

to a procedural hurdle to the beginning of the project through the appropriations process.

In 2013, we again asked for supportive legislative language, held delegation wide meetings and secured a provision in WRDA to reauthorize the project at updated funding levels, removing any question that the project would move forward.

This year, through work with WRDA Conferees and the Appropriations Committee, SHEP finally received the final budgetary and legislative actions necessary to move forward after all of these years in the WRRDA of 2014 and the Omnibus Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2015.

These actions, in addition to many others, were completed to support SHEP because it is crucial to the State of Georgia and the Port of Savannah is key to maintaining our nation's international competitiveness. The Port of Savannah's return on investment is approximately an impressive 5.5:1. As the nation's fourth largest container port, it is critically important that the harbor is deepened to ensure it continues to act as a gateway for business to Georgia and to the nation. Beyond the trade benefits, the Port of Savannah supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and contributes billions in revenue and state and local taxes each year. Serving companies located in all 50 states, Georgia's deep-water ports are strong economic engines for the entire United States.

This has been a long fight that I am proud to have been a part of. I am hopeful with the current status of the project. Again, it was a major team effort where the entire delegation, the business community, the state legislature and several governors supported the project.

**RECOGNIZING MR. BRUCE ROLAND
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF
THE CAO**

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 2, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Bruce Roland, of Clifton, Va., on the occasion of his retirement today, January 2, 2015, after more than 29 years of invaluable service to the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. Roland began his career with the House in December 1985, after working six years in the private sector. He was hired by former Clerk of the House, Ben Guthrie, as a Service Coordinator for Property Supply. Mr. Roland was responsible for initiating service and delivery orders and managing event setups.

He progressed to become the Assistant Purchasing Manager for the Operations Support Center, which offered an opportunity to learn new skills. Eventually, his tasks evolved into managing the budget and advocating for the financial needs of the Logistics & Support Office.

During the span of his career, Mr. Roland worked for the Directors of Non-Legislative and Financial Services including General Leonard Wischart and Randall Medlock. When that position was renamed the Chief Administrative Officer, he worked under Scott Faulkner, Jeff Trandahl, Jay Eagen, Dan Beard, Dan Strodel and the current CAO, Ed Cassidy.

For many years, he worked directly under Cosmo Quattrone and Tom Van Dyke in the Furnishings Department, lending his expertise in purchase orders, and acquiring items for the House. It soon became clear that he was proficient in budget and finance, so he took that task on full-time. Eventually, he became the Budget Point of Contact for the Logistics & Support Department, working closely with Deputy CAO, Walt Edwards and Chief Logistics Officer, Jerry Bennett.

Had Mr. Roland not worked for the House, he might have tried to become a professional golfer. He is an accomplished golfer and often played on teams fielded by the CAO for charity events. Mr. Roland says he now intends to enjoy a little more golf while balancing his responsibilities for his three children, his daughter, Antoinette, who is now in college, and twin boys, Robert and Anthony, following the passing of his wife, Marguerite, in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Bruce Roland for his distinguished service and tremendous contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Roland's duties, like those of all his colleagues within the CAO, are vital to helping make sure we are able to perform our duties as the elected representatives of our communities and the nation. I want to thank Mr. Roland for his commitment to public service, and I wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

**CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM STANDARDS PROGRAM
AUTHORIZATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014**

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, since before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, experts have been concerned about the vulnerability of chemical plants to attack. These facilities hold large stores of industrial chemicals which pose a safety and security risk to the American people if they are released or detonated. A recent report found that more than 134 million Americans live in the vulnerability zones around chemical facilities. I have such a facility in my district, which is a very serious concern for the surrounding community.

These risks have not been adequately addressed, and this bill falls short of what is needed. The version of the bill before us now also includes a significant and unvetted change to the program that could make many high risk chemical facilities less secure. The self-certification provisions have not been evaluated in hearings or piloted. I am concerned about these provisions and I caution my colleagues that their implementation will require close oversight from Congress.

But this bill is a step forward. For far too long, this important program has been authorized in the appropriations process for the Department of Homeland Security. During last year's government shutdown, the authority for this program lapsed. Looking ahead to next Congress, the risk of another lapse is too great. When we voted on a previous version

of this bill in July, I expressed my hope that the Senate could improve the legislation to strengthen this important program.

On some issues, the Senate was successful. The bill now includes an expanded role for workers and labor unions in developing site security plans and some important whistleblower protections.

However, this bill would leave significant problems in the underlying program in place.

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program at the Department of Homeland Security has not been successful. The original rider that created the program blocked effective enforcement, leading to a lack of compliance. We saw the dangers of noncompliance when the West Fertilizer Company facility in West, Texas, exploded. Unfortunately, those limitations on enforcement would be preserved by this bill.

The original statute blocked the Department from requiring measures to reduce the consequences of a terrorist attack, and in the process created serious obstacles to disapproving site security plans that failed to meet the program's standards. This led to an approval process so complicated that it took more than five years for the Department to complete its review of the first facility. This bill preserves those obstacles.

Both of these challenges may be complicated further by the new self-certification program.

I expect this bill to pass today, and I welcome this step forward. But I call upon all of my colleagues who will be here in the next Congress to continue the important oversight of this program to provide the American people with the protection they expect and deserve.

INSULAR AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this omnibus. It is critical to avoid another unnecessary and wasteful government shutdown, and I strongly believe that we must do that without extraneous and harmful policy riders.

The bill before us holds government operations hostage to a number of highly partisan, noxious policy riders. By proposing to repeal the so-called "swaps push out rule" enacted under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law, it caters to the demands of big banks and puts taxpayers on the hook for their risky decisions. It allows special interests to funnel more money into Congressional political party committees, dramatically increasing the limit from \$129,600 to \$777,600 per year, or over \$1.5 million per election cycle. Putting these provisions together will simply breed additional public cynicism about Congress granting special favors to powerful special interests in exchange for increased political contributions.

I also continue to oppose riders related to Guantanamo and those that meddle in the local business of the District of Columbia.

The fact that this bill only funds the Department of Homeland Security through February

is nothing more than a political stunt by my colleagues across the aisle. Instead of working to fix our broken immigration system, House Republicans have signaled that they are willing to shut down the Department of Homeland Security even though this will do nothing to prevent President Obama from expanding the deferred action program.

This bill also provides \$5 billion in funding for the deployment of an additional 1,500 American troops to Iraq and up to \$500 million to train and equip the so-called “moderate” Syrian rebels. As I outlined in my statement on the NDAA, Congress should have had the opportunity to amend those provision. I do not want us to be dragged into Iraq War 2.0 or more deeply into the Syrian civil war.

Without the inclusion of these measures, I would have been pleased to support a number of provisions in this bill. As a representative of many federal employees, I appreciate the one percent COLA for our dedicated federal workforce and pay adjustments for wage grade employees.

I support the additional funding for the National Institutes of Health, although we must do much more to support medical research. The bill also increases funding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provides emergency funding to address the ongoing Ebola crisis. It includes important funding for scientific research at NIST and the National Science Foundation, and rejects the House-passed rider that would have defunded climate change research. I support the investments in education, including Title I and IDEA, although more funding for these programs is necessary to support our nation's students.

The bill also includes critical funding for infrastructure, including \$2.1 billion to build new transit lines, \$500 million for TIGER grants for projects of national significance, and \$150 million to allow the Washington area Metro system to make recommended safety and performance improvements.

This legislation also builds on efforts made in last year's MilCon-VA bill to end the claims backlog that continues to plague our VA regional offices, including the VA's Baltimore

Regional Office. It includes \$2.5 billion for the costs of processing disability claims—an increase of \$40 million over the President's request and \$69 million over last year's level.

I am pleased that this bill provides \$73 million in funding for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. This will help provide Maryland with the necessary resources to implement the technology to automate criminal history and mental health records in our background check system. This legislation also fully funds many other important Department of Justice Programs, including \$376 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and \$430 million for Violence Against Women programs.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that no bill of this magnitude is perfect. However, I cannot in good conscience vote to roll back critical taxpayer protections and allow monied special interests to buy more influence in Congress. We should strip these damaging provisions from the bill and pass an omnibus that works on behalf of taxpayers and strengthens the middle class.