

Attempts to eradicate today's racial discrimination and disparities will be successful when we understand the past's racial injustices and inequities. A commission can take us into this dark past and bring us into a brighter future. As in years past, I welcome open and constructive discourse on H.R. 40 and the creation of this commission in the 113th Congress.

THE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, AND UNREGULATED FISHING ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2013

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Illegal fishing threatens the economic and social infrastructure of fishing communities, and the security of the United States and our allies around the world, by decreasing opportunities for legitimate and conscientious fishermen.

Guam, and the other Pacific islands, host rich fisheries resources, including pristine reefs, diverse communities of reef fish, and large populations of sharks and valuable tuna; important economic and cultural assets for the islands. IUU fishing threatens these resources. There have been several incidents of foreign fishing vessels operating within the United States' EEZ with impunity—a significant national security and economic risk to our country.

This problem can be particularly acute in places like Guam, where the EEZ is vast, and where the United States Coast Guard, despite its best efforts, has insufficient resources to patrol all of our waters. The United States' Pacific lands represent 43% of the EEZ. Our focus should be on the posture of our Coast Guard in the Asia-Pacific region. The Navy and Coast Guard have recognized the economic and security threats posed by illegal fishing in Oceania and it is incumbent on the Administration and Congress to put resources towards these requirements.

The loss of economic opportunity weakens our allies in the Pacific and strengthens resource conflicts in the region. Recent reports have documented that IUU fishing accounts for between 10 and 22% of the reported global fish catch, or \$9–24 billion in gross revenues each year (MRAG, 2009, Sumaila et al., 2006 and Agnew et al., 2009). The Coast Guard estimates that over \$1.7 billion is lost annually to IUU fishing in the Pacific Islands. Additional action is needed from Congress if we are to be successful in combating IUU fishing and the depletion of fish stocks worldwide. This bill will help to provide our Coast Guard with the tools to better enforce regulations throughout the sector.

The "Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2013," which I introduced today, further enhances the enforcement authority of NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard to regulate IUU fishing. This bill would amend international and regional fishery management organization (RFMO) agreements to incorporate the civil penalties, permit sanctions, criminal offenses, civil forfeitures

and enforcement sections of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. It would strengthen enforcement authority of NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard to inspect conveyances, facilities, and records involving the storage, processing, transport and trade of fish and fish products, and to detain fish and fish products for up to five days while an investigation is ongoing.

In addition, this bill makes technical adjustments allowing NOAA to more effectively carry out current IUU identification mandates, including extending the duration of time for identification of violators from the preceding two years to the preceding three years. This bill broadens data sharing authority to enable NOAA to share information with foreign governments and clarifies that all information collected may be shared with international organizations and foreign governments for the purpose of conducting enforcement. This bill would also establish an international cooperation and assistance program to provide technical expertise to other nations to help them address IUU fishing. This bill, however, does not authorize new funding or appropriations. The bill is a cost neutral measure that would enhance our nation's security.

Finally, this bill implements the Antigua Convention, an important international agreement that provides critical updates to the principles, functions, and processes of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) to manage fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The Antigua Convention modernizes the IATTC and increases its capacity to combat IUU fishing and illegal imports of tuna product. Without implementing legislation, the U.S. does not have the authorities necessary to satisfy its commitments under the Antigua Convention, including addressing IUU in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

Increased enforcement increases stability among our allies in the Western Pacific. Many nations depend upon fishing as a vital component of their national economy. Fishing communities are the lifeblood of Guam, part of a cultural history extending back centuries. Protecting our fishermen from illegal fishing enhances economic opportunities and protects cultural and natural resources that our communities rely upon. IUU fishermen are "free riders" who benefit unfairly from the sacrifices made by U.S. fishermen and others for the sake of proper fisheries conservation and management.

I would like to thank Reps. MARKEY, SABLAN, PIERLUISI, and CHRISTENSEN for joining me as original cosponsors and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this important bill through the legislative process.

HIGHER TAXES, MORE SPENDING:
NOT A COMPROMISE

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, as Congress approached the final hours before going over the so-called "fiscal cliff," the House was faced with a difficult choice. It could amend the controversial Senate plan and return it to them or the House could accept or reject it. Amending the plan was not a viable option be-

cause the Senate had refused to consider any changes. Thus it became a "take it or leave it" vote. I was elected to come to Washington to reduce the size of government and decrease spending; therefore, I voted against the flawed Senate plan.

In summary: although the legislation had certain positive attributes, the principal effect of the bill raised taxes, increased spending and only promised future spending cuts. It failed to address our long-term debt problem and looks nothing like the balanced approach promised by President Obama. America is now burdened with more than \$16 trillion of debt, and Congress has failed to cut spending that it promised the public.

Let's have a splash of reality: America is facing another \$1.2 trillion deficit for this year as it has for the past four years. This solution adopted by Congress not only does not reduce this year's deficit, but it adds to it. According to the official estimate by the Congressional Budget Office, the Senate deal includes more than \$330 billion in new deficit spending over the next decade.

Additionally, the bill calls for \$620 billion in increased tax revenues over ten years but incredibly includes only \$15 billion in spending reductions. That equates to a ratio of \$1 in spending cuts to \$41 in increased tax revenue, even though the President promised \$2.50 in spending cuts for every \$1 in new revenue during his campaign. The highly touted Simpson-Bowles Commission recommended a 3:1 ratio.

It should be self-evident that the \$60 billion in new revenue annually is woefully insufficient to pay down the deficit. Where will we find the remaining \$1.14 trillion to eliminate the deficit? We have a spending problem in Washington, not a taxing problem.

I had been willing to support a compromise that included additional, but limited, tax revenue if the plan also had included significant spending reductions and commonsense entitlement reforms. However the bill lacked that balance.

These concerns were not limited to conservatives. Senator MICHAEL BENNET (D-CO) also opposed the plan on these same grounds, saying, "We want a plan that materially reduces the deficit. This proposal does not meet that standard and does not put in place a real process to reduce the debt down the road."

In a similar statement, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke called the current levels of spending "unsustainable," and cautioned that "fiscal policy must be placed on a sustainable path that eventually results in a stable or declining ratio of federal debt to GDP."

This plan does nothing to put us on that sustainable path.

Americans once again are being promised spending cuts in the future in exchange for immediate increases in taxes. We've seen this movie before—the spending cuts unfortunately never happen.

This has played out twice with similar results:

In 1982, Congress promised President Reagan \$3 in spending cuts for every \$1 in tax hikes but the spending cuts never happened.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush reluctantly agreed to \$2 in spending cuts for every \$1 in tax increases but none of those cuts occurred either.