

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
Washington, DC, June 22, 2004.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 104(c)(1) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (P.L. 108-199), I hereby appoint to the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, Representative Louise Slaughter of New York, Dr. Mary M. Dwyer of Lake Forest, Illinois, and Ms. Mora McLean of New York.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

REPORT REGARDING ICELAND'S  
WHALING ACTIVITIES—MESSAGE  
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-  
195)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

On June 16, 2004, Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans certified under section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the "Pelly Amendment") (22 U.S.C. 1978), that Iceland has conducted whaling activities that diminish the effectiveness of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) conservation program. This message constitutes my report to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

The certification of the Secretary of Commerce is the first against Iceland for its lethal research whaling program. In 2003, Iceland announced that it would begin a lethal research whaling program and planned to take 250 minke, fin, and sei whales for research purposes. The United States expressed strong opposition to Iceland's decision, in keeping with our longstanding policy against lethal research whaling. Iceland's proposal was criticized at the June 2003 IWC Annual Meeting by a majority of members of the IWC Scientific Committee, and the IWC passed a resolution that urged Iceland not to commence this program. In addition, the United States, along with 22 other nations, issued a joint protest asking Iceland to halt the program immediately. The United States believe the Icelandic research whaling program is of questionable scientific validity. Scientific data relevant to the management of whale stocks can be collected by non-lethal techniques. Since Iceland's 2003 announcement, Iceland reduced its proposed take to 38 minke whales and in implementing its lethal research program, killed 36 whales last year. For this year, Iceland has proposed taking 25 minke whales. The United States welcomes this decision to reduce the take and to limit it to

minke whales, and we appreciate Iceland's constructive work with the United States at the IWC on a variety of whaling issues. These adjustments, however, do not change our assessment that Iceland's lethal research whaling program is of questionable scientific validity and diminishes the effectiveness of the IWC's conservation program.

In his letter of June 16, 2004, Secretary Evans expressed his concern for these actions, and I share these concerns. I also concur in his recommendation that the use of trade sanctions is not the course of action needed to resolve our current differences with Iceland over research whaling activities. Accordingly, I am not directing the Secretary of the Treasury to impose trade sanctions on Icelandic products for the whaling activities that led to certification by the Secretary of Commerce. However, to ensure that this issue continues to receive the highest level of attention, I am directing U.S. delegations attending future bilateral meetings with Iceland regarding whaling issues to raise our concerns and seek ways to halt these whaling actions. I am also directing the Secretaries of State and Commerce to keep this situation under close review and to continue to work with Iceland to encourage it to cease its lethal scientific research whaling activities. I believe these diplomatic efforts hold the most promise of effecting change in Iceland's research whaling program, and do not believe that imposing import prohibitions would further our objectives.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 22, 2004.

PRAISE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S  
JOBS AND GROWTH TAX RELIEF  
PACKAGE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the President and my colleagues in Congress for passing tax relief that has more Americans working today and taking home even more of their hard-earned money.

The American economy was delivered three very substantial blows with the downturn in the global economy, the corporate scandals, and the attack of 9-11. We are now on the high-speed highway to recovery.

America has a broad, deep economy that is rapidly growing. In fact, the tax relief we passed has added jobs for the past 9 months, creating 1.4 million jobs. My State of Florida has seen almost 300,000 new jobs since December of 2001. And let me tell the Members, Mr. Speaker, I can see the results when I am in my district. There are help wanted signs out once again. What a wonderful sight to see.

The President's Jobs and Growth tax relief package enacted a year ago

helped drive the strong improvement in our economy. It raised the level of economic activity and productivity which will result in higher incomes and living standards for all American workers.

I praise the President and this House for engineering that growth.

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC  
POLICY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, President Bush again was in Ohio this past week to try to justify his economic program to try to sell it to the residents of my State.

Since President Bush took office, one out of six manufacturing jobs has disappeared from my State. President Bush will be the first President since Herbert Hoover to have a net loss of jobs during his time in office. Ohio has lost 190 jobs every single day of the Bush administration.

His answer is always the same: more tax breaks for large corporations and the wealthiest people in the country which might, he thinks, trickle down to create jobs, and more trade agreements like NAFTA which all serve only to ship jobs overseas.

Mr. Speaker, instead of this disastrous Bush economic policy, we need to change directions, extend unemployment benefits, and give tax incentives to those corporations that do business in the United States rather than using U.S. taxpayer subsidies to reward those companies that go overseas and ship jobs overseas and outsource our middle-class jobs.

COMMENDING THE BUSH ADMINIS-  
TRATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, while there is still a lot of work left to do in Iraq, it is very significant that on June 30, the new government takes over. This is a step that is largely accepted by the international community as a good thing.

Progress is being made, but America is still going to have to stay in there for security reasons to help rebuild the infrastructure and to get the international community to continue to support the new government. We need to stick together on this.

Meanwhile, domestically the economy is picking up. Three hundred thousand jobs were created last month. It bring us to, I believe, something like 900,000 jobs this year. Huge economic growth, lots of opportunities are out there.

For our senior citizens, Medicare cards are now available that give up to a 20 to 25 percent discount on prescription drugs, very helpful for those who are on a fixed income and those who are in retirement.

This administration has taken significant steps to continue to make