

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, June 28, 2002:

S. 2578, to amend title 31 of the United States Code to increase the public debt limit.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the President of the United States:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 29, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As my staff has previously communicated to you, I will undergo this morning a routine medical procedure requiring sedation. In view of present circumstances, I have determined to transfer temporarily my Constitutional powers and duties to the Vice President during the brief period of the procedure and recovery.

Accordingly, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am unable to discharge the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of President of the United States. Pursuant to Section 3, the Vice President shall discharge those powers and duties as Acting President until I transmit to you a written declaration that I am able to resume the discharge of those powers and duties.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

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THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 29, 2002.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am presently able to resume the discharge of the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of President of the United States. With the transmittal of this letter, I am resuming those powers and duties effective immediately.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG INDUSTRY'S
NEW LOBBYING TECHNIQUE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the prescription drug industry has come up with a new lobbying tech-

nique. Three weeks ago, the drug industry dumped almost \$3 million into a Republican fundraising event. Two weeks ago, in a party-line vote, the drug industry and Republicans pushed through a prescription drug Medicare privatization bill.

Now the drug industry is pressuring medical schools and teaching hospitals and doctors to write Congress urging us to continue permitting drug companies to engage in anticompetitive behavior. They have convinced a few of these health care providers that unless the U.S. lets the drug industry keep competition out of the market, my colleagues guessed it, research and development will dry up. Fourteen years of patent-protection monopoly prices apparently is not enough.

The same industry that consistently earns profits five points higher than other profitable industries argues that if they do not exploit America's seniors they cannot and will not do research and development. That excuse, Mr. Speaker, is wearing thin.

Private and public resources for health care are not infinite. Drug companies continue to cheat American consumers, employer-sponsored health care plans and State governments and every other health care purchaser out of billions of dollars each year. Enough is enough.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1702

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE) at 5 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE
RATHDRUM PRAIRIE/SPOKANE
VALLEY AQUIFER

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 4609) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, located in Idaho and Washington.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4609

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE
RATHDRUM PRAIRIE/SPOKANE VALLEY
AQUIFER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the State of Idaho and the State of Washington, shall conduct a comprehensive study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer for the purpose of preparing a model of the aquifer and establishing for those States a mutually acceptable understanding of the aquifer as a ground water resource.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the findings and conclusions of the study by not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For conducting the study under this section there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$3,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

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

H.R. 4609, the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer Study Act of 2002, directs the Secretary of the Department of Interior to work with the State of Idaho and the State of Washington to conduct a comprehensive study for the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer by preparing a groundwater model to help establish a mutually acceptable understanding of the aquifer as a groundwater resource. The tools developed by this legislation will help to better coordinate and understand the various factors that influence the quantity and quality of the aquifer and encourage better cooperation between the two States charged with its maintenance operations.

I would like to commend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT), the sponsor of this legislation, for his work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT).

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and I am pleased to make a statement in support of this bill.

There is nothing in the Northwest States that is more precious than our air and our water. We in eastern Washington and northern Idaho are blessed with not only these great resources but especially our clean water. We think it is some of the best water in the entire world to drink. So we want to make sure that it is protected, and that is what this bill does.

This bill was introduced by me and by the gentleman from northern Idaho