

9. Senate Amendment to H.R. 5901—Real Estate Jobs and Investment Act of 2010 (Representative JOE CROWLEY—Ways & Means)

10. H. Res. 1783—Technical Correction to H. Res. 1757 (Representative BRADY (PA)—House Administration)

11. S. 4058—Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2010 (Senator KERRY—Veterans' Affairs)

12. S. 3903—To authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (Senator UDALL—Natural Resources)

13. Senate Amendment to H.R. 6517—To extend trade adjustment assistance and certain trade preference programs, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, and for other purposes (Representative LEVIN—Ways and Means)

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3082, a continuing resolution that would fund federal government operations on a temporary basis through March 4, 2011. Regrettably, one of the last votes of the 111th Congress has become the first vote of the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I take seriously my annual responsibility to assess funding priorities, perform oversight, and allocate federal dollars where they are most needed and will make the greatest impact. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate are choosing to abandon this important work. They are blocking action on a fiscal year 2011 funding package that would respond to the current needs of the American people and make critical investments in our communities.

Due to Republican obstruction, the House is forced to consider this appropriations measure, which places the Federal Government on auto-pilot for two months. All difficult decisions are being delayed until another day. Critical federal agencies including the Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense are being subjected to enormous—and avoidable—uncertainty. And the uncertainty created by this short-term continuing resolution goes far beyond Washington. Every state and community across the country will be debating whether they are able to move forward with critical investments, such as the Central Corridor Light Rail in Minnesota.

This temporary appropriations measure underfunds critical priorities in every area of American life from education and agriculture, to transportation and energy. It is inexcusable to withhold necessary investments in the American economy while adding to the deficit with tax cuts for the wealthiest in our society. But that is exactly what Congress is doing this month as a result of the reckless game of brinkmanship my Republican colleagues are playing with the American people.

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF
UNITED STATES-ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Co-Chair of the Romanian Caucus in the House of Representatives, to support the unanimous consent to Senate Resolution S. Con. Res. 67, which Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH introduced on June 30 of this year, to celebrate 130 years of U.S.-Romanian diplomatic relations, to congratulate the Romanian people of their achievements as a great nation, and to reaffirm the deep bonds of trust and values between the United States and Romania. This Resolution is concurrent with House Resolution H. Con. Res. 291 that I introduced on June 29 of this year.

In my five years of leadership of the Romanian Caucus I worked closely with Romanian officials and leaders, and witnessed their commitment to upholding and advancing the values of freedom, democracy and prosperity. Romania has been an extraordinary ally in NATO and a critical partner in the European Union, in addressing some of the most important challenges facing our transatlantic and global community—from ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan, to nuclear proliferation, to energy security. Romania is a trusted ally and a strategic partner of the United States, with whom we have developed great cooperation on issues of common interest, including security, economic and political conditions in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Black Sea and Caucasus regions.

I am very proud of the Congress passing this Resolution, as it reflects and commends the many achievements of the U.S.-Romanian partnership and of the Romanian people. I thank all my colleagues who supported the Resolution and I urge Congress to continue to support cooperation between the United States and Romania, and to deepen the bonds of trust and friendship between our two countries.

CLARIFYING FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY FOR STORMWATER POLLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 22, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3481, a bill that would clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater runoff from buildings, facilities, and lands owned or operated by the Federal Government. This common sense bill ensures that the Federal Government maintains its equitable responsibility for stormwater pollution runoff originating or emanating from its property.

I applaud the outstanding work of the sponsors of this legislation, the distinguished Senator from the State of Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), as well as the sponsor of the House com-

panion for this bill, the Delegate from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for their efforts to move this legislation so quickly to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, simply put, this legislation clarifies that Federal agencies and departments are financially responsible for any reasonable Federal, State, or locally-derived charges for treating or otherwise addressing stormwater pollution that emanates from Federal property.

Existing section 313 of the Clean Water Act states that "Each department, agency, or instrumentality . . . of the Federal Government . . . shall be subject to, and comply with, all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements . . . including the payment of reasonable service charges."

Unfortunately, over the past few months, Congress has learned of several Federal agencies, including some here in the Nation's Capital, that have made the determination that stormwater management fees are "taxes" for which the agencies have claimed sovereign immunity and have refused to pay.

This has left several State and local municipalities with the financial responsibility of addressing ongoing sources of pollution to the nation's waters that any other private business, landowner, or homeowner would otherwise be responsible for paying.

Polluted runoff from urban areas is the fastest growing source of water pollution in America. As urbanization increases, impervious surfaces such as highways, roads, parking lots, and buildings replace non-impervious surfaces that absorb stormwater.

Runoff from impervious surfaces is a central cause of pollution for the nation's waters, and is estimated to be the primary source of impairment for 13 percent of rivers, 18 percent of lakes, and 32 percent of estuaries in the U.S. These are significant figures, especially given that urban areas cover only 3 percent of the land mass of the country.

Even here, in the Nation's Capital, pollution from stormwater runoff poses a significant challenge to the quality of local receiving waters, and negatively impacts the overall environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, stormwater runoff from urban and suburban areas is "a significant source of impairment to the Chesapeake Bay." According to state statistics, 17 percent of phosphorus, 11 percent of nitrogen, and 9 percent of sediment loads to the Bay come from stormwater runoff.

In addition, chemical contaminants from runoff can rival or exceed the amount reaching local waterways from industries, federal facilities, and wastewater treatment plants.

Several states and municipalities, including the District of Columbia, have taken aggressive action to address these ongoing sources of pollution.

Yet, when a significant percentage of property owners take the position that they cannot be held responsible for their pollution, it places a greater financial burden on our States, cities, communities, and local-ratepayers, and makes it less likely that significant reductions in stormwater pollution can be achieved.

S. 3481 amends section 313 of the Clean Water Act to clarify that "reasonable service charges" for addressing pollution from Federal facilities includes reasonable nondiscriminatory fees, charges, or assessments that are based