Price (NC)

Quigley

Raskin

Ross

Ruiz

Rush

Ryan

Sánchez

Sarbanes

Scanlon

Schneider

Schrier Scott (VA)

Scott, David

Schrader

Schiff

Sewell

Sherman

Sherrill

Slotkin

Smith (WA)

Spanberger

Stansbury

Strickland

Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)

Stanton

Stevens

Suozzi

Swalwell

Takano

Titus

Tlaib

Tonko

Trahan

Trone

Vargas

Veasev Velázquez

Waters

Welch

Wild

Wexton

Torres (CA)

Torres (NY)

Underwood

Wasserman

Schultz

Watson Coleman

Williams (GA)

Wilson (FL)

Yarmuth

Sires

Soto

Speier

Schakowsky

Rice (NY)

Roybal-Allard

Ruppersberger

Miller-Meeks Moolenaar Mooney Moore (AL) Moore (UT) Mullin Murphy (NC) Nehls Newhouse Norman Obernolte Owens Palazzo Palmer Pence Perry Pfluger Posev Reschenthaler Rice (SC) Rodgers (WA) Steil Steube Rogers (AL) Stewart Rogers (KY) Taylor

Rose Tenney Rosendale Thompson (PA) Rouzer Tiffanv Rov Timmons Rutherford Turner Salazar Unton Scalise Valadao Schweikert Van Drew Scott, Austin Van Duyne Sessions Wagner Simpson Walberg Smith (MO) Walorski Smith (NE) Waltz Smith (NJ) Weber (TX) Smucker Spartz Wenstrup Stauber Westerman Stee1 Stefanik

Webster (FL) Williams (TX) Wilson (SC)

Wittman

Womack

Zeldin

NOT VOTING-4

Casten Kinzinger Hartzler Mast

\square 1147

CALVERT Messrs. CAREY and changed their vote from "yea" "nay.

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote number 394. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on motion to move the previous question on H. Res. 1256.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Guthrie (Barr) Babin (Jackson) Stevens (Kuster) Bass (Neguse) Jones (Beyer) Stewart Blumenauer Kahele (Correa) (Garbarino) (Bever) Kirkpatrick Taylor (Fallon) Bourdeaux (Pallone) Thompson (CA) Meeks (Jeffries) (Correa) (Beyer) Brown (MD) Moore (WI) Thompson (MS) (Trone) Bush (Jeffries) (Beyer) Payne (Pallone) (Bishop (GA)) Vargas (Correa) Carter (TX) Ruppersberger Walorski (Banks) $(Weber\ (TX))$ (Trone) Welch (Pallone) Rush (Bishop Crist Williams (GA) (Wasserman (GA))(Neguse) Ryan (Kuster) Scott, David Schultz) Wilson (SC) (Nor-DeSaulnier (Beyer) (Correa) man) Evans (Beyer) Sires (Pallone)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUIGLEY). The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the year and navs.

The yeas and nays were ordered. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 207, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 395] YEAS-218

Adams Bowman Casten Aguilar Boyle, Brendan Castor (FL) Castro (TX) Allred Cheney Auchincloss Brown (MD) Cherfilus-Axne Brown (OH) Barragán McCormick Brownley Chu Bass Bush Cicilline Beatty Bustos Butterfield Bera Clark (MA) Beyer Carbajal Clarke (NY) Bishop (GA) Cárdenas Cleaver Clyburn Blumenauer Carson Carter (LA) Blunt Rochester Cohen Bonamici Cartwright Connolly Bourdeaux Cooper Case

Correa Kim (NJ) Costa Kind Courtney Kirkpatrick Craig Krishnamoorthi Crist Kuster Crow Lamb Cuellar Langevin Davids (KS) Larsen (WA) Davis, Danny K. Larson (CT) Dean Lawrence Lawson (FL) DeFazio Lee (CA) DeGette DeLauro Lee (NV) DelBene Leger Fernandez Demings Levin (CA) DeSaulnier Levin (MI) Deutch Lieu Dingell Lofgren Doyle, Michael Lowenthal Luria Escobar Lynch Eshoo Malinowski Espaillat Maloney, Carolyn B. Evans Fletcher Malonev, Sean Foster Manning Frankel, Lois Matsui McBath Gallego Garamendi McCollum García (IL) McEachin Garcia (TX) McGovern Golden McNerney Gomez Meeks Gonzalez Meng Vicente Gottheimer Green, Al (TX) Grijalya Harder (CA)

Moore (WI) Morelle Moulton Mrvan Murphy (FL) Hayes Nadler Higgins (NY) Napolitano Himes Nea1 Horsford Neguse Houlahan Newman Hoyer Norcross O'Halleran Huffman Jackson Lee Ocasio-Cortez Jacobs (CA) Omar Jayapal Pallone Jeffries. Panetta. Johnson (GA) Pappas Pascrell Johnson (TX) Jones Payne Kahele Perlmutter Kaptur Keating Phillips Kelly (IL) Pingree Khanna Pocan Kildee Porter Kilmer Presslev

Aderholt

Allen

Babin

Bacon

Baird

Banks

Barr

Bentz

Biggs

Bergman

Bice (OK)

Bilirakis

Boebert

Bost

Brady

Brooks

Buck

Budd

Buchanan

Bucshon

Burchett

Burgess

Calvert

Carey

Carl

Cammack

Carter (GA)

Carter (TX)

Gohmert

Cawthorn

Chabot

Cline

Cloud

Bishop (NC)

Amodei

Armstrong

Arrington

Balderson

NAYS-207

Clyde Gonzales, Tony Cole Gonzalez (OH) Comer Good (VA) Conway Gooden (TX) Crawford Gosar Crenshaw Granger Curtis Graves (LA) Davidson Graves (MO) Davis, Rodney Green (TN) DesJarlais Greene (GA) Diaz-Balart Griffith Doggett Grothman Donalds Guest Guthrie Duncan Dunn Harris Ellzev Harshbarger Hern Estes Fallon Herrell Herrera Beutler Feenstra Ferguson Hice (GA) Fischbach Higgins (LA) Fitzgerald Hill. Fitzpatrick Hinson Fleischmann Hollingsworth Flood Hudson Flores Huizenga Foxx Franklin, C. Issa Jackson Jacobs (NY) Scott Fulcher Johnson (LA) Gaetz Johnson (OH) Gallagher Johnson (SD Garbarino Jordan Joyce (OH) Garcia (CA) Joyce (PA) Gibbs Gimenez Katko

Keller

Kelly (MS) Kelly (PA) Kim (CA) Kustoff LaHood LaMalfa Lamborn Latta LaTurner Lesko Letlow Long Loudermilk Lucas Luetkemever Mace Malliotakis Mann Massie Mast McCarthy McCaul McClain McClintock McHenry McKinley Meijer Meuser Miller (IL) Miller (WV) Miller-Meeks Moolenaar Mooney Emmer

Moore (AL) Moore (UT) Mullin Murphy (NC) Newhouse Norman Obernolte Owens Palazzo Palmer Pence Perry Pfluger Posey Reschenthaler Rice (SC) Rodgers (WA) Rogers (AL) Rogers (KY) Rose Rosendale Rouzer Roy Rutherford Salazar Scalise Schweikert Scott, Austin Sessions Simpson Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Smith (NJ) NOT VOTING-5

Spartz Stauber Steel Stefanik Steil Steube Stewart Taylor Tenney Thompson (PA) Tiffany Timmons Turner Upton Valadao Van Drew Van Duyne Wagner Walberg Walorski Waltz Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Williams (TX) Wilson (SC) Wittman Womack Zeldin

Kinzinger Nehls Hartzler Mfume

\Box 1159

So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Babin (Jackson) Guthrie (Barr) Bass (Neguse) Jones (Beyer) Blumenauer Kahele (Correa) (Beyer) Kirkpatrick Bourdeaux (Pallone) (Correa) Mast (Salazar) Brown (MD) Meeks (Jeffries) (Trone) Bush (Jeffries) Moore (WI) (Beyer) Carter (TX) Payne (Pallone) (Weber (TX)) Casten (Neguse) Ruppersberger (Trone) Rush (Bishop Crist (GA)) Ryan (Kuster) (Wasserman Schultz) DeSaulnier Scott, David (Norman) (Bever) (Correa) Evans (Beyer) Sires (Pallone)

Stevens (Kuster) Stewart (Garbarino) Taylor (Fallon) Thompson (CA) (Beyer) Thompson (MS) (Bishop (GA)) Vargas (Correa) Walorski (Banks) Welch (Pallone) Williams (GA) (Neguse) Wilson (SC)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KUSTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motions to suspend the rules if a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or if the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

ORIGINAL SLAVERY REMEM-BRANCE DAY RESOLUTION OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1256, H. Res. 517 is considered as agreed to.

The text of the resolution is as fol-

H. RES. 517

Whereas this resolution may be cited as the "Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021":

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world:

Whereas we posthumously recognize the following Members of Congress, who served during and after the Reconstruction era, as honorary cosponsors of this resolution: the Honorable Joseph Hayne Rainev (SC-01). Member of Congress from 1870 to 1879. Jefferson Franklin Long (GA-04), Member of Congress from January 1871 to March 1871. Robert Carlos De Large (SC-02). Member of Congress from 1871 to 1873, Robert Brown Elliott (SC-3). Member of Congress from 1871 to 1874. Benjamin Sterling Turner (AL-01), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1873, Josiah Thomas Walls (FL-At Large), Member of Congress from 1871 to 1876, Alanzo Jacob Ransier (SC-02). Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875. Richard Harvey Cain (SC-At Large), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875 and 1877 to 1879. John Roy Lynch (MS-06), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1877 and 1882 to 1883, James Thomas Rapier (AL-02), Member of Congress from 1873 to 1875, Jeremiah Haralson (AL-01). Member of Congress from 1875 to 1877, John Adams Hyman (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1877, Roberts Smalls (SC-07), Member of Congress from 1875 to 1879 and 1882 to 1883 and 1884 to 1887, James Edward O'hara (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1883 to 1887, Herney Plummer Cheatham (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1889 to 1893, John Mercer Langston (VA-04), Member of Congress from 1890 to 1891, Thomas Ezekiel Miller, Member of Congress from 1890 to 1891, George Washington Murray (SC-01), Member of Congress from 1893 to 1895 and 1896 to 1897, and George Henry White (NC-02), Member of Congress from 1897 to 1901;

Whereas, on August 20, 1619, the first 20 enslaved Africans were brought to what is now Fort Monroe, then Point Comfort, in Hampton, Virginia against their will;

Whereas the House of Representatives recognizes August 20, 2021, as "Slavery Remembrance Day" and commemorates the lives of all enslaved people while also condemning the act and perpetuation of slavery in the United States of America and across the world:

Whereas African tribal chiefs captured, enslaved, and sold their captives to transatlantic slave traders;

Whereas, over the period of the Atlantic slave trade, from approximately 1526 to 1867, millions of humans were abducted and shipped from Africa, and 10,700,000 arrived in the Americas as personal property;

Whereas the majority of enslaved Africans brought to British North America arrived between 1720 and 1780;

Whereas about 6 percent of African captives were sent directly to British North America:

Whereas, by 1825, the population of the United States included about one quarter of the people of African descent in what has been called the New World;

Whereas the Middle Passage from West Africa to the West Indies was dangerous and horrific for enslaved people;

Whereas the Middle Passage carried mothers, fathers, children, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, and individuals from all walks of life to slavery in the Americas;

Whereas, although the sexes were separated, men, women, and children were kept naked, packed close together, and the men were chained for long periods;

Whereas, according to some historians, about 12 percent of those who embarked did not survive the voyage;

Whereas sharks followed the slave ships to feed on bodies of slaves thrown overboard;

Whereas enslaved people suffered a variety of miserable and often fatal maladies due to the Atlantic slave trade, and to inhumane living and working conditions;

Whereas infant and child mortality rates were twice as high among slave children as among Southern White children;

Whereas enslaved people often worked from before sunup to after sundown, 6 to 7 days a week often without food for long periods of time:

Whereas enslaved Black families lived with the perpetual possibility of separation caused by the sale of one or more family members:

Whereas it is estimated that approximately one third of enslaved children in the upper South States of Maryland and Virginia experienced family separation in one of three possible scenarios: sale away from parents, sale with mother away from father, or sale of mother or father away from child;

Whereas Nat Turner was born into slavery in Southampton County, Virginia, in 1800;

Whereas Southampton County was home to many plantations, and enslaved people outnumbered free Whites:

Whereas Turner learned to read and write at a young age, becoming deeply religious;

Whereas Turner was sold to several different masters over the course of his life, the last time in 1830:

Whereas Turner preached to his fellow enslaved people, developing a loyal following:

Whereas Turner began planning a revolt with a few trusted fellow enslaved men from neighboring plantations;

Whereas Turner's rebellion began in August 1831, quickly growing from a small handful of enslaved individuals to more than 70 enslaved and free Blacks:

Whereas the rebels went from house to house in Southampton County, freeing enslaved people;

Whereas the rebels were ultimately defeated by a State militia that had over twice the manpower of the rebels, with three artillery companies reinforcing it:

Whereas Turner was captured 6 weeks after the rebellion was put down, whereupon he was promptly convicted and sentenced to death:

Whereas, in retaliation for the uprising, Virginia officially executed 56 Black people, with at least 100 more killed by militias through extraindicial violence:

Whereas the rebellion caused widespread panic among slaveholders throughout the South, resulting in widespread violence against enslaved people:

Whereas, in the wake of the rebellion, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation making it illegal to teach enslaved or free Blacks to read and write;

Whereas the Underground Railroad was a network of individuals who helped around 100,000 slaves escape North;

Whereas the railroad began when a "conductor" often posing as a slave would enter a plantation and attempt to guide runaways;

Whereas escapees would travel 10 to 20 miles each night between safe houses or "stations" to avoid detection, waiting in safe houses for the next along the line to be alerted to their presence:

Whereas individuals running each station, many of whom were White, knew only of local efforts and not the entire operation;

Whereas Harriet Tubman, born Araminta Ross, lived as an enslaved person through her young life where she endured regular whippings and suffered a traumatic head in-

jury at the hands of an overseer, causing her narcoleptic episodes and migraines throughout her life:

Whereas Ms. Tubman escaped from slavery along the Underground Railroad, a network of abolitionists who guided escaped slaves to the North traveling primarily at night to avoid bounty hunters:

Whereas Ms. Tubman returned to the South no less than 13 times to free 70 enslaved persons, including much of her family, for which she would be given the name "Moses";

Whereas Ms. Tubman deftly led those she saved North during the fall and winter when their would-be captors stayed inside to avoid the cold:

Whereas, in Ms. Tubman's own words, "I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger";

Whereas, during the Civil War, Ms. Tubman served as a nurse, scout, and spy in the Union army, becoming the first woman to plan and lead a military operation in the United States, liberating 700 enslaved people in South Carolina;

Whereas, later in life, Ms. Tubman continued working to improve the lives of oppressed people, raising funds for and building schools as well as a hospital in the name of formerly enslaved people while participating in the women's suffrage movement:

Whereas John Brown, an abolitionist who ran an important stop on the Underground Railroad, dedicated his life to ending slavery:

Whereas Brown lead a militia in guerrilla attacks on proslavery towns in Kansas, losing one of his sons in the struggle;

Whereas Brown, with the help of Harriet Tubman, planned and organized an invasion of the South to free all slaves;

Whereas Brown began his invasion at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, but was surrounded and captured by Federal troops led by Robert E. Lee, losing two more sons in the fighting;

Whereas the 13th Amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, and provides that "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.";

Whereas, beginning in the 20th century, African Americans began to relocate from Southern farms to Southern cities, from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West, in a movement known as the "Great Migration":

Whereas the relocation of formerly enslaved individuals and their descendants also included unfavorable and at times unjust interactions with law enforcement that often resulted in imprisonment and convict leasing;

Whereas convict leasing, also known as slavery by another name, was a system that allowed prisons to lease imprisoned individuals to private entities, often corporations and plantations;

Whereas the remains of 95 persons, thought to be of African ancestry, who were subjected to the State of Texas' convict leasing system were discovered in 2018 at the construction site of Fort Bend Independent School District's James Reese Career and Technical Center in Sugar Land, Texas;

Whereas, while slavery was abolished, descendants of the enslaved continue to live with the effects of slavery's progenies: Jim Crow, mass lynching, segregation, police brutality, mass incarceration, and institutionalized racism; and

Whereas, despite the horrors of slavery and against all odds, enslaved people became thought leaders and revolutionaries and

changed the course of American history: Now, therefore, be it Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution of 2021".

SEC. 2. SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY.

That the House of Representatives-

- (1) supports the designation of a "Slavery Remembrance Day" to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery;
- (2) condemns slavery and its evil progenies: and
- (3) encourages all to acknowledge the importance of slavery remembrance.

INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNI-CATION SCIENCES CODIFICATION ACT

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker. I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4990) to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4990

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 "Institute for Telecommunication Sciences Codification Act" or the "ITS Codification Act".

SEC. 2. INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES.

- (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- (1) The test center within National Telecommunications and Information Administration (in this subsection referred to as the "NTIA") represents executive branch agencies on spectrum issues before the Federal Communications Commission.
- (2) Understanding radio frequency propagation characteristics and modeling is a critical component of making spectrum decisions.
- (3) Federal agencies rely on expert engineering studies, simulations, and analyses to make determinations about how to make spectrum available for commercial use, including through system relocations and identifving spectrum sharing opportunities through the NTIA.
- (4) Clearing of Federal spectrum, when feasible, is the priority action to take to make Federal spectrum available for commercial uses as required by section 113(j)(1) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923(j)(1)).
- (5) Sharing of Federal spectrum between Federal entities and commercial entities provides access to Federal spectrum for commercial uses in circumstances where clearing is not feasible.
- (6) The test center within NTIA, is the Government's premier expert laboratory for spectrum research activities, spectrum sharing innovation and testing, spectrum interference studies, and all activities related to advancing next generation wireless technologies.
- (7) The test center within NTIA is critical for undertaking engineering studies and

analyses that inform clearing or sharing opportunities and facilitate policy decisions to maximize the efficient use of spectrum re-

(b) OPERATION OF TEST CENTER.—Part A of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 106. INSTITUTE FOR TELECOMMUNICATION SCIENCES.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.-

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the authority provided to the Assistant Secretary under section 103, the Assistant Secretary shall operate a test center to be known as the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (in this section referred to as 'ITS').

(2) Functions.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any functions delegated by the Assistant Secretary under subparagraph (B), ITS shall serve as the primary laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government to-

(i) study radio frequency emissions, including technologies and techniques to control such emissions and interference caused by such emissions:

"(ii) determine spectrum propagation characteristics:

"(iii) conduct tests on technology that enhances the sharing of electromagnetic spectrum between Federal and non-Federal users: '(iv) improve the interference tolerance of

Federal systems operating with, or using, Federal spectrum:

'(v) promote activities relating to access to Federal spectrum by non-Federal users and the sharing of Federal spectrum between Federal and non-Federal users: and

"(vi) conduct such other activities as determined necessary by the Assistant Secretary.

"(B) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS.—The Assistant Secretary may delegate to ITS any of the functions assigned to the Assistant Secretary under section 103(b)(1).

"(3) AGREEMENTS AND TRANSACTIONS.—In carrying out the functions described in paragraph (2), the Assistant Secretary, acting through the head of ITS, may enter into agreements as provided under the following

"(A) Sections 11 and 12 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980.

"(B) Section 1535 of title 31, United States Code.

"(C) Sections 207 and 209 of title 35, United States Code.

"(D) Section 103(b)(2) of this Act.

"(E) Section 113(g) of this Act.

"(F) The first undesignated section of Public Law 91-412.

"(G) As authorized in any other Federal statute.

"(4) FEDERAL SPECTRUM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'Federal spectrum' means frequencies assigned on a primary basis to a Federal entity (as defined in section 113(1)).

"(b) Emergency COMMUNICATION Tracking Technologies Initiative.-

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Secretary, acting through the head of ITS, shall establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies for use in locating trapped individuals in confined spaces, such as underground mines, and other shielded environments, such as high-rise buildings or collapsed structures, where conventional radio communication is limited.

"(2) ACTIVITIES.—In order to carry out this subsection, the Assistant Secretary, acting through the head of ITS, shall work with private sector entities and the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, to-

"(A) perform a needs assessment to identify and evaluate the measurement, technical specifications, and conformity assessment needs required to improve the operation and reliability of such emergency communication and tracking technologies; and

"(B) support the development of technical specifications and conformance architecture to improve the operation and reliability of such emergency communication and tracking technologies.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report on the assessment performed under paragraph (2)(A).".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4990.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4990, the ITS Codification Act.

The Institute for Telecommunication Sciences, or ITS, is the premier engineering laboratory of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA. Amongst its many responsibilities, ITS manages various technology development programs for NTIA and the Department of Commerce and oversees cutting-edge studies concerning the use of our country's airwaves. ITS has played a significant role in furthering telecommunication advancements for our country's benefit.

H.R. 4990 recognizes the numerous contributions of ITS by providing it with additional statutory authority. Specifically, under this legislation, ITS will serve as the primary laboratory for the executive branch of the Federal Government. It will be charged with studying the use of innovative sharing technologies for our airwaves and improving the interference tolerance of Federal systems operating with, or using, Federal spectrum. The legislation also will allow the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, acting through the head of ITS, to enter into agreements needed to carry out the functions of ITS.

This bill also requires the Assistant Secretary to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies. These technologies would then be used to locate individuals