

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMENDING CHAIRMAN DAVE  
OBEY

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 29, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman DAVE OBEY on a remarkable career and to congratulate him on his retirement from the U.S. Congress.

Chairman OBEY has honorably served the citizens of Wisconsin's 7th district since 1969. When Chairman OBEY began his service in the Congress—succeeding Mel Laird, who was appointed Secretary of Defense—he was the youngest Member of Congress in the United States. He has an impressive record of legislative accomplishments. He is now the longest-serving member of either House of Congress in Wisconsin's history.

His commitment to the integrity of the House has taught me a great deal about the legislative process. His respect for the minority, interest in listening to all voices and his common-sense leadership have been critical in ensuring civil debate and productive solutions to extremely difficult problems.

Chairman DAVE OBEY is the only Democratic Member of the House to have served on the three major economic committees in the Congress: the Budget Committee, the Joint Economic Committee and the Committee on Appropriation.

Chairman OBEY has been a mentor and a friend and I will miss his leadership in the U.S. House. I thank him for his service to the 7th district of Wisconsin, the country and the world, and wish him the very best in his retirement.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PAUL W. HODES**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 29, 2010*

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I missed the following votes from Friday, December 17 through Wednesday, December 22, 2010. I would have voted "yes" on the following votes:

Friday:

H.J. Res. 105—Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 (Representative OBEY—Appropriations) (Voice vote)

1. H. Res. 1377—Honoring the accomplishments of Norman Yoshio Mineta (Representative HONDA—House Administration)

2. Senate Amendment to H.R. 1107—to enact certain laws relating to public contracts as title 41, United States Code, "Public Contracts" (Representative CONYERS—Judiciary)

3. Senate Amendment to H.R. 628—to establish a pilot program in certain United States

district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges (Representative ISSA—Judiciary)

4. H. Res. 1733—Recognizing Mark Twain as one of America's most famous literary icons on the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death (Representative SNYDER—Oversight and Government Reform)

5. H. Res. 1621—Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of Catholic Charities USA (Representative HOLT—Oversight and Government Reform)

6. H. Res. 1767—Commending the Wisconsin Badger football team for an outstanding season and 2011 Rose Bowl bid (Representative BALDWIN—Education and Labor)

7. H. Con. Res. 335—Honoring the exceptional achievements of Ambassador Richard Holbrooke and recognizing the monumental contributions he has made to United States national security, humanitarian causes, and peaceful resolutions of international conflict (Representative LOWEY—Foreign Affairs)

8. S. 3874—Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act (Senator BOXER—Energy and Commerce)

9. H.R. 6533—to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service (Representative DOYLE—Energy and Commerce)

10. H.R. 6523—Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Representative SKELTON—Armed Services)

11. H.R. 2142—Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act of 2009 (Representative CUELLAR—Oversight and Government Reform)

12. H.R. 5510—Aiding Those Facing Foreclosure Act of 2010 (Representative KAPTUR—Financial Services)

Tuesday:

Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 5116—America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Representative GORDON—Science and Technology)(228–130)

Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2142—Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act (Representative CUELLAR—Oversight and Government Reform) (216–139)

Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2751—FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (Representatives WAXMAN/DINGELL—Energy and Commerce) (215–144)

Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3082—Making Further Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 (Representative OBEY—Appropriations) (193–165)

1. S. 3592—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Commerce Drive in Tyrone, Georgia, as the "First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins Post Office Building" (Senator CHAMBLISS—Oversight and Government Reform)

2. Senate Amendment to H.R. 81—Shark Conservation Act (Representative BORDALLO—Natural Resources)

3. Senate Amendment to H.R. 5809—Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010 (Representative INSLEE—Energy and Commerce)

4. H.R. 6540—to require the Secretary of Defense, in awarding a contract for the KC-X Aerial Refueling Aircraft Program, to consider any unfair competitive advantage that an offeror may possess (Representative INSLEE—Armed Services)

5. H.R. 6547—to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require criminal background checks for school employees (Representative GEORGE MILLER—Education and Labor)

6. S. 118—Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act (Senator KOHL—Financial Services)

7. S. 1481—Frank Melville Supportive Housing Investment Act (Senator MENENDEZ—Financial Services)

8. S. 3243—Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (Senator PRYOR/Representative SHULER—Homeland Security)

9. S. 2925—Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Deterrence and Victims Support Act of 2010 (Senator WYDEN—Judiciary)

10. Senate Amendment to H.R. 4748—Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy Act of 2010 (Representative OWENS—Judiciary)

11. Senate Amendment to H.R. 1746—Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009 (Representative OBERSTAR—Transportation and Infrastructure)

Wednesday:

Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 847—James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act (Representative MALONEY—Energy and Commerce)(206–60)  
Bills Adopted By Unanimous Consent (13):

1. Senate Amendment to H.R. 6523—Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Representative SKELTON—Armed Services)

2. S. 3481—Amending the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater pollution (Senator CARDIN—Transportation and Infrastructure)

3. House Amendment to S. 372—Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act (Senator AKAKA—Oversight and Government Reform)

4. H. Res. 1461—Supporting Olympic Day on June 23, 2010, and congratulating Team USA and World Fit participants (Representative LANGEVIN—Oversight and Government Reform)

5. S. 4036—A bill to clarify the National Credit Union Administration authority to make stabilization fund expenditures without borrowing from the Treasury (Senator DODD—Financial Services)

6. S. Con. Res. 67—A concurrent resolution celebrating 130 years of United States-Romanian diplomatic relations, congratulating the Romanian people on their achievements as a great nation, and reaffirming the deep bonds of trust and values between the United States and Romania, a trusted and most valued ally (Senator VOINOVICH—Foreign Affairs)

7. Senate Amendment to H.R. 6560—Removal Clarification Act of 2010 (Representative HANK JOHNSON—Judiciary)

8. H. Res. 1779—Honoring the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders (Representative JOHN LEWIS (GA)—Judiciary)

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

9. Senate Amendment to H.R. 5901—Real Estate Jobs and Investment Act of 2010 (Representative JOE CROWLEY—Ways & Means)

10. H. Res. 1783—Technical Correction to H. Res. 1757 (Representative BRADY (PA)—House Administration)

11. S. 4058—Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2010 (Senator KERRY—Veterans' Affairs)

12. S. 3903—To authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo (Senator UDALL—Natural Resources)

13. Senate Amendment to H.R. 6517—To extend trade adjustment assistance and certain trade preference programs, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, and for other purposes (Representative LEVIN—Ways and Means)

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 21, 2010*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3082, a continuing resolution that would fund federal government operations on a temporary basis through March 4, 2011. Regrettably, one of the last votes of the 111th Congress has become the first vote of the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I take seriously my annual responsibility to assess funding priorities, perform oversight, and allocate federal dollars where they are most needed and will make the greatest impact. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate are choosing to abandon this important work. They are blocking action on a fiscal year 2011 funding package that would respond to the current needs of the American people and make critical investments in our communities.

Due to Republican obstruction, the House is forced to consider this appropriations measure, which places the Federal Government on auto-pilot for two months. All difficult decisions are being delayed until another day. Critical federal agencies including the Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Defense are being subjected to enormous—and avoidable—uncertainty. And the uncertainty created by this short-term continuing resolution goes far beyond Washington. Every state and community across the country will be debating whether they are able to move forward with critical investments, such as the Central Corridor Light Rail in Minnesota.

This temporary appropriations measure underfunds critical priorities in every area of American life from education and agriculture, to transportation and energy. It is inexcusable to withhold necessary investments in the American economy while adding to the deficit with tax cuts for the wealthiest in our society. But that is exactly what Congress is doing this month as a result of the reckless game of brinkmanship my Republican colleagues are playing with the American people.

## CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF UNITED STATES-ROMANIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Co-Chair of the Romanian Caucus in the House of Representatives, to support the unanimous consent to Senate Resolution S. Con. Res. 67, which Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH introduced on June 30 of this year, to celebrate 130 years of U.S.-Romanian diplomatic relations, to congratulate the Romanian people of their achievements as a great nation, and to reaffirm the deep bonds of trust and values between the United States and Romania. This Resolution is concurrent with House Resolution H. Con. Res. 291 that I introduced on June 29 of this year.

In my five years of leadership of the Romanian Caucus I worked closely with Romanian officials and leaders, and witnessed their commitment to upholding and advancing the values of freedom, democracy and prosperity. Romania has been an extraordinary ally in NATO and a critical partner in the European Union, in addressing some of the most important challenges facing our transatlantic and global community—from ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan, to nuclear proliferation, to energy security. Romania is a trusted ally and a strategic partner of the United States, with whom we have developed great cooperation on issues of common interest, including security, economic and political conditions in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Black Sea and Caucasus regions.

I am very proud of the Congress passing this Resolution, as it reflects and commends the many achievements of the U.S.-Romanian partnership and of the Romanian people. I thank all my colleagues who supported the Resolution and I urge Congress to continue to support cooperation between the United States and Romania, and to deepen the bonds of trust and friendship between our two countries.

## CLARIFYING FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PAY FOR STORMWATER POLLUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 22, 2010*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3481, a bill that would clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater runoff from buildings, facilities, and lands owned or operated by the Federal Government. This common sense bill ensures that the Federal Government maintains its equitable responsibility for stormwater pollution runoff originating or emanating from its property.

I applaud the outstanding work of the sponsors of this legislation, the distinguished Senator from the State of Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), as well as the sponsor of the House com-

panion for this bill, the Delegate from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), for their efforts to move this legislation so quickly to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, simply put, this legislation clarifies that Federal agencies and departments are financially responsible for any reasonable Federal, State, or locally-derived charges for treating or otherwise addressing stormwater pollution that emanates from Federal property.

Existing section 313 of the Clean Water Act states that "Each department, agency, or instrumentality . . . of the Federal Government . . . shall be subject to, and comply with, all Federal, State, interstate, and local requirements . . . including the payment of reasonable service charges."

Unfortunately, over the past few months, Congress has learned of several Federal agencies, including some here in the Nation's Capital, that have made the determination that stormwater management fees are "taxes" for which the agencies have claimed sovereign immunity and have refused to pay.

This has left several State and local municipalities with the financial responsibility of addressing ongoing sources of pollution to the nation's waters that any other private business, landowner, or homeowner would otherwise be responsible for paying.

Polluted runoff from urban areas is the fastest growing source of water pollution in America. As urbanization increases, impervious surfaces such as highways, roads, parking lots, and buildings replace non-impervious surfaces that absorb stormwater.

Runoff from impervious surfaces is a central cause of pollution for the nation's waters, and is estimated to be the primary source of impairment for 13 percent of rivers, 18 percent of lakes, and 32 percent of estuaries in the U.S. These are significant figures, especially given that urban areas cover only 3 percent of the land mass of the country.

Even here, in the Nation's Capital, pollution from stormwater runoff poses a significant challenge to the quality of local receiving waters, and negatively impacts the overall environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, stormwater runoff from urban and suburban areas is "a significant source of impairment to the Chesapeake Bay." According to Agency statistics, 17 percent of phosphorus, 11 percent of nitrogen, and 9 percent of sediment loads to the Bay come from stormwater runoff.

In addition, chemical contaminants from runoff can rival or exceed the amount reaching local waterways from industries, federal facilities, and wastewater treatment plants.

Several states and municipalities, including the District of Columbia, have taken aggressive action to address these ongoing sources of pollution.

Yet, when a significant percentage of property owners take the position that they cannot be held responsible for their pollution, it places a greater financial burden on our States, cities, communities, and local-ratepayers, and makes it less likely that significant reductions in stormwater pollution can be achieved.

S. 3481 amends section 313 of the Clean Water Act to clarify that "reasonable service charges" for addressing pollution from Federal facilities includes reasonable nondiscriminatory fees, charges, or assessments that are based

on the proportion of stormwater emanating from the facility and used to pay (or reimburse) costs associated with any stormwater management program.

This is a simple effort to clarify, again, that the Federal Government bears a proportional responsibility for addressing pollution originating from its facilities, and should remain an

active participant in improving National water quality and the overall environment.