

Snyder	Thompson (MS)	Watt
Sodrel	Thornberry	Waxman
Solis	Tiahrt	Weldon (FL)
Souder	Tiberi	Weldon (PA)
Spratt	Turner	Weller
Stearns	Udall (CO)	Westmoreland
Strickland	Udall (NM)	Wexler
Stupak	Upton	Whitfield
Sullivan	Van Hollen	Wicker
Tancredo	Visclosky	Wilson (NM)
Tanner	Walden (OR)	Wilson (SC)
Tauscher	Walsh	Wolf
Taylor (MS)	Wamp	Wu
Taylor (NC)	Wasserman	Wynn
Terry	Schultz	Young (AK)
Thomas	Watson	Young (FL)

## NAYS—43

Abercrombie	Jackson-Lee	Paul
Baldwin	(TX)	Payne
Blumenauer	Kucinich	Rangel
Capuano	Lee	Sanders
Clay	Lewis (GA)	Schakowsky
Coble	Maloney	Serrano
Davis (IL)	Markey	Stark
Duncan	McCollum (MN)	Thompson (CA)
Farr	McDermott	Tierney
Filner	McGovern	Towns
Frank (MA)	McKinney	Velázquez
Grijalva	Meehan	Waters
Hastings (FL)	Miller, George	Weiner
Hinchev	Owens	Woolsey
Holt	Pallone	

## NOT VOTING—3

Baird	Cubin	Sweeney
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□ 1201

Mrs. JONES of Ohio changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 151, the text of H.R. 418, as passed by the House, will be appended to the engrossment of H.R. 1268.

(For text of H.R. 418, see prior proceedings of the House of February 10, 2005, at Page H536.)

## THANKING STAFF AND MEMBERS FOR ASSISTANCE ON H.R. 1268

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the Chair giving me a moment to express my deepest appreciation to the entire House for the way they handled the discussion on the bill that has just been passed.

I especially want to express my appreciation for the fabulous staff work on both sides of the aisle who allowed us to move this bill as expeditiously as we have.

The bill involves sizeable amounts of money designed essentially to support our troops, wherever they may be, but especially in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also express my deep appreciation to my colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), who cooperated every step of the way, a demonstration that we do not have to agree on everything; but in terms of supporting our troops we are in agreement. I very much appreciate the work of the House, as well as the committee.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later in the day.

## AMENDING INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 EXTENDING LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND FINANCING RATE

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1270) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1270

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

## SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND FINANCING RATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 4081(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate) is amended by striking “April 1, 2005” and inserting “October 1, 2005”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHOCOLA. 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 the subject of the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1270, which would extend financing for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund. The Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund is financed with an excise tax of 0.1 cent per gallon imposed on the sale of gasoline, diesel, and other motor fuels. This tax is set to expire on March 31, 2005.

This bill would extend the trust fund's financing through September 30, 2005, the same date that the other motor fuels excise taxes expire. The administration supports the extension of this financing.

Monies appropriated from the leaking underground storage tank trust fund are used for detention, prevention, and cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks. Leaking tanks can contaminate groundwater that is ultimately used for drinking.

Since this program began in 1984, the program closed nearly 1.6 million tanks and reduced the severity of leaks from underground storage tank systems that remain in service. Approximately 675,000 tanks remain in service and are subject to regulations. However, there remains a backlog of over 100,000 sites that require remedial action. Extending the tax for 6 months will allow us time to discuss possible reforms to the program while not allowing for the disruption of the collection of the tax.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire how long has it been since we have really had any fun around here, and would it not be a lot better if we just cut out this leaking underground storage tank stuff; we are talking about a LUST bill. I thought we might as well get that on the record and endure whatever the smirks are, because it is really an important bill. It is not controversial. It is a straightforward extension for 6 months, and I got a smile from Mr. Speaker.

It is a 0.1 cent per gallon excise tax. It will go to clean up drinking water and the environment. I appreciate the support of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) for this bill and look forward to its passage.

Mrs. CAPPES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is continuing the funding mechanism for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund or LUST fund.

Across this country there are hundreds of thousands of leaking underground storage tanks.

Many, if not most, of these have MTBE in them and have been linked to the contamination of groundwater in thousands of communities.

So it is important that we continue funding for the Trust Fund that helps communities get these messes cleaned up where responsible parties can't be found.

But I agree with my colleagues who, noting the needs that are out there, have called for a longer extension of this funding mechanism.

Clearly, we have to give states more support and the ability to know that the LUST fund will back up their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is also important to note how inadequate the efforts of this Administration have been in addressing the problem of leaking tanks.

For example, the LUST fund could take in approximately \$200 million in revenues this year alone.

And yet the Administration proposes to spend only slightly more than a third of that to address the problems caused by these leaking tanks.

This is a completely inadequate response to addressing the 136,000 spills across the country.