

is a crime under international law and defines genocide as actions committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

The United States, under President Truman, was the first Nation to sign the convention. Last year marked the 15th anniversary of President Reagan's signing of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act.

Just over a year ago, I introduced H.R. 193 with my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), and other Members of this House. This resolution reaffirms the support of the Congress for the genocide convention and commemorates the anniversary of our becoming a party to this landmark legislation.

On May 21 of last year, we achieved a huge victory when we passed the genocide resolution by a very strong bipartisan vote.

This should be an easy resolution for all of us now to support on the House floor. Genocide is the most abhorrent crime known to humankind; and unfortunately, it still exists. Exactly 10 years ago, before the cameras of the world, Rwanda's majority Hutus exterminated over 500,000 Tutsi in just over 3 months' time, mostly with machetes and homemade axes.

The reason that we have not yet succeeded in passing this resolution on the House floor is simple. The government of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the genocide and the strongest Nation on Earth fears their reaction if we do.

All over the globe—from South Africa, to Argentina, to the former Yugoslavia, governments have set up truth commissions and other bodies to investigate atrocities. Nowhere has this process been more extensive than in Germany, which has engaged in decades of soul-searching and good works that have not only restored the nation's standing, but also its moral authority.

I call upon the government of Turkey and our own government to do the same. When the burden of the past is lifted, then the future is brighter. As long as Ankara engages in prevarication, equivocation and evasion, Turkey will exist under a cloud—not because of its past, but because of its refusal to address that past. And as long as we fail to do our duty in this country, in this Congress, we do not live up to our great name and our great heritage.

I also call upon the distinguished Speaker of the House to allow us to vote on the Genocide Resolution. One hundred ten of my colleagues have cosponsored this resolution and I expect that it would pass overwhelmingly if given the chance, but we must do it soon, for with each year the events of 1915–1923 recede a bit more into the dark of history.

Time, Mr. Speaker, is not on our side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair cannot recognize that unanimous consent request. The gentleman's time has expired.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask that I utilize the 5 minutes, that I am on the list, at this time.

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

There was no objection.

GEOHERMAL ENERGY INITIATIVE ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this Congress legislation that I have recently introduced.

The Geothermal Energy Initiative of 2004, H.R. 4094, is legislation that addresses a critically underdeveloped energy segment of our national renewable energy portfolio. The problem was cited in a January 2004 Associated Press article which stated that the Federal Government has a backlog of 230 lease applications for the prospect of the utilization of geothermal energy.

This Associated Press article also stated that the average age of an application for the prospect of geothermal sites is 9 years.

February 2004 supply projections from the American Gas Association show that natural gas supplies will remain tight into the foreseeable future and will result in continued high prices. The high cost of natural gas affects electricity and home heating costs.

In March of 2004, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's climate monitoring laboratory reported that carbon dioxide levels in our environment are rising at alarming rates. Carbon dioxide contributes to global warming that disrupts climate and causes seas to rise.

The last national resource assessment of geothermal sites in the United States was completed in 1978. There have been substantial improvements in technology and advances in geological sciences in the intervening 26 years.

Clearly, there is a lack of resources and priority in the Department of the Interior concerning geothermal energy efforts.

Now, in the current situation, most of our Nation's geothermal power

plants were built in the mid-1980s and early 1990s when our energy markets were searching for alternative energy investments. Unfortunately, since that time, there has been a significant decline of focus on geothermal energy. Specifically, the Department of the Interior has steadily de-emphasized the geothermal energy program in the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Geological Survey.

We must restore that focus. I believe we have an important opportunity to reemphasize this vital energy sector and greatly enhance our Nation's renewable energy portfolio.

For example, the Bush administration has repeatedly championed the need to expand our renewable energy sources and to prioritize the development of our country's geothermal energy sources.

Department of the Interior Secretary Gail Norton and Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham have jointly stated their commitment to increasing our energy security by expanding the use of indigenous resources on Federal lands, while accelerating protection of the environment.

That is not a true assessment as I see it, however. In fact, a 2003 report from the Department of Energy found that California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Washington State have the greatest potential for quick development of geothermal resources. Both those Secretaries, Norton and Abraham, should look at this report. In fact, the study listed nine top sites in California and 10 in Nevada.

Unfortunately, progress has not been made by either one of these departments. That is why I have introduced the Geothermal Energy Initiative of 2004, so that Congress, this administration and States can all work in concert.

The Geothermal Energy Initiative Act of 2004 is straightforward legislation that will do the following: authorize the update of the 26-year-old national assessment of geothermal resource. Significant advances in energy development technology and advances in geological sciences need to be harnessed to better understand and manage our geothermal resources.

We must provide financial incentives to encourage the development of geothermal resources by expanding the production tax credit to include geothermal resources.

Direct the Federal land management agencies to responsibly consider geothermal resources in their land use planning process. The initiative also provides direction to assist in streamlining the permit approval process.

Provide provisions to defray costs associated with preparation of documents and analysis for compliance with Federal environmental protection regulations.

Speaking from a California perspective for a moment, the immediate benefits of this initiative is the enormous positive impact that it will have on air