

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, The nation's fiscal footing is serious business. It is too bad, then, that so much of the conversation around funding the federal government was consumed by policy riders and petty projects championed by narrow interest groups. Congress should be investing in the foundations of American prosperity and the infrastructure that supports the success of individual Americans. Rebuilding and renewing our nation's badly eroded infrastructure, strengthening our nation's healthcare system, protecting our environment, streamlining and reforming the Department of Defense, and ensuring that our financial watchdogs have the resources they need to rein in financial bad actors are all necessary investments and key obligations of our nation's government. I'm pleased that this funding package dropped many of the damaging and narrow riders that would have hurt our environment, women, and our diplomatic relationships, and, while I am still disappointed that Congress could not do more, this compromise marks a step forward from the terrible choices outlined in the Republican budget earlier this year.

DEFENSE

One of the greatest areas of disappointment for me in this legislation is defense spending. This bill provides more funding for our military than nearly the rest of the world combined, and represents a missed opportunity for much needed reform. The greatest threat to our future is losing control of our ability to make tough decisions that will enable us to sustain our military and, more importantly, to sustain the economy. Wasteful weapons programs that continue to arm us for the Cold War, unsustainable deployment strategies, and the tragic ongoing funding for an unwinnable war in Afghanistan could have been addressed. Sadly, this bill fails to set down a marker for real change, and forfeits and opportunity to lead responsibly.

EDUCATION

I am pleased that this bill protects the Pell Grant program and maintains the current \$4,860 maximum. In addition, the small increases in IDEA and Title I funding, while far less than what are necessary, are a significant improvement compared to earlier Republican proposals. While many of the programs are facing cuts, I appreciate the continued funding for the Arts in Education program, as well as the programs that support teacher development and special education.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

With regard to environment and energy, this bill could have been worse. I'm pleased that many of the most egregious riders were removed from the Interior-Environment and Energy and Water titles. It is inappropriate to use the appropriations process to make policy and score political points. I am strongly opposed to the legislative riders that remain, including language that would stop the Department of Energy from enforcing new efficiency standards for light bulbs. These standards stemmed from a non-controversial and bi-partisan initiative in 2005 and this rider is sadly indicative of how partisan and politically-motivated the legislative process has become.

I am also extremely disappointed in the funding levels for important environmental and public health protections. The Environmental Protection Agency suffers an almost 20 percent cut, including significant reductions for

Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and climate and air research programs that are used by states. These reductions undermine the Federal partnership with local communities and will make it more difficult to clean the air and water and protect important public lands.

While overall I am concerned about the funding levels for the Environmental Protection Agency, I am pleased that the Committee maintained funding for EPA's Office of Smart Growth, part of the Interagency Partnership between HUD, DOT and EPA. The funds allocated to the Office of Smart Growth and the Interagency Partnership recognize the model that the Partnership presents. At a time of dwindling government funds, we need to ensure that our programs are working in concert, that we reduce red tape when possible, and that we are encouraging communities to use federal dollars to address multiple areas: economic development, public health, transportation planning, environmental protection, affordable housing and community planning. I am pleased that the Committee has recognized the importance of the Office of Smart Growth and its associated offices at HUD and DOT.

With bipartisan support including that of President George W. Bush, Congress amended the Lacey Act—which bars trade in illegal wildlife products—in 2008 to include a ban on illegally harvested wood. These amendments have helped U.S. businesses compete on a level playing field, saved over \$1 billion annually, and protected thousands of U.S. jobs. Crucial to continuing these successes comes from investing in the enforcement of this law. I am happy to see \$200 million for enforcement, but it's my belief that we ought to be making a greater investment.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Excessive risk-taking by banks coupled with lax regulations contributed to the financial crisis that devastated millions of families. Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act to give federal regulatory agencies the tools they need to protect consumers and the global financial system. This bill increases the resources of the Securities Exchange Commission by 8 percent, which will aid enforcement and implementation of Dodd-Frank. Despite some improvements, I retain significant concerns with the legislation. I urge my colleagues to continue buttressing the budgets of critical agencies like the Internal Revenue Service, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, to ensure adequate policing of financial markets and limit the risk of another global financial collapse.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The omnibus legislation takes a refreshing break from partisan politics when it comes to making a critical investment in our public broadcasting system. After a long year of fighting hard to protect funding and to depoliticize this issue, I am extremely pleased to see \$445 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CPB, the advanced appropriation for CPB, Fiscal Year 2013 funding untouched, and flat-level funding for Ready to Learn, a program which brings award-winning educational content into underserved classrooms.

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

As the founder and co-chairman of the Unexploded Ordnance, UXO, Caucus, which

aims to raise awareness in Congress of the health, safety, and environmental risks of UXO and the challenges faced by communities and the federal government to clean up UXO on former military sites, I am very pleased to see our government willing to lead by example and invest in necessary environmental cleanup. For too long, former military bases are left littered with dangerous, unexploded munitions and toxic chemicals. The government has a responsibility to clean up these sites and return the land to the local community so it can put it to use and boost their economy.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Water is essential to just about every kind of development assistance. If developing countries don't have access to clean water or adequate sanitation facilities, it doesn't matter how many schools we build or vaccines we pass out. Those investments are wasted because children can't learn if they have to stay home to collect water, or can't ingest retroviral medications because of waterborne disease. Water must be a priority in any development discussion, and I extremely pleased to see this legislation do just that by setting aside \$315 million to provide greater access for the world's poorest.

It is vital that Congress renew its focus on investing in the infrastructure that underpins America's growth. I reluctantly support this legislation but I urge my colleagues to redouble their efforts to renew and rebuild America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). All time for debate has expired. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the conference report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3672

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 500, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 94

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 3672) making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In the heading for title III, strike "PROVISION" and insert "PROVISIONS".

(2) After section 301, insert the following new section:

"SEC. 302. (a) ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESCIS- SION.—There is hereby rescinded an amount equal to 1.83 percent of—

“(1) the budget authority provided for fiscal year 2012 for any discretionary account in any fiscal year 2012 appropriation Act (except the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2012 and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012); and

“(2) the budget authority provided in any advance appropriation for fiscal year 2012 for any discretionary account (other than for the Department of Veterans Affairs) in any prior fiscal year appropriation Act.

“(b) PROPORTIONATE APPLICATION.—Any rescission made by subsection (a) shall be applied proportionately—

“(1) to each discretionary account and each item of budget authority described in such subsection; and

“(2) within each such account and item, to each program, project, and activity (with programs, projects, and activities as delineated in the appropriation Act or accompanying reports for the relevant fiscal year covering such account or item, or for accounts and items not included in appropriation Acts, as delineated in the most recently submitted President’s budget).

“(c) EXCEPTIONS.—The rescission in subsection (a) shall not apply to budget authority provided for fiscal year 2012 that is designated by the Congress as being for—

“(1) disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(2) Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

“(d) SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS LAWS.—In the case of any fiscal year 2012 appropriation law enacted after the enactment of this section, any rescission required by subsection (a) shall take effect immediately after the enactment of such law.

“(e) OMB REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying the account and amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsection (a).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I rise to present H. Con. Res. 94. This bill contains a legislative provision to offset the \$8.1 billion in disaster funding provided by H.R. 3672, which we will consider shortly.

This offset is funded by a 1.83 percent across-the-board cut to all of fiscal 2012 base discretionary spending, except the Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

Such an offset ensures that we are living within our means while still providing for the hundreds of thousands of Americans affected by recent natural disasters with the help that they need.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which, in effect, pays for the disaster funding which will come later.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

It is the opinion of our side that this is unnecessary, but we’ve got to move

forward and get this bill passed. So I don’t object to this particular provision. I hope we can move forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield back the balance of my time, urging support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 500, I call up the bill (H.R. 3672) making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3672

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DISASTER RELIEF

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY DISASTER RELIEF FUND

For an additional amount for the “Disaster Relief Fund” for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$6,400,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For an additional amount for “Mississippi River and Tributaries” for necessary expenses for repair of damages to Federal projects resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$802,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985:

Provided further, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly report detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance” for necessary expenses to dredge navigation channels in response to, and repair damage to Corps projects resulting from, a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$534,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly report detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for “Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies”, as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for necessary expenses to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repair, and other activities as authorized by law, in response to a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), \$388,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly report detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—COMBATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For an additional amount for continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, not more than \$483,484,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to therein: *Provided*, That such amount is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of subsection 251(b)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and shall be treated for such purposes as being included under this heading in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, or any continuing appropriation Act, for fiscal year 2012.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISION

SEC. 301. Each amount appropriated or made available in this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

This Act may be cited as the “Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012”.