

of need, they now are committed to becoming contributors to those same European security structures.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and applaud the members of the conference committee for their work in reaching an agreement on this very important legislation.

I also would like to congratulate the coalition of consumer groups for their efforts, including: Consumers Union, Consumer Federation of America, Kids in Danger, National Research Center for Women & Families, Public Citizen, Union of Concerned Scientists, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. These groups were instrumental in urging the conference committee to adopt the best provisions from the House and Senate bills.

After 2007 became the "Year of the Recall" due to the numerous recalls of toys and children's products, it was imperative that Congress act to stem the flow of unsafe products into our stores and homes. That is why I introduced legislation that would, among other things, ban lead in children's products, enhance recall and inspection authority of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, and expedite recall disclosure to the public. This bill was cosponsored by 167 of my colleagues.

I am pleased that some of the important ideas and provisions in this bill were included in the final conference report, including language that would: essentially ban lead in toys and children's products; require CPSC to establish a publicly-accessible database to inform consumers about unsafe products; require third-party testing of certain children's products; and ensure that the CPSC does not preempt State or local laws.

I am especially pleased that that this legislation includes provisions to provide the CPSC with the new authority to cease the distribution of toys that pose an imminent hazard from the outset. This is a provision that I worked on with Congresswoman ESHOO, and I am proud to see it in the conference report.

The conference committee should be commended for insisting that the final conference agreement include a ban on toxic phthalates from children's products. Earlier this year, some of the country's largest toy sellers, including Wal-Mart, Toys-R-Us, and Babies-R-Us notified their suppliers that they would no longer carry products containing phthalates beginning in 2009. It would have been senseless if Congress had allowed for the continued use of phthalates in children's products even though the market already has essentially banned it.

Many of us who support the final conference report would agree that it could have been stronger, but we also agree that it represent a solid first step. We should remain vigilant in

ensuring that our families and children are truly protected from harmful products and be prepared to make further improvements to these laws should additional problems arise in the future.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND
CONSERVATION RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3957, a measure aimed at increasing research, development, education, and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies at the Environmental Protection Agency.

It is evident that current water use and management practices are draining supplies and it is critical that we obtain knowledge of newer technologies that will increase sustainability. It is our hope that this legislation will promote technologies and approaches that will contribute towards ensuring a healthy and sustainable water supply.

EPA's research, development and dissemination of technologies that promote greater water use will also help to advance water conservation as a national goal.

More importantly, however, it is our hope that it will reduce the threat of a diminishing water supply and prepare us for water shortages that are increasing in frequency.

As the Chairwoman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I am keenly aware of the need for increased Federal research on new and emerging technologies for water use efficiency and conservation. As noted in testimony before my Subcommittee, the growing water-related challenges facing our nation, including the need to repair and replace much of our antiquated water infrastructure, urban sprawl, and the threat of global warming, requires us to address these challenges in an integrated, comprehensive fashion—including the need to develop the next generation of water-related infrastructure.

I was pleased to work with Chairman GORDON and the sponsor of this legislation, Mr. Matheson, on an amendment to include within the scope of research and development program technologies and processes to enable the collection, storage, treatment and reuse of stormwater, as well as the creation of a publicly-accessible clearing house for information on technologies and processes developed under this program. This amendment was adopted during the Committee on Science and Technology's markup of this legislation.

In an effort to bring this legislation to the floor for consideration as quickly as possible, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure did not seek a referral of the bill. The Transportation Committee did this, however, with the understanding that this decision does not waive, reduce or affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue with both the Senate and the Committee on

Science and Technology in Conference as we work to resolve our differences in this important piece of legislation. Working together we will be able to advance sustainable water use and management practices that will contribute to the overall health of our nation.

I also look forward to the next Congress when I hope to work with my colleagues on both the Science and Transportation Committees on improving research of water quality, as well as on improving the nation's monitoring systems for all facets of our precious water resources.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to support this bill, and authorizing the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a research and development program that will promote water use efficiency practices and promote water conservation as a national goal.

COMMODITY MARKETS TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act of 2008 (H.R. 6604). I commend Chairman PETERSON for his hard work on this legislation, which will help curtail the rising oil prices through curbing excessive speculation in commodity futures markets.

High gasoline prices are burdening American families every day. The conversation on addressing our energy challenge has focused largely around factors of supply and demand. However, the rise in the price of oil cannot be attributed to any one factor. Burgeoning world oil demand, collusive practices of OPEC nations, the weakening dollar, and possible excessive speculation in the energy futures market are all potential contributors to the problem.

Though we cannot say with certainty whether speculation is driving up the price of oil, Department of Energy officials have observed that the magnitude of price increases is unlikely to result from supply and demand forces alone. They have pointed to excessive speculation as a likely contributor to inflated oil prices. In the face of this possibility, Congress should act now, without disrupting healthy market activity, to close loopholes and prevent excessive speculation from driving up prices and increasing hardship for American families.

The Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act enhances the regulatory capacity of the Commodity Futures Trade Commission (CFTC). Through increased staffing, closing corporate loopholes, and setting position limits for individuals, CFTC will be better equipped to address the problem of high energy prices that are burdening American families. The Commodity Markets Transparency and Accountability Act also directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a detailed study of speculators' effects on agriculture and energy futures markets and prices. Along with acting proactively to prevent potential excessive speculation today, this bill will allow for a better understanding of what the effects of speculation have actually been.