been extended twice. This legislation extends the President's authority to impose the import ban for an additional 3 years and reauthorizes the actual import sanctions for 1 year.

Now, I want to acknowledge the positive developments in Burma over the last year, but much work remains ahead with respect to political and economic reforms, human rights, the release of political prisoners, freedom of speech, press, association, as well as religion, and the treatment of ethnic groups within the country—all factors required for full termination of the import sanctions and other restrictions in the 2003 law.

I encourage the Burmese Government to continue its current reforms and commence others to fully address the concerns that led Congress to pass the 2003 law. For all of these reasons, we urgently need to pass this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

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

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

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which extends expiring provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, adds the country of South Sudan to a list of countries eligible for trade preferences, implements technical fixes for the CAFTA agreement, and renews the Burma sanctions.

The expiring third-country fabric provision is the cornerstone of AGOA and one of the most valuable parts of our trading relationship with Africa. Tens of thousands of workers and hundreds of companies depend on this provision.

□ 1010

It is critical that we extend it now before it expires next month. We have delayed this extension for a year, and this unnecessary delay has cost thousands of jobs and millions in investment. It has hurt progress in Africa. We could have avoided these senseless job losses here and in Africa.

I introduced this legislation to extend third-country fabric and add South Sudan over a year ago. The delay was just politics. We are, unfortunately, in an era when commonsense things can't get done. As usual, the political games accomplished nothing.

AGOA itself was truly bipartisan. We all worked together to compromise it and get a good thing done. That was a different era. At least today's vote will reflect some of the bipartisanship that has been a hallmark of AGOA from the start.

The bill also adds South Sudan to the list of AGOA-eligible countries. South Sudan deserves every opportunity and

every vote of confidence we can muster.

This package also contains important technical fixes for CAFTA textiles—that's from Central America—the fixes that businesses and workers have been waiting for since February of last year.

I also am pleased that we are renewing our evolving policy on Burma. Burma has made important steps in the last 18 months, but there's still a long way to go.

I'm particularly pleased with the investment transparency measures that the State Department has put forward. They are innovative, common sense, and exactly what investors and the American public need and expect.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in strongly supporting passage of this important bipartisan legislation to deepen trade ties with sub-Saharan Africa and the Central American-Dominican Republic countries and renew sanctions on Burma. As Chairman CAMP pointed out, this legislation is strongly supported by America's textile industry and will help build more integrated supply chains between the United States and both Africa and Central America, maximizing the benefits of the agreements we describe as AGOA and CAFTA-DR.

These provisions support well-paying U.S. jobs and jobs in sub-Saharan Africa and Central America.

I was honored to help lead with Chairman CAMP the effort to pass CAFTA-DR, and I'm pleased now to see this successful agreement be further improved through the legislation we are considering today.

This bill also extends the President's authority to continue the import ban under the 2003 Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act. I am not normally a fan of unilateral sanctions, but I believe these programs must be evaluated carefully to determine their effectiveness and implications for America's economy, and this does. I also recognize that as the sole remaining superpower, we have the responsibility to show our disapproval of rogue states and human rights abusers. The sanctions regime under the 2003 law is a model in this regard, and I can say that recent developments in Burma confirm the need for continuous evaluation.

Although the Burmese Government has taken many positive steps, these reforms must continue and grow so the citizens of Burma can gain true political and economic freedom—the goals very much at the heart of the original 2003 law. For that reason, I believe we should continue the current sanctions regime as the international community keeps a watchful eye on developments.

At the end of the day, this is a jobs bill, and a bipartisan one at that. I

urge my colleagues to support this essential legislation.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

Mr. RANGEL. Thank you so much. It was such a pleasure hearing the word knocked around here, "bipartisanship," and well there should be. I hope we can explain what it means to some of the newer Members.

As I was talking with JIM McDERMOTT, whose ideas first created this legislation, some on the other side were Mr. Crane from Illinois, who was the cosponsor; Speaker Gingrich who was the first witness for this bill as I introduced it; and, of course, President Clinton, who took a bipartisan group of Members to Africa not only to help these African countries but to help American industry and the textile industry. But more importantly than anything, the United States became a symbol of being able to help people not just by handouts but by teaching them exactly what has to be done.

Oh, yes, JIM McDERMOTT is right that when it comes to picking up the pieces and moving forward in terms of expiration dates and people not knowing how to invest. But let's face it, JIM, in today's climate, this is some sort of legislative miracle.

And it was completed with the help of KAREN BASS, who came here and she worked the devil out of people on the other side of the aisle. They got so annoyed with her that I had to come in and to let the committee members know that she's new here, but when she gets involved in something, that the Senate, the other body, doesn't mean that much. I got a call from BOB MENENDEZ saying it was his idea all along to get this thing through. And we have done it.

I do hope, Chairman CAMP, that we might snatch what this means in bipartisanship. It may be long and difficult before this session ends to find something else. But I know that those who played a role in this over a decade ago and see that we are moving forward in that bipartisan way with the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, that we all leave here as better legislators.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I just have one remaining speaker, so I'm going to reserve. But before I do that, I just want to acknowledge Mr. RANGEL's remarks and acknowledge his leadership on this issue over many years. He was at the forefront of making this AGOA agreement a reality, and I want to thank him for that and for all of his hard work over a very long period of time.

At this time, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York, JOE CROWLEY.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank my friend and colleague from Washington for yielding his time, and I want to thank

all those involved in bringing this important legislation to the floor and doing it, albeit maybe a little late in some components, but getting it here all the same. And I understand it was not necessarily the House of Representatives that was the reason for the hold-up, but I am very pleased to be here today.

I also want to make note of the baby steps we may be taking here in terms of bipartisanship, Chairman CAMP, as well as my colleagues on my side of the aisle. I think those watching today may see a little glimmer of hope that more can be accomplished in the weeks to come before the elections. I, for one, am not necessarily holding my breath, but I want to make the offer that I'm interested in seeing that happen. But even though they are baby steps, it should not diminish the importance of the legislation that we have before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan measure. Part of the legislation is a provision that I introduced to maintain the ban on imports from Burma for 1 additional year. Its passage will demonstrate America's ongoing commitment to the advancement of human rights.

When I traveled to Burma last January, I was the first Member of Congress to officially travel to that country in 12 years. I saw the possibilities for change with my own eyes. I saw the families of political prisoners hoping for a genuine and permanent freedom. I saw ethnic minority leaders expressing the belief that reconciliation was possible. And I saw the tremendous courage of Aung San Suu Kyi, a leader so dedicated to her people that she was undeterred for nearly two decades of house arrest.

No, she did not demand that this bill be passed into law. In fact, Aung San Suu Kyi has urged a decrease in international pressure.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CROWLEY. Aung San Suu Kyi has urged a decrease in international pressure on Burma. But by renewing this bill today and keeping this measure on the books even as we are open to new flexibilities, we will help send a strong signal to those in Burma that the United States will continue to focus on the need for the immediate release of all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, an end to violence against all minorities, including the Kachin and the Rohingya, and the adoption of genuine democratic reform in Burma.

□ 1020

I stand in strong support of this bill, and I urge its immediate adoption.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I was one of the original authors of this measure,

along with JIM McDERMOTT and CHARLIE RANGEL, and I know how much work over the last week has gone into this in terms of the work by Chairman DAVE CAMP, by KAREN BASS, and by others who have worked to get this bill out of the Senate.

I wanted to make a few observations on this measure and the impact it has had. I chaired the Africa Subcommittee when we passed the African Growth and Opportunity Act. It was bipartisan. It was historic.

Before, Africa policy was just aid policy. With AGOA, we created a trade policy for Africa. With AGOA, we have seen exports and imports double into sub-Saharan Africa. And I have had the opportunity to see this program's benefits, hundreds of thousands of jobs, most held by women, created in the apparel sector, boosting very poor countries in Africa.

And AGOA has also strengthened the rule of law in Africa because that's one of the conditions, that when we wrote this bill and marked it up, we put that conditionality on, that eligibility criteria.

And I just wanted to remind the Members for a minute, and this is testimony from Jas Bedi, chairman of the African Cotton and Textile Industry Federation, the eligibility criteria of AGOA compelled most African countries to embrace the rule of law, to allow for political pluralism, and respect democracy and basic human rights. Those were requirements. And the move toward independent judges and independent judicial systems separate of the government in order to enforce the rule of law was very, very important across the continent.

And if we didn't act today, because today is the last day to extend the third-country provision, these jobs would have shifted to Asia. And that's what we were told in the hearings that we held on both the House and Senate sides on this issue. Already, a number of jobs have been lost to Asia because of uncertainty over whether Congress would act.

There's a second provision that I think is very important, and that's the South Sudan eligibility. South Sudan became an independent country in July of 2011. And for those of us who have visited South Sudan and have been in Sudan to see the situation, it's very important that South Sudan get this opportunity.

Prior to its independence, exporters in South Sudan were eligible for AGOA benefits as part of Sudan, and this legislation ensures that these exporters continue to be eligible for AGOA benefits, very important to the new economy in that new country.

Both bodies must act today. Both bodies must do this so that we can put this bill on the President's desk. We have worked, over the years, our coalition, with both President Clinton and President Bush. We have traveled to Africa with the former President in order to help sell him on this idea and to sell our colleagues on this concept.

Today, with the changes that we're seeing, with the economic growth that we're seeing across sub-Saharan Africa, I think we can be jointly proud of this bipartisan effort. So I think it is a lesson in doing the right thing.

And I, again, want to congratulate Chairman DAVE CAMP and his staff and our friends on the other side of the aisle, especially KAREN BASS, for the flurry of activity over the last 72 hours with our meetings with our Senate colleagues in order to get this done.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California, (Ms. BASS).

Ms. BASS of California. I want to thank the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. McDERMOTT) for his leadership, and I also want to acknowledge Congressman RANGEL for his historic commitment to AGOA.

But, in addition, I want to thank, as I stand here next to two men who I consider giants in the House of Representatives, I want to thank them for their patience and their guidance with me as a new Member here. It's been pretty amazing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CAMP, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RANGEL—as they all worked with me to make sure that we were able to be here this moment and pass AGOA.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of African growth and opportunity legislation, H.R. 5986. Passage of today's legislation comes as a result of strong and widespread bipartisan and bicameral support. It's been a pleasure to work alongside Mr. ROYCE in this bipartisan effort, and I also want to thank my friend from the Senate, Senator COONS, who has been a stalwart advocate.

I want to acknowledge the African Diplomatic Corps. Thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of African jobs will be saved as a result of your efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Africa is on the rise. Today, six of the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa. Opportunities abound, and we see increased political stability.

Today's House vote on the extension of AGOA's fabric provision is, by all measures, a success for the U.S. and Africa alike. But we must not stop here. Let us take a moment to acknowledge this accomplishment, but also prepare ourselves for AGOA's reauthorization in 2015.

Africa, a continent of opportunity, for too long has been overshadowed and ignored. While humanitarian, governance, and health challenges remain, we are the observers of remarkable growth and stability across the continent that exemplify positive strides that Africans themselves have made.

Africa, and its many nations, stand on the critical precipice of extraordinary change. Increasingly, Africa's resource mineral wealth attracts investments by countries like China, Brazil, and India. We must, in the United States, increase our invest-

ment. We cannot allow our Nation to be left behind.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, who's been active in trade issues his entire career in Congress.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, many of us have enjoyed saying over the past several years that if we don't shape the global economy, we will be shaped by it. And we also have, as we all know, so much attention focused on divisions that exist in this institution. We know that the media like to cover pictures, mistakes and conflict. And, obviously, conflict here is something that the media like to focus attention on.

Well, here we are, Democrats and Republicans, coming together under the great leadership of my friend DAVE CAMP, the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, we have the ranking member of the Trade Subcommittee, Mr. BRADY, was here earlier, the chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, working to focus on this notion of our shaping the global economy.

As I look over and see my friend from New York, Mr. RANGEL, I'm reminded of December 1999. He and I were with President Clinton in Seattle, Washington, at the ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization. You know, that meeting itself turned out to be an abject failure. The meeting itself was an abject failure.

In fact, I'll never forget, the week after that ministerial meeting in 1999, the cover of the Economist magazine said: "Who Lost in Seattle?" And the photograph was a starving baby in Bangladesh.

But the good thing that did emerge from that meeting in Seattle that we attended back in 1999 was the fact that we were vigorously pursuing the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act; and we had laid the groundwork, again, working in a bipartisan way, to say that pursuing trade, not aid, was the best thing for everyone.

□ 1030

Now, Mr. CAMP was testifying before the Rules Committee the other day, and we were talking about this issue of a zero sum game when it comes to taxes. We also have to recognize, when it comes to the issue of trade, it is not a zero sum game. It is a win-win for us if you look at all of the issues covered in this measure—whether it's the African Growth and Opportunity Act, whether it's focusing on our great friends to the south, the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, whether it's looking at the area where I'm going to be next week.

Next week, I'm headed to Burma, and I'm so enthused about the changes that are taking place. We need to encourage that, and I believe that the actions we

are taking here can play a role in continuing to encourage the positive reforms that we are seeing take place in Burma. We're not there yet—that's why we need to take this action—but we are moving in the right direction.

My fellow Californian Mr. ROYCE mentioned South Sudan—the newest country in the world. Last month, I was there when they marked their first anniversary of existence. This is a country that is seeking to get its sea legs. I was pleased to be there with my colleague Mr. PRICE, who cochairs our House Democracy Partnership. We are looking at the idea of possibly putting together a partnership between this new parliament, with a very impressive speaker, in South Sudan and the United States House of Representatives. The idea of incorporating South Sudan as part of the African Growth and Opportunity Act is again an indication that we very much want to strengthen ties with new and re-emerging democracies around the world, not just politically but commercially as well.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this effort, and I congratulate my friends on both sides of the aisle who are making it happen. I especially express appreciation to my very, very good friend Mr. CAMP, who has championed this and so many other important issues. He and I will be together again this afternoon when we get to, I hope, put together a strong bipartisan effort to implement the notion of bringing about real meaningful tax reform.

Mr. McDERMOTT. May I inquire as to how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). The gentleman from Washington has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Michigan has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Does the gentleman from Michigan have any more speakers?

Mr. CAMP. I have no further requests for time.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, many people played a part in all of this. Nothing in Congress ever gets done by one person. Nothing ever gets done by one side or the other, and the good things that happen here always happen on a bipartisan basis. I'm sorry ED ROYCE left, because ED ROYCE and I worked together.

One day, he called me. He said, JIM, I'm going out to Africa to look at some of the places in which the AGOA Act is working. Will you go with me?

I said, Why?

Well, he said, I need a Democrat on the trip.

That kind of relationship is rare around here, unfortunately, and I think that people need to recognize that it is still going on—that this place runs on trust.

Very early on in this session, I said to DAVE CAMP, When are you going to bring up the AGOA Act?

He said, It's going to come up.

I've asked him many times since, and he has said it's going to come up. So I told all of my African friends, It's going to come up because DAVE CAMP said it's going to come up.

I'm really pleased to acknowledge that he kept his word, because what this place runs on is trust. If you don't trust somebody in here, then you don't do business with him. If you trust him, even if it takes him a long time and you have to poke him a bunch of times, you know that ultimately he's going to do what he said he was going to do. I want to acknowledge Chairman CAMP for that because I think it is reflective of what can make it possible for us to do tax reform in this House.

It is something that took a long time the last time they did it, but it was built on the trust between Reagan and Rostenkowski and Tip O'Neill. It took a bit of time, but it will happen again if we learn to act on the behalf of the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the ranking member of the Trade Subcommittee for his kind comments and for his leadership as well over the years. This really was a team effort. A lot of people on both sides of the aisle came together to make this a reality.

I'll just briefly say that this is bipartisan legislation that does deepen our trade and investment ties with Africa and with the CAFTA-DR countries. It also supports well-paying jobs here in the United States as well as in other countries, as Mr. DREIER stated. This is not a zero sum game. This will help both of our nations as well as Africa. Also, this legislation reauthorizes the import ban on Burmese products.

I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5986.

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.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6233, AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 752 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 752

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6233) to make supplemental agricultural disaster assistance available for fiscal year 2012 with the costs of such assistance offset by changes to certain conservation programs, and for other purposes.

All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. House Resolution 752 is a closed rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 6233, the Agricultural Disaster Assistance Act of 2012.

As a lifelong farmer myself, including operating a nursery and being a beekeeper, I can certainly empathize with being vulnerable to Mother Nature and the plight caused by unpredictable weather.

Without a doubt, the good Lord has blessed this country with an abundance of natural gifts, and I am very thankful for America's farmers, who work to utilize and protect these blessings to help feed our country and others throughout the world. Unfortunately, the drought devastating so much of the United States this year has yielded a tremendous amount of financial hardships not only for these farmers but also for those throughout the rest of the economy that depend on their products.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to remember that it is not just farmers affected by this drought. The consequences of this disaster impact all Americans, from those living in the biggest cities to those living in the most remote areas of this country. Not only does drought aggravate the risk of wildfires that have raged throughout the West, but it compromises our crops, which are used to feed our livestock and even fuel our cars.

□ 1040

The effects will last long after rain brings much-needed relief. With the price of corn jumping 50 percent since June, grocery costs continue to climb. The Department of Agriculture now estimates food prices could climb between 2.5 percent and 3.5 percent this year, and between 3 percent and 4 percent next year.

Also of consequence to price conscious energy consumers is how the