

Taiwan's police forces protect American citizens traveling in Taiwan.

INTERPOL's constitution allows for observers at its meetings by police bodies which are not members of the organization. And so I am confident Taiwan will be able to be an observer.

H.R. 1853 will support Taiwan's efforts to gain observer status with INTERPOL. It is going to improve everybody's security. Mr. Speaker, we must constantly be pressing to ensure that security across the globe is protected.

Taiwan's unique political status has thus far hindered its inclusion in INTERPOL and is a vulnerable loophole for criminals and, frankly, for terrorists to target. With this piece of legislation, we are sending a clear message that safety is a priority.

I want to again commend Representative MATT SALMON of Arizona, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, and, of course, Mr. ENGEL and Mr. SHERMAN for authoring and introducing this important measure. I appreciated working with them on it.

I will just say this of Mr. SALMON as well. He has a longstanding interest in Taiwan. His leadership on this measure is very much appreciated by all of us.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close on my side. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I have said, we need to use every tool available to combat terrorism and disrupt criminal networks around the world. It only makes sense to have more partners at the table in that effort.

So bringing Taiwan back into INTERPOL as an observer just makes common sense. The more participants in INTERPOL, the more good the organization can do. We should do all we can to bring willing contributors off the sidelines.

Again, Taiwan was a member and was thrown out when everyone recognized People's Republic of China. There is room for both. There should be both.

I again want to commend my friend, Mr. SALMON, who is largely responsible for this, and our chairman, Mr. ROYCE, who I think has more people from Taiwan in his district than virtually any other district in the country. So he knows quite a bit about Taiwan and quite a bit about what should be done.

It is something that we are all saying the same thing. It makes sense for Taiwan. It makes sense for the United States. It makes sense for INTERPOL. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1853.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ROYCE. 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 motion will be postponed.

GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2494) to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2494

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 "Global Anti-Poaching Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Poaching and the illicit trade in endangered and threatened wildlife are among the most lucrative criminal activities worldwide, worth an estimated \$7 to \$10 billion annually.

(2) Poaching and wildlife trafficking have escalated in scale, sophistication and violence, risking the potential extinction of some of the world's most iconic species.

(3) Wildlife poaching and trafficking threaten elephants, rhinoceros, and tigers greatly, but also have devastating impact on a number of other species, including sharks, great apes, and turtles.

(4) The high demand for rare wildlife products has driven prices to historically high levels.

(5) Much of the demand for wildlife products comes from Asia and is fueled by the perceived medicinal value and social status associated with these products.

(6) Reporting indicates that a number of rebel groups and terrorist organizations, including Sudan's Janjaweed militia, the Lord's Resistance Army, the Seleka rebel movement in the Central African Republic, and Somalia's al-Shabaab, either participate in or draw funding from illicit wildlife trafficking networks.

(7) Analyses suggest the high demand for illegal wildlife products, combined with weak law enforcement and security measures and corruption and governance failures, has led to the increased involvement of transnational organized crime in wildlife trafficking.

(8) The United Nations Security Council has authorized multilateral sanctions against individuals and entities supporting armed groups through the illicit trade in wildlife, in addition to other natural resources, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic.

(9) A National Intelligence Council analysis of wildlife poaching threats found that certain African government officials facilitated the movement of wildlife products, and that these governments' ability to reduce poaching and trafficking was hindered by corruption and weak rule of law.

(10) On November 13, 2013, the Secretary of State announced the first reward under the Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program for information leading to the dismantling of the Kaysavang Network, a large

wildlife trafficking syndicate that is based in Laos and spans Africa and Asia.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildlife enforcement networks are government-led, regionally-focused mechanisms that increase capacity and coordination efforts between law enforcement, environmental agencies, and other entities focused on countering wildlife trafficking of member countries.

(2) Currently there are active wildlife enforcement networks in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Central America. The more mature wildlife enforcement networks, such as the Southeast Asia wildlife enforcement network, have proven effective in dismantling transnational wildlife trafficking networks and bringing to justice those individuals involved in the illegal trade of endangered and threatened species.

(3) Efforts are underway to establish additional wildlife enforcement networks in Central Africa, the Horn of Africa, South America, and Central and West Asia, among other regions.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and heads of other appropriate agencies should, in an effort to address regional threats to biodiversity and conservation, support strengthening existing wildlife enforcement networks and the establishment of new networks in other appropriate regions.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that in the process of strengthening and expanding wildlife enforcement networks, the appropriate agencies should—

(1) assess the existing capacity of wildlife enforcement network member countries to gather baseline data that may be used for developing program activities for the wildlife enforcement network;

(2) establish a central secretariat within each wildlife enforcement network that will coordinate the operational mechanisms of each such network;

(3) establish a focal mechanism in each member country of a wildlife enforcement network, that includes representatives from environmental and wildlife protection agencies, law enforcement agencies, financial intelligence units, customs and border protection agencies, and the judiciary system, that will serve as a conduit to the larger wildlife enforcement network and the central secretariat;

(4) strengthen cooperation and the capacity of law enforcement agencies of the wildlife enforcement network;

(5) facilitate the sharing of intelligence and relevant case information within the agencies of a wildlife enforcement network;

(6) support the cooperation and coordination between different regional wildlife enforcement networks;

(7) incorporate and utilize expertise from international bodies and civil society organizations that have appropriate subject matter expertise;

(8) eventually create an institutionalized, sustainable, and self-sufficient platform; and

(9) recognize that lawful, well regulated hunting can contribute to sustainability and economic development, and that enforcement policies should not discourage or impede this activity.

SEC. 4. SUPPORTING THE PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTOR.

The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and heads of other appropriate agencies, including the National Park Service and the United States Forest Service, should, in an effort to address local and regional threats to biodiversity and conservation and support the rule of law and good governance, promote the professionalization of the wildlife law enforcement sector and professional ranger training in partner countries through support and technical assistance for the following:

(1) The creation and adoption of standards for professional ranger training and qualifications, including in relevant international fora and multilateral agreements.

(2) Training and accreditation systems based on the standards described in paragraph (1) that produce professionally trained and qualified rangers and promote the overall professionalization of ranger forces, whether through existing United States institutions, such as International Law Enforcement Academies, or through partnerships with national or regional training institutions.

(3) Legal reforms, where necessary, to provide rangers with authority to detain and arrest suspects, process crime scenes, present evidence in court, and defend themselves in life threatening situations.

(4) The development and institutionalization of reward and promotion systems for rangers based on performance and set competencies.

(5) The development and institutionalization of national systems to provide insurance to rangers and their families and compensation for those rangers killed in the line of duty.

(6) Cooperation and coordination between local law enforcement tasked with wildlife or park protection and local defense forces, where appropriate, including training opportunities, logistical support, or provision of equipment.

SEC. 5. DESIGNATION OF MAJOR WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING COUNTRIES AND AUTHORITY TO WITHHOLD CERTAIN ASSISTANCE.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than September 15 of each year, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to Congress a report that lists each foreign country determined to be a major source of wildlife trafficking products or their derivatives, a major transit point of wildlife trafficking products or their derivatives, or a major consumer of wildlife trafficking products or their derivatives.

(b) **SPECIAL DESIGNATION.**—In each report required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, shall—

(1) designate each country listed in the report that has failed demonstrably, during the previous 12-month period, to make substantial efforts to adhere to its obligations under international agreements relating to endangered or threatened species; and

(2) include a short justification for each determination made under paragraph (1).

(c) **WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of State may withhold assistance described in subsection (d) with respect to each foreign country that is specially designated under subsection (b).

(d) **ASSISTANCE DESCRIBED.**—The assistance described in this subsection are sections 516, 524, and 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j, 2344, or 2347), chapter 6 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348 et seq.), and section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763).

(e) **NOTIFICATION.**—The Secretary of State shall notify—

(1) the government of each foreign country that is listed in the report required under subsection (a) that the country has been so listed; and

(2) the government of each foreign country that is specially designated under subsection (b) and is subject to the withholding of assistance described in subsection (c).

(f) **REPORTING COST OFFSET.**—Section 8 of Public Law 107-245 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is repealed.

(g) **SUNSET.**—This section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING AND POACHING IN AFRICA.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should continue to provide defense articles (not including significant military equipment), defense services, and related training to appropriate security forces of countries of Africa for the purposes of countering wildlife trafficking and poaching.

SEC. 7. UPDATES TO THE FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967.

Section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1978) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in consultation with the Secretary of State,” after “Secretary of Commerce”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, in consultation with the Secretary of State,” before “finds”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “in consultation with the Secretary of State,” after “, as appropriate,”;

(D) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5), and by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior shall each report to the Congress each certification to the President made by such Secretary under this subsection, within 15 days after making such certification.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by inserting “in consultation with the Secretary of State,” after “as the case may be,”.

SEC. 8. WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS AS PREDICATE OFFENSES UNDER RACKETEERING AND MONEY LAUNDERING STATUTES.

(a) **TRAVEL ACT.**—Section 1952 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “or (3)” and inserting “(3)”; and

(B) by striking “of this title and (ii)” and inserting the following: “of this title, or (4) any act that is a criminal violation of section 9(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(a)(1)), section 2203 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4223), or section 7(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5305a(a)), if the endangered or threatened species, products, items, or substances involved in the violation and relevant conduct, as applicable, have a total value of more than \$10,000 and (ii)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **USE OF AMOUNTS FROM FINES, FORFEITURES, AND RESTITUTION RELATING TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS.**—Any amounts received by the United States as fines, forfeitures of property or assets, or restitution to the Government for any violation under this section that involves an unlawful activity described in subsection (b)(i)(4) shall be transferred by the Secretary of the Treasury, to the extent practicable, to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and used as provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the benefit of the species impacted by the applicable violation.”.

(b) **MONEY LAUNDERING.**—Section 1956 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(7)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) any act or acts constituting a criminal violation of section 9(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(a)(1)), section 2203 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4223), or section 7(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5305a(a)), if the endangered or threatened species, products, items, or substances involved in the violation and relevant conduct, as applicable, have a total value of more than \$10,000;”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **USE OF AMOUNTS FROM CIVIL PENALTIES, FINES, FORFEITURES, AND RESTITUTION RELATING TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS.**—Any amounts received by the United States as fines, forfeitures of property or assets, or restitution to the Government for any violation under this section that involves an unlawful activity described in subsection (c)(7)(G) shall be transferred by the Secretary of the Treasury, to the extent practicable, to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and used as provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the benefit of the species impacted by the applicable violation.”.

(c) **RICO.**—Chapter 96 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1961(l)—

(A) by striking “or (G)” and inserting “(G)”; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, or (H) any act constituting a criminal violation of section 9(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1538(a)(1)), section 2203 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4223), or section 7(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5305a(a)), if the endangered or threatened species, products, items, or substances involved in the violation and relevant conduct, as applicable, have a total value of more than \$10,000;”;

(2) in section 1963, by adding at the end the following:

“(n) **USE OF AMOUNTS FROM FINES, FORFEITURES, AND RESTITUTION RELATING TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS.**—Any amounts received by the United States as fines, forfeitures of property or assets, or restitution to the Government for any violation under section 1962 that is based on racketeering activity described in section 1961(1)(H) shall be transferred by the Secretary of the Treasury, to the extent practicable, to the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and used as provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the benefit of the species impacted by the applicable violation.”.

(d) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **USE OF AMOUNTS FROM FINES.**—Section 1402(b)(1)(A) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601(b)(1)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) sections 1952(f), 1956(j), and 1963(n) of title 18, United States Code; and”.

(2) **USE OF AMOUNTS FROM FORFEITURES.**—Section 524(c)(4)(A) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting before “or the Postmaster General” the following: “or section 1952(f), 1956(j), or 1963(n) of title 18,”.

SEC. 9. OTHER ACTIONS RELATING TO WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should dedicate sufficient program resources to—

(1) conduct monitoring and evaluation, with a special emphasis where feasible on impact evaluations, of wildlife trafficking programs consistent with the Department of State's January 2015 Evaluation Policy;

(2) publish program information on wildlife trafficking programs on the Department of State's Internet website, "ForeignAssistance.gov" in a digital format consistent with the United States commitment to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI); and

(3) develop and implement a learning agenda to improve the performance and impact of wildlife trafficking programs and to share best practices among relevant executive branch agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

□ 1745

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an exchange of letters between myself and the chairmen of the Natural Resources and Judiciary Committees.

Mr. Speaker, the very disturbing reality is that some of the world's most majestic animals have become "blood currency" for terrorist organizations and rebel groups. Some of the same radical organizations that carry out terror for political purposes get their resources by the sale of rhino horns and ivory through the slaughter of these animals in order to fund their terrorist operations. Poachers are taking advantage of under-equipped and undermanned park rangers. As we watch this play out across the sub-Saharan continent, they are decimating elephant and rhino populations and trading their tusks.

In the 1980s, over 1 million African elephants roamed the continent's forests and savannahs. That is not that long ago. Today, there are less than 500,000 left. With this explosion in poaching, at these current rates, in about two decades, they will vanish. The rhino would vanish.

In South Africa, home of the one of the largest rhino populations, poachers killed an average of 14 rhinos per year in the 1990s and 2000s. Last year, they killed 1,200—the top year on record.

This is bigger than security. This, frankly, is a security issue for the entire planet. As we watch what is devel-

oping with these organizations, wildlife trafficking is now the most lucrative criminal activity—certainly, one of the most lucrative—around the world. I saw an estimate that poaching in Africa is worth \$10 billion in annual income for these radical organizations.

The Foreign Affairs Committee has held several hearings and briefings in which we learned how nefarious groups like al Shabaab, the Janjaweed, and Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army benefit from trafficking in wildlife and trading the ivory for guns. An average-size tusk is worth 25 cases of fresh ammunition in central Africa. Twenty-five cases will enable rebel groups to continue to rampage and terrorize civilian populations.

The U.S. has invested a great deal of resources in trying to bring stability to the countries where these armed groups operate: Somalia, Sudan, and the Congo. All of that effort and investment are undermined when these terrorist organizations and rebel groups find these new financial lifelines. We remember the situation with blood diamonds. Well, for the last decade and a half, it has been ivory and rhino horns.

Mr. Speaker, to address this crisis, the Global Anti-Poaching Act tackles wildlife trafficking in several ways. This legislation designates those countries that are ignoring wildlife trafficking and allows the Secretary of State to withhold security assistance from the worst offenders.

In some wildlife trafficking cases, foreign governments have been found complicit. A "naming and shaming" of these countries is the minimum we can do if we are to contend with the poaching explosion. We know from some of our antitrafficking legislation how much pressure this does, in fact, put on foreign governments. Countries in Asia that are driving the demand for wildlife products also come under the spotlight in this bill.

In the same tactic of naming and shaming that this legislation establishes, it has been used, as I mentioned, not just with traffickers, but also in drug trafficking cases. It is a way to force other countries to become part of the solution, rather than part of the problem.

To make this big business riskier for those who are involved in it, the legislation makes wildlife trafficking an offense under racketeering and money laundering statutes, going after the international networks that are taking profits out of this. It is the terrorist organizations on the ground doing the work, but it is the international criminal syndicates that then move the ivory around the world. We also have to stop that demand for the ivory.

The legislation directs that any seized assets from these new penalties go toward the conservation of the very species that were trafficked. So when moneys are obtained from those involved in the pipeline, it can be employed for that purpose.

Mr. Speaker, tackling poaching can protect exotic wildlife, increase security, and help Africa's development. One of the fastest growing sectors in Africa is ecotourism. In 2014, the industry contributed \$70 billion to the African economy and directly employed 8 million people.

These majestic animals drive tourism in Africa. They drive sustainable development there. But if we don't bring the slaughter to an end, there might not be any of these animals to see in a few years.

The park rangers on the front lines trying to stop the slaughter at the hands of poachers are outmaneuvered and outgunned. This bipartisan legislation will help even out the fight by pressuring the administration to provide vital security assistance, including vehicles as well as intelligence and surveillance tools, to these park rangers.

We know the security and economic consequences if today's poaching rates go on unchecked: terrorist and rebels fund their dangerous activities, and the African economy takes a major hit. The legislation before us today is a chance to change this course and to reverse this course back toward one of sustainable development; back toward one where, in the future, people from around the globe can go to Africa and see these magnificent animals and participate in building the economy through ecotourism in Africa.

I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.

Washington, DC, October 15, 2015.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 2494, the "Global Anti-Poaching Act," which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 2494 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2494 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2494 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of H.R. 2494.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 2494, the Global Anti-Poaching Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 2494 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2015.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 2494, the Global Anti-Poaching Act. This bill contains provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this bill before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will agree that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill. I do so with the understanding that this action does not affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, and that the Committee expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask that you support any such request.

Finally, I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 2494 on the House floor.

Thank you for your work on this bill and I look forward to its enactment.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2015.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 2494, the Global Anti-Poaching Act, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 2494 into the Congressional Record during floor

consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure.

I want to, first of all, thank my friend, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ED ROYCE, for authorizing the Global Anti-Poaching Act. I am very proud to be an original cosponsor. This bill, again, is a good example of our committee working across the aisle to get real results.

On average, one elephant is killed every 20 minutes. That is just a shocking statistic. So in the 40 minutes we have to debate this bill, two elephants will be killed. Last year, the toll was 20,000. It is just disgusting.

And make no mistake, these animals aren't being killed for sport. No matter how you feel about big game hunting, the real reason elephants and other iconic animals are being wiped out is far more sinister, and it is why this issue deserves the attention of Congress and the administration. Those responsible for poaching are profiting from their crimes by selling ivory or rhinoceros horns or cheetah pelts.

Where do these profits go? These profits go to buy weapons for violent, armed militias, to bribe government officials and law enforcement, and to fuel criminal networks. In short, poaching pumps resources into groups that threaten security and stability, groups that want to do harm to innocent people and want to do harm to the United States of America. That is why Chairman ROYCE and I view wildlife trafficking as a security issue, and that is why we introduced the Global Anti-Poaching Act.

Our bill would bring wildlife trafficking under money laundering and racketeering statutes that are already part of our law. It would support the professionalization of wildlife law enforcement units on the ground and allow us to provide them nonlethal assistance. It would strengthen regional Wildlife Enforcement Networks designed to combat poaching, and it would name and shame governments that aren't taking this problem seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the excellent work of the Wildlife Conservation Society from my hometown, Bronx, New York. The Wildlife Conservation Society runs the Bronx Zoo and many other cultural institutions in New York City. They have been actively fighting poaching and trafficking for many years. They have been on the forefront of the American fight against poaching and trafficking. It is a pleasure to work with them on this and so many other issues.

I, of course, have longstanding ties with one of their leaders, John Calvelli,

who used to be my chief of staff in Washington—he ran my Washington office—so I know how dedicated this group is.

We need to crack down on wildlife trafficking, both to deny resources to dangerous organizations and to protect some of the world's most iconic creatures.

People may feel: Well, if I just buy a little ivory doll or I buy something made out of ivory, how can that hurt? After all, it is there.

It may be cute. It may be trendy. What is wrong with it? I will tell you what is wrong with it. It funnels and aids and abets terrorism, because these groups that sell the tusks and sell the ivory are, by and large, groups that get the money back and use it to force terror.

People who are buying these things are not buying some innocent things; they are buying things that help terrorist organizations. Just like we have the fight with the artifacts that are coming in from Syria that ISIS takes and loots and then sells abroad to help finance their terrorist activities, the same thing is true for ivory and the same reasons are being used: It is being done to funnel this money towards helping sinister groups, many of whom are terrorist organizations.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This is a very important bill. I thank my friend and partner, Chairman ROYCE.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to recognize Mr. ENGEL's commitment to conservation on this planet and to his work on this legislation as well.

I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade. He is an original cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the chairman for yielding. I also thank the chairman and ranking member for their work on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, around the world, big game like elephant and rhinos are getting slaughtered. Ivory-seeking poachers have killed 100,000 elephants in 3 years. The black rhino population has dropped 95 percent since the early 20th century. In 2007, there were 12 rhinos killed in South Africa; but in 2013 and 2014, over 1,000 were killed each year.

Regarding elephants, this is a photograph of one of the oldest elephants in existence. Satao was his name. He was in his forties. He was killed for his tusks. They were so long, they dug on the ground.

That is what is happening to the elephant population in Africa. They are killed not for their meat; they are killed for their tusks.

Most of the people doing the poaching are really not the locals who poach for an animal to eat. That is not most of the poaching, although that does occur.

Most of those doing the poaching are transnational criminal organizations.

The criminal groups come from places like China and Vietnam. China is the number one destination for elephant tusks. Vietnam is the number one world destination for rhino horns.

Criminal cartels that are involved in this trafficking don't just traffic wildlife. They traffic drugs, weapons, and people. It is all the same group of criminals that are trafficking. They traffic anything for money.

The wildlife trafficking trade has exploded in recent years because the criminals understand that profits they get from trafficking wildlife are bigger than what they get for trafficking drugs.

□ 1800

Also, the chances of getting caught are less and, if caught, the punishment is less. So that is why wildlife trafficking is on the increase.

A rhino horn is now worth about \$27,000 per pound. That is twice the value of gold and platinum and more than cocaine and diamonds.

It should come as no surprise that terrorist groups are involved in this as well. I held a hearing in my subcommittee in February on the connection between wildlife trafficking and terrorist groups. The witnesses testified that terrorists are one of several groups involved in wildlife trafficking. And, of course, they do it all for the money. They use the money, as Mr. ENGEL said, to buy bullets and guns to cause terror in Africa and other places in the world.

Just over the weekend, al Qaeda's Somali affiliate, Al-Shabaab, released photographs of its fighters hunting and killing a giraffe. Here is a photograph of that giraffe that was killed in Africa. It is a recruiting poster for jihad.

Al-Shabaab put this on its recruiting poster. This recent video says: Terrorism is in my nation, and we do it for tourism. Therefore, come and help us in jihad. That is a recruiting poster, the killing of wildlife in Africa.

Killing of elephants is a main revenue source for the Lord's Resistance Army, led by the infamous Joseph Kony.

By going after wildlife traffickers, we are going after transnational criminal organizations and terrorists.

But we also must call out, as this legislation does, corrupt government officials that give a wink and a nod for allowing the poaching, in their countries, of rhinos, elephants, and others.

This isn't just a wildlife problem. It is a national security problem. This bill will give our law enforcement the authority it needs to be able to go after criminals and terrorists and help foreign governments save rhinos and elephants from extinction.

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if we don't stop wildlife trafficking of rhinos, elephants, and other animals by

terrorist groups, for organized criminal activities, the only places our kids and grandkids are going to see rhinos and elephants are at the zoo or in a Disney cartoon.

And that is just the way it is.

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

Again, let me thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this issue, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), and all of the people that have worked so hard on this.

We need to be creative in the way we go after financing for violent groups. If nothing is done, I believe the statistic is that, in 11 years, elephants will be extinct in the wild. Isn't that a tragedy? Who would have thought? So we need to be creative in the way we go after the financing for violent groups.

Mr. POE pointed out some very, very important things about terrorism and criminal activities. So, again, I want to say that, when people buy these things, it is not innocent. They are aiding terrorism, and they are aiding criminality.

We need to use every tool at our disposal, so this legislation does that by going after a critical source of funding for criminals and terrorists. At the same time, it will help to preserve some of the world's most imperiled animals.

Again, I urge all my colleagues to support this measure. I thank Chairman ROYCE for his hard work on this and so many other things. This is something that everyone needs to support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, part of the tragedy of this can be seen in what happened in Garissa National Park in Africa. The jihadists hit that park in order to take those tusks, in order to get that hard currency and trade those tusks for weapons and for bullets, and then used that weaponry to turn on Garissa University.

Now, remember, these are jihadists. The one thing that Al-Shabaab has in common with the Janjaweed and with these other jihadi organizations is a hatred—just as Boko Haram has this hatred—a hatred of those who study.

So what did they do? What did they do when they had their hands on those weapons? They then went to Garissa University and slaughtered 145 students after slaughtering the elephants in the parks.

There is a direct link when jihadi organizations, as Judge TED POE shared with you, carried out these attacks to recruit, to show that they have got the power to kill, that they have got the power to exterminate, to annihilate not just these animal species but human beings as well.

Mr. Speaker, time is not on our side. Each day of inaction means more animals poached, and the coffers of terrorist organizations and rebels grow full because the criminal syndicates that buy the ivory give them the weapons and give them the money. That has to come to an end.

Since the time we started this debate, as Mr. ENGEL pointed out, two elephants have already been poached, have been slaughtered, because one is killed every 15 minutes in Africa.

It is quite possible, as Mr. ENGEL said and as Mr. POE alluded, that our children could grow up in a world without rhinoceros, without elephants, and it is no exaggeration. Certainly the forest elephant is going to be wiped out; the black rhino is going to be wiped out.

Do we want to live in that kind of a world? Do we want to allow that to happen on our watch?

The Global Anti-Poaching Act combats today's unprecedented levels of poaching and wildlife trafficking by holding foreign governments accountable, by adding greater consequences for traffickers in this illicit trade, while also assisting those park rangers on the ground who, frankly, need our help, need the help of our intelligence services, need our satellites and other capabilities, and need a better way in which to defend themselves and those parklands across Africa.

Some years ago, myself and another Member of this body authored legislation to help set up these national parks across Africa, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act, which Clay Shaw and I authored.

But today these terrorist organizations are in the parklands themselves, slaughtering these species.

I would like to thank the Members that have been involved in putting this together and, also, some from the other committees that assisted us, like Chairman GOODLATTE of the Judiciary Committee and Chairman BISHOP of the Natural Resources Committee, for their constructive input and assistance in getting this legislation to the floor.

And, of course, I would like, in closing, to recognize, again, Ranking Member ENGEL and Representatives POE, SMITH, and BASS for their valuable contributions.

I urge all my colleagues to seize this opportunity and vote for H.R. 2494 and then help us bring a little pressure to bear to get this bill out of the Senate.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reiterate a point I made during the Foreign Affairs Committee markup of the Global Anti-Poaching Act, H.R. 2494, which is being considered on the House floor today.

At the markup in June, I offered a very specific amendment to this bill that would simply ensure that nothing in Section 6 of this Act shall be construed to authorize the use of the United States Armed Forces in combat activities. Since that time, I am happy to see that the Chairman has amended the text of this legislation to reflect my concerns.

I think it is important to state, once again, that this bill does not authorize the use of U.S. forces in combat activities as a result of fighting poaching. At markup the Chairman assured me that nothing in this bill could be construed to authorize such a combat activity, and the amended text of this bill does more to ensure that is the case.

We all know that poaching is a very serious problem and I believe this bill is a constructive

step toward combating that evil. I applaud Chairman ROYCE for his work on this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2494, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 8 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. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

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

The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1853) to direct the President to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan in the International Criminal Police Organization, and for other purposes, 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 the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 0, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 582]

YEAS—392

Abraham	Bishop (UT)	Burgess
Adams	Black	Bustos
Aderholt	Blackburn	Butterfield
Aguilar	Blum	Byrne
Allen	Blumenauer	Calvert
Amash	Bonamici	Capps
Amodei	Bost	Capuano
Ashford	Boustany	Cárdenas
Babin	Boyle, Brendan	Carney
Barletta	F.	Carson (IN)
Barr	Brady (PA)	Carter (GA)
Barton	Brady (TX)	Carter (TX)
Beatty	Brat	Cartwright
Becerra	Bridenstine	Castor (FL)
Benishek	Brooks (AL)	Castro (TX)
Bera	Brooks (IN)	Chabot
Beyer	Brown (FL)	Chaffetz
Bilirakis	Brownley (CA)	Chu, Judy
Bishop (GA)	Buck	Cicilline
Bishop (MI)	Bucshon	Clark (MA)

Clarke (NY)	Hice, Jody B.	Mulvaney
Clawson (FL)	Higgins	Murphy (FL)
Cleaver	Hill	Murphy (PA)
Clyburn	Himes	Napolitano
Coffman	Hinojosa	Neal
Cohen	Holding	Neugebauer
Cole	Honda	Newhouse
Collins (GA)	Hoyer	Noem
Collins (NY)	Hudson	Nolan
Conaway	Huelskamp	Norcross
Connolly	Huffman	Nugent
Conyers	Huizenga (MI)	Nunes
Cook	Hultgren	O'Rourke
Cooper	Hunter	Olson
Costa	Hurd (TX)	Palazzo
Costello (PA)	Issa	Pallone
Courtney	Jeffries	Palmer
Cramer	Jenkins (KS)	Pascarell
Crenshaw	Jenkins (WV)	Paulsen
Crowley	Johnson (GA)	Pearce
Cuellar	Johnson (OH)	Perlmutter
Culberson	Johnson, E. B.	Perry
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Peters
Davis (CA)	Jolly	Peterson
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Pittenger
DeFazio	Jordan	Pitts
DeGette	Joyce	Pocan
Delaney	Kaptur	Poe (TX)
DeLauro	Katko	Poliquin
DeBene	Keating	Polis
Denham	Kelly (IL)	Pompeo
Dent	Kelly (PA)	Posey
DeSantis	Kennedy	Price (NC)
DeSaulnier	Kildee	Price, Tom
DesJarlais	Kilmer	Quigley
Deutch	Kind	Rangel
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Ratcliffe
Dingell	King (NY)	Reed
Doggett	Kinzinger (IL)	Reichert
Dold	Kline	Renacci
Donovan	Knight	Ribble
Doyle, Michael	Kuster	Rice (SC)
F.	LaHood	Rigell
Duckworth	LaMalfa	Roby
Duffy	Lamborn	Roe (TN)
Duncan (SC)	Lance	Rogers (AL)
Duncan (TN)	Langevin	Rogers (KY)
Edwards	Larsen (WA)	Rokita
Ellison	Larson (CT)	Rooney (FL)
Emmer (MN)	Latta	Ros-Lehtinen
Engel	Lawrence	Roskam
Eshoo	Lee	Ross
Esty	Levin	Rothfus
Farenthold	Lewis	Rouzer
Farr	Lieu, Ted	Roybal-Allard
Fattah	LoBiondo	Royce
Fitzpatrick	Loeb sack	Ruiz
Fleischmann	Lofgren	Ruppersberger
Fleming	Long	Russell
Flores	Loudermillk	Salmon
Forbes	Love	Sánchez, Linda
Fortenberry	Lowenthal	T.
Foster	Lowe y	Sarbanes
Fox	Lucas	Scalise
Frankel (FL)	Luetkemeyer	Schakowsky
Franks (AZ)	Lujan Grisham	Schiff
Frelinghuysen	(NM)	Schrader
Fudge	Lummis	Schweikert
Gallego	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Garamendi	MacArthur	Scott, Austin
Garrett	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Gibbs	Marchant	Sensenbrenner
Gibson	Marino	Serrano
Goodlatte	Massie	Sessions
Gosar	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Gowdy	McCarthy	Sherman
Graham	McCaul	Shimkus
Granger	McClintock	Shuster
Graves (GA)	McCollum	Simpson
Graves (LA)	McDermott	Sinema
Graves (MO)	McGovern	Sires
Grayson	McHenry	Slaughter
Green, Al	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Green, Gene	McMorris	Smith (NE)
Griffith	Rodgers	Smith (NJ)
Grothman	McNerney	Smith (TX)
Guinta	McSally	Smith (WA)
Guthrie	Meadows	Stefanik
Hahn	Meehan	Stewart
Hanna	Meng	Stivers
Hardy	Messer	Swalwell (CA)
Harper	Mica	Takano
Harris	Miller (FL)	Thompson (CA)
Hartzler	Miller (MI)	Thompson (MS)
Hastings	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)
Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)	Thornberry
Heck (WA)	Moore	Tiberi
Hensarling	Moulton	Tipton
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	Titus

Tonko	Walberg	Westerman
Torres	Walden	Williams
Trott	Walker	Wilson (FL)
Tsongas	Walorski	Wilson (SC)
Turner	Walters, Mimi	Wittman
Upton	Walz	Womack
Valadao	Wasserman	Woodall
Van Hollen	Schultz	Yoho
Vargas	Waters, Maxine	Young (AK)
Veasey	Watson Coleman	Young (IA)
Vela	Weber (TX)	Young (IN)
Velázquez	Webster (FL)	Zeldin
Visclosky	Welch	Zinke
Wagner	Wenstrup	

NOT VOTING—41

Bass	Jackson Lee	Richmond
Buchanan	Kelly (MS)	Rohrabacher
Clay	Kirkpatrick	Rush
Comstock	Labrador	Ryan (OH)
Crawford	Lipinski	Sanchez, Loretta
Cummings	Lujan, Ben Ray	Sanford
Davis, Danny	(NM)	Speier
Ellmers (NC)	Maloney,	Stutzman
Fincher	Carolyn	Takai
Gabbard	Meeks	Westmoreland
Gohmert	Nadler	Whitfield
Grijalva	Payne	Yarmuth
Gutiérrez	Pelosi	Yoder
Hurt (VA)	Pingree	
Israel	Rice (NY)	

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

□ 1900

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 354) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the safety and security of Jewish communities in Europe.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 354

Whereas anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts, including violent attacks on people and places of faith, have increased in frequency, variety, and severity in many countries in Europe;

Whereas the French Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive (Jewish Community Security Service) reported an increase in anti-Semitic acts in France between 2013 to 2014 (from 423 acts to 851), including an increase in violent ones (from 105 acts to 241);

Whereas the Community Security Trust reported an increase in anti-Semitic acts in