

As directed by the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the Department of Energy has nevertheless pursued a complete airing of the issues in an open process that solicits public opinion and lets any expert challenge the results of their work. Learning from past mistakes, the Energy Policy Act required that the data and final analysis be shared in order to gain the trust and confidence of the public. Without this openness, the study would be just another Government study over which opposing factions bicker.

In fact, just such a closed study was recently completed by the National Academy of Sciences, and it found no credible evidence for a significant public health threat due to exposure to electromagnetic fields. While I fully respect the work of the academy and this study did reassure many of us, skeptics remain concerned with these results and their views also need to be considered in a public forum.

As promised in the Energy Policy Act, the EMF program at DOE will provide such a forum and analyze the opinions of skeptics and mainstream researchers alike. I look forward to the results of this work, and I think that it is an important step in public understanding of these health risks.

I am also glad to say that the Committee on Science has been able to move expeditiously on this bill in a bipartisan manner. This is due, in large part, to the efforts of the subcommittee chairman, Mr. CALVERT, and the full committee chairman and ranking member, Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. BROWN. I have enjoyed working with each of them, as well as the other members of the committee, and they enjoy my highest respect.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Commerce Committee for yielding me this time.

I also thank the chairman of the Committee on Science and the ranking member, Mr. BROWN, for their support in expediting passage of this bill.

As Chairman SENSENBRENNER has pointed out, this bill will allow the Electric and Magnetic Fields research program to complete its original 5-year authorization. At the same time, we will save the taxpayers money by reducing the authorization some \$19 million to the \$46-million-agreed-upon budget for the program. I should add that 50 percent of this budget is cost-shared by industry.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of the markup of this bill in the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, the distinguished vice-chairman of the full Science Committee, Mr. EHLERS, made the point that all the research to date on this issue has failed to find a significant link between electric and magnetic fields and serious health problems. I agree and I doubt that will change.

Nevertheless, this program was agreed to by both Government and industry to put to rest public concern and, once started, I think it's worth finishing.

Finally, I want to particularly thank my friend from Indiana, our ranking minority member of the subcommittee, Mr. ROEMER, for cosponsoring this bill and working closely with us to expedite the process. Mr. Speaker, this bill has strong bipartisan support and I urge its passage. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado, Mr. DAN SCHAEFER, that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 363, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAN SCHAEFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 363, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### PERMISSION TO INSERT EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1271, FAA RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997, IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TODAY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent during the debate on the bill H.R. 1271, the Federal Aviation Administration Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1997, that I be able to insert extraneous material into the RECORD, specifically, an exchange of correspondence between the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] and myself.

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

There was no objection.

#### FAA RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 125 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1271.

□ 1539

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1271) to authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. STEARNS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER] and the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. GORDON] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. SENSENBRENNER].

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. SENSENBRENNER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1271 authorizes the FAA to carry out its research, engineering, and development program for fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000. The objective of the RE&D program is to develop and validate the technology and knowledge required for the FAA to ensure the safety, efficiency, and security of our national air transportation system. Advances developed through the RE&D program are helping transform the FAA into a modern air traffic management system capable of meeting the increased aviation demands of the coming century.

I would like to thank the Chair of the Subcommittee on Technology, the gentleman from Maryland [Mrs. MORELLA], and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. GORDON], for the hard work they have done in crafting H.R. 1271. The legislation was reported out of the Committee on Science with strong bipartisan support.

Overall, H.R. 1271 authorizes \$217 million in fiscal year 1998, \$224 million in fiscal year 1999, and \$231 million in fiscal year 2000 for the FAA to carry out the critical projects and activities of the FAA RE&D program, including research and development in the areas of capacity management, navigation, weather, aircraft safety, systems security, and human factors.

While including some increases for critical FAA research activities such as weather and computer security, H.R. 1271 does not provide a blank check to the FAA. The legislation contains language that restricts noncompetitive research grants and prohibits funding of lobbying activities.

Further, as chairman of the House Science Committee, I plan to work in a bipartisan fashion with the ranking member, the gentleman from California [Mr. BROWN], and other members of the committee to provide responsible FAA oversight that protects our Nation's investment in aviation research and development. I have also notified the FAA that the Committee on Science intends to take an active role this year in the development of the agency's overall strategic plan as required by the Results Act.

At this point, I insert into the RECORD an exchange of correspondence between the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SHUSTER] and myself relative to jurisdictional concerns that