

**TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006 -- (House of
Representatives - December 08, 2006)**

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Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1099, I call up from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 6111) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending, with a Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment

On page 3, line 17, strike ``on or''.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. THOMAS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1099, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Motion offered by Mr. *Thomas*:

Mr. *Thomas* moves to concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment.

The text of the House amendment to the Senate amendment is as follows:

House amendment to Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) *Short Title.*--This Act may be cited as the ``Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006''.

(b) *Table of Contents.*--The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec..1..Short title, etc.

DIVISION A--EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF CERTAIN TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS, AND OTHER TAX PROVISIONS

Sec..100..Reference.

TITLE I--EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

Sec..101..Deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses.

Sec..102..Extension and modification of new markets tax credit.

Sec..103..Election to deduct State and local general sales taxes.

Sec..104..Extension and modification of research credit.

Sec..105..Work opportunity tax credit and welfare-to-work credit.

Sec..106..Election to include combat pay as earned income for purposes of earned income credit.

Sec..107..Extension and modification of qualified zone academy bonds.

Sec..108..Above-the-line deduction for certain expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers.

Sec..109..Extension and expansion of expensing of brownfields remediation costs.

Sec..110..Tax incentives for investment in the District of Columbia.

Sec..111..Indian employment tax credit.

Sec..112..Accelerated depreciation for business property on Indian reservations.

Sec..113..Fifteen-year straight-line cost recovery for qualified leasehold improvements and qualified restaurant property.

Sec..114..Cover over of tax on distilled spirits.

Sec..115..Parity in application of certain limits to mental health benefits.

Sec..116..Corporate donations of scientific property used for research and of computer technology and equipment.

Sec..117..Availability of medical savings accounts.

Sec..118..Taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties.

Sec..119..American Samoa economic development credit.

Sec..120..Extension of bonus depreciation for certain qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone property.

Sec..121..Authority for undercover operations.

Sec..122..Disclosures of certain tax return information.

Sec..123..Special rule for elections under expired provisions.

TITLE II--ENERGY TAX PROVISIONS

Sec..201..Credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources.

Sec..202..Credit to holders of clean renewable energy bonds.

Sec..203..Performance standards for sulfur dioxide removal in advanced coal-based generation technology units designed to use subbituminous coal.

Sec..204..Deduction for energy efficient commercial buildings.

Sec..205..Credit for new energy efficient homes.

Sec..206..Credit for residential energy efficient property.

Sec..207..Energy credit.

Sec..208..Special rule for qualified methanol or ethanol fuel.

Sec..209..Special depreciation allowance for cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property.

Sec..210..Expenditures permitted from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund.

Sec..211..Treatment of coke and coke gas.

TITLE III--HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Sec..301..Short title.

Sec..302..FSA and HRA terminations to fund HSAs.

Sec..303..Repeal of annual deductible limitation on HSA contributions.

Sec..304..Modification of cost-of-living adjustment.

Sec..305..Contribution limitation not reduced for part-year coverage.

Sec..306..Exception to requirement for employers to make comparable health savings account contributions.

Sec..307..One-time distribution from individual retirement plans to fund HSAs.

TITLE IV--OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec..401..Deduction allowable with respect to income attributable to domestic production activities in Puerto Rico.

Sec..402..Credit for prior year minimum tax liability made refundable after period of years.

Sec..403..Returns required in connection with certain options.

Sec..404..Partial expensing for advanced mine safety equipment.

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Sec..405..Mine rescue team training tax credit.

Sec..406..Whistleblower reforms.

Sec..407..Frivolous tax submissions.

Sec..408..Addition of meningococcal and human papillomavirus vaccines to list of taxable vaccines.

Sec..409..Clarification of taxation of certain settlement funds made permanent.

Sec..410..Modification of active business definition under section 355 made permanent.

Sec..411..Revision of State veterans limit made permanent.

Sec..412..Capital gains treatment for certain self-created musical works made permanent.

Sec..413..Reduction in minimum vessel tonnage which qualifies for tonnage tax made permanent.

Sec..414..Modification of special arbitrage rule for certain funds made permanent.

Sec..415..Great Lakes domestic shipping to not disqualify vessel from tonnage tax.

Sec..416..Use of qualified mortgage bonds to finance residences for veterans without regard to first-time homebuyer requirement.

Sec..417..Exclusion of gain from sale of a principal residence by certain employees of the intelligence community.

Sec..418..Sale of property by judicial officers.

Sec..419..Premiums for mortgage insurance.

Sec..420..Modification of refunds for kerosene used in aviation.

Sec..421..Regional income tax agencies treated as States for purposes of confidentiality and disclosure requirements.

Sec..422..Designation of wines by semi-generic names.

Sec..423..Modification of railroad track maintenance credit.

Sec..424..Modification of excise tax on unrelated business taxable income of charitable remainder trusts.

Sec..425..Loans to qualified continuing care facilities made permanent.

Sec..426..Technical corrections.

DIVISION B--MEDICARE AND OTHER HEALTH PROVISIONS

Sec..1..Short title of division.

TITLE I--MEDICARE IMPROVED QUALITY AND PROVIDER PAYMENTS

Sec..101..Physician payment and quality improvement.

Sec..102..Extension of floor on Medicare work geographic adjustment.

Sec..103..Update to the composite rate component of the basic case-mix adjusted prospective payment system for dialysis services.

Sec..104..Extension of treatment of certain physician pathology services under Medicare.

Sec..105..Extension of Medicare reasonable costs payments for certain clinical diagnostic laboratory tests furnished to hospital patients in certain rural areas.

Sec..106..Hospital Medicare reports and clarifications.

Sec..107..Payment for brachytherapy.

Sec..108..Payment process under the competitive acquisition program (CAP).

Sec..109..Quality reporting for hospital outpatient services and ambulatory surgical center services.

Sec..110..Reporting of anemia quality indicators for Medicare part B cancer anti-anemia drugs.

Sec..111..Clarification of hospice satellite designation.

TITLE II--MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS

Sec..201..Extension of exceptions process for Medicare therapy caps.

Sec..202..Payment for administration of part D vaccines.

Sec..203..OIG study of never events.

Sec..204..Medicare medical home demonstration project.

Sec..205..Medicare DRA technical corrections.

Sec..206..Limited continuous open enrollment of original medicare fee-for-service enrollees into Medicare Advantage non-prescription drug plans.

TITLE III--MEDICARE PROGRAM INTEGRITY EFFORTS

Sec..301..Offsetting adjustment in Medicare Advantage Stabilization Fund.

Sec..302..Extension and expansion of recovery audit contractor program under the Medicare Integrity Program.

Sec..303..Funding for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account.

Sec..304..Implementation funding.

TITLE IV--MEDICAID AND OTHER HEALTH PROVISIONS

Sec..401. .Extension of Transitional Medical Assistance (TMA) and abstinence education program.

Sec..402..Grants for research on vaccine against Valley Fever.

Sec..403..Change in threshold for Medicaid indirect hold harmless provision of broad-based health care taxes.

Sec..404..DSH allotments for fiscal year 2007 for Tennessee and Hawaii.

Sec..405..Certain Medicaid DRA technical corrections.

DIVISION C--OTHER PROVISIONS

TITLE I--GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY

Sec..101..Short title.

Sec..102..Definitions.

Sec..103..Offshore oil and gas leasing in 181 Area and 181 south Area of Gulf of Mexico.

Sec..104..Moratorium on oil and gas leasing in certain areas of Gulf of Mexico.

Sec..105..Disposition of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues from 181 Area, 181 south Area, and 2002-2007 planning areas of Gulf of Mexico.

TITLE II--SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

Sec..200..Short title.

Subtitle A--Mining Control and Reclamation

Sec..201..Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and purposes.

Sec..202..Reclamation fee.

Sec..203..Objectives of Fund.

Sec..204..Reclamation of rural land.

Sec..205..Liens.

Sec..206..Certification.

Sec..207..Remining incentives.

Sec..208..Extension of limitation on application of prohibition on issuance of permit.

Sec..209..Tribal regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations.

Subtitle B--Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act

Sec..211..Certain related persons and successors in interest relieved of liability if premiums prepaid.

Sec..212..Transfers to funds; premium relief.

Sec..213..Other provisions.

TITLE III--WHITE PINE COUNTY CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec..301..Authorization of appropriations.

Sec..302..Short title.

Sec..303..Definitions.

Subtitle A--Land Disposal

Sec..311..Conveyance of White Pine County, Nevada, land.

Sec..312..Disposition of proceeds.

Subtitle B--Wilderness Areas

Sec..321..Short title.

Sec..322..Findings.

Sec..323..Additions to National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sec..324..Administration.

Sec..325..Adjacent management.

Sec..326..Military overflights.

Sec..327..Native American cultural and religious uses.

Sec..328..Release of wilderness study areas.

Sec..329..Wildlife management.

Sec..330..Wildfire, insect, and disease management.

Sec..331..Climatological data collection.

Subtitle C--Transfers of Administrative Jurisdiction

Sec..341..Transfer to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sec..342..Transfer to the Bureau of Land Management.

Sec..343..Transfer to the Forest Service.

Sec..344..Availability of map and legal descriptions.

Subtitle D--Public Conveyances

Sec..351..Conveyance to the State of Nevada.

Sec..352..Conveyance to White Pine County, Nevada.

Subtitle E--Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail

Sec..355..Silver State off-highway vehicle trail.

Subtitle F--Transfer of Land to Be Held in Trust for the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

Sec..361..Transfer of land to be held in trust for the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

Subtitle G--Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project.

Sec..371..Findings; purposes.

Sec..372..Definitions.

Sec..373..Restoration project.

Subtitle H--Amendments to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998

Sec..381..Findings.

Sec..382..Availability of special account.

Subtitle I--Amendments to the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004

Sec..391..Disposition of proceeds.

Subtitle J--All American Canal Projects

Sec..395..All American Canal Lining Project.

Sec..396..Regulated storage water facility.

Sec..397..Application of law.

TITLE IV--OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec..401..Tobacco personal use quantity exception to not apply to delivery sales.

Sec..402..Ethanol Tariff Schedule.

Sec..403..Withdrawal of certain Federal land and interests in certain Federal land from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws.

Sec..404..Continuing eligibility for certain students under District of Columbia School Choice Program.

Sec..405..Study on Establishing Uniform National Database on Elder Abuse.

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Sec..406..Temporary duty reductions for certain cotton shirting fabric.

Sec..407..Cotton Trust Fund.

Sec..408..Tax court review of requests for equitable relief from joint and several liability.

DIVISION A--EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF CERTAIN TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS, AND OTHER TAX PROVISIONS

SEC. 100. REFERENCE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this division an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

TITLE I--EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. DEDUCTION FOR QUALIFIED TUITION AND RELATED EXPENSES.

(a) *In General.*--Section 222(e) is amended by striking ``2005"and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--Section 222(b)(2)(B) is amended--

(1) by striking ``a taxable year beginning in 2004 or 2005" and inserting ``any taxable year beginning after 2003", and

(2) by striking ``2004 AND 2005" in the heading and inserting ``**AFTER 2003**".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT.

(a) *Extension.*--Section 45D(f)(1)(D) is amended by striking ``and 2007" and inserting `` , 2007, and 2008".

(b) *Regulations Regarding Non-Metropolitan Counties.*--Section 45D(i) is amended by striking ``and" at the end of paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting `` , and", and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(6) which ensure that non-metropolitan counties receive a proportional allocation of qualified equity investments.".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 103. ELECTION TO DEDUCT STATE AND LOCAL GENERAL SALES TAXES.

(a) *In General.*--Section 164(b)(5)(I) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2008".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF RESEARCH CREDIT.

(a) *Extension.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 41(h)(1)(B) is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**--Section 45C(b)(1)(D) is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2005.

(b) *Increase in Rates of Alternative Incremental Credit.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subparagraph (A) of section 41(c)(4) (relating to election of alternative incremental credit) is amended--

(A) by striking ``2.65 percent" and inserting ``3 percent",

(B) by striking ``3.2 percent" and inserting ``4 percent", and

(C) by striking ``3.75 percent" and inserting ``5 percent".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--Except as provided in paragraph (3), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2006.

(3) **TRANSITION RULE.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In the case of a specified transitional taxable year for which an election under section 41(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 applies, the credit determined under section 41(a)(1) of such Code shall be equal to the sum of--

(i) the applicable 2006 percentage multiplied by the amount determined under section 41(c)(4)(A) of such Code (as in effect for taxable years ending on December 31, 2006), plus

(ii) the applicable 2007 percentage multiplied by the amount determined under section 41(c)(4)(A) of such Code (as in effect for taxable years ending on January 1, 2007).

(B) **DEFINITIONS.**--For purposes of subparagraph (A)--

(i) **SPECIFIED TRANSITIONAL TAXABLE YEAR.**--The term ``specified transitional taxable year" means any taxable year which ends after December 31, 2006, and which includes such date.

(ii) **APPLICABLE 2006 PERCENTAGE.**--The term ``applicable 2006 percentage" means the number of days in the specified transitional taxable year before January 1, 2007, divided by the number of days in such taxable year.

(iii) **APPLICABLE 2007 PERCENTAGE.**--The term ``applicable 2007 percentage" means the number of days in the specified transitional taxable year after December 31, 2006, divided by the number of days in such taxable year.

(c) *Alternative Simplified Credit for Qualified Research Expenses.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subsection (c) of section 41 (relating to base amount) is amended by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as paragraphs (6) and (7), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

``(5) **ELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE SIMPLIFIED CREDIT.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--At the election of the taxpayer, the credit determined under subsection (a)(1) shall be equal to 12 percent of so much of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year as exceeds 50 percent of the average qualified research expenses for the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined.

``(B) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF NO QUALIFIED RESEARCH EXPENSES IN ANY OF 3 PRECEDING TAXABLE YEARS.--

``(i) TAXPAYERS TO WHICH SUBPARAGRAPH APPLIES.--The credit under this paragraph shall be determined under this subparagraph if the taxpayer has no qualified research expenses in any one of the 3 taxable years preceding the taxable year for which the credit is being determined.

``(ii) CREDIT RATE.--The credit determined under this subparagraph shall be equal to 6 percent of the qualified research expenses for the taxable year.

``(C) ELECTION.--An election under this paragraph shall apply to the taxable year for which made and all succeeding taxable years unless revoked with the consent of the Secretary. An election under this paragraph may not be made for any taxable year to which an election under paragraph (4) applies."

(2) TRANSITION RULE FOR DEEMED REVOCATION OF ELECTION OF ALTERNATIVE INCREMENTAL CREDIT.--In the case of an election under section 41(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 which applies to the taxable year which includes January 1, 2007, such election shall be treated as revoked with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury if the taxpayer makes an election under section 41(c)(5) of such Code (as added by this subsection) for such year.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.--Except as provided in paragraph (4), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2006.

(4) TRANSITION RULE FOR NONCALENDAR TAXABLE YEARS.--

(A) IN GENERAL.--In the case of a specified transitional taxable year for which an election under section 41(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this subsection) applies, the credit determined under section 41(a)(1) of such Code shall be equal to the sum of--

(i) the applicable 2006 percentage multiplied by the amount determined under section 41(a)(1) of such Code (as in effect for taxable years ending on December 31, 2006), plus

(ii) the applicable 2007 percentage multiplied by the amount determined under section 41(c)(5) of such Code (as in effect for taxable years ending on January 1, 2007).

(B) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.--For purposes of subparagraph (A)--

(i) **DEFINITIONS.--**Terms used in this paragraph which are also used in subsection (b)(3) shall have the respective meanings given such terms in such subsection.

(ii) **DUAL ELECTIONS PERMITTED.--**Elections under paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 41(c) of such Code may both apply for the specified transitional taxable year.

(iii) **DEFERRAL OF DEEMED ELECTION REVOCATION.--**Any election under section 41(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 treated as revoked under paragraph (2) shall be treated as revoked for the taxable year after the specified transitional taxable year.

SEC. 105. WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT AND WELFARE-TO-WORK CREDIT.

(a) *In General.*--Sections 51(c)(4)(B) and 51A(f) are each amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Eligibility of Ex-Felons Determined Without Regard to Family Income.*-- Paragraph (4) of section 51(d) is amended by adding ``and" at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking `` , and" at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period, and by striking all that follows subparagraph (B).

(c) *Increase in Maximum Age for Eligibility of Food Stamp Recipients.*--Clause (i) of section 51(d)(8)(A) is amended by striking ``25" and inserting ``40".

(d) *Extension of Paperwork Filing Deadline.*--Section 51(d)(12)(A)(ii)(II) is amended by striking ``21st day" and inserting ``28th day".

(e) *Consolidation of Work Opportunity Credit With Welfare-to-Work Credit.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Paragraph (1) of section 51(d) is amended by striking ``or" at the end of subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting `` , or", and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(I) a long-term family assistance recipient."

(2) **LONG-TERM FAMILY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT.**--Subsection (d) of section 51 is amended by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (12) as paragraphs (11) through (13), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

``(10) **LONG-TERM FAMILY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT.**--The term `long-term family assistance recipient' means any individual who is certified by the designated local agency--

``(A) as being a member of a family receiving assistance under a IV-A program (as defined in paragraph (2)(B)) for at least the 18-month period ending on the hiring date,

``(B)(i) as being a member of a family receiving such assistance for 18 months beginning after August 5, 1997, and

``(ii) as having a hiring date which is not more than 2 years after the end of the earliest such 18-month period, or

``(C)(i) as being a member of a family which ceased to be eligible for such assistance by reason of any limitation imposed by

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Federal or State law on the maximum period such assistance is payable to a family, and

``(ii) as having a hiring date which is not more than 2 years after the date of such cessation."

(3) **INCREASED CREDIT FOR EMPLOYMENT OF LONG-TERM FAMILY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS.**--Section 51 is amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

``(e) *Credit for Second-Year Wages for Employment of Long-Term Family Assistance Recipients.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--With respect to the employment of a long-term family assistance recipient--

``(A) the amount of the work opportunity credit determined under this section for the taxable year shall include 50 percent of the qualified second-year wages for such year, and

``(B) in lieu of applying subsection (b)(3), the amount of the qualified first-year wages, and the amount of qualified second-year wages, which may be taken into account with respect to such a recipient shall not exceed \$10,000 per year.

``(2) **QUALIFIED SECOND-YEAR WAGES.**--For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified second-year wages' means qualified wages--

``(A) which are paid to a long-term family assistance recipient, and

``(B) which are attributable to service rendered during the 1-year period beginning on the day after the last day of the 1-year period with respect to such recipient determined under subsection (b)(2).

``(3) **SPECIAL RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RAILWAY LABOR.**--If such recipient is an employee to whom subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (h)(1) applies, rules similar to the rules of such subparagraphs shall apply except that--

``(A) such subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting '\$10,000' for '\$6,000', and

``(B) such subparagraph (B) shall be applied by substituting '\$833.33' for '\$500'."

(4) **REPEAL OF SEPARATE WELFARE-TO-WORK CREDIT.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 51A is hereby repealed.

(B) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**--The table of sections for subpart F of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 51A.

(f) *Effective Dates.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to individuals who begin work for the employer after December 31, 2005.

(2) **CONSOLIDATION.**--The amendments made by subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) shall apply to individuals who begin work for the employer after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 106. ELECTION TO INCLUDE COMBAT PAY AS EARNED INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF EARNED INCOME CREDIT.

(a) *In General.*--Section 32(c)(2)(B)(vi)(II) is amended by striking '2007' and inserting '2008'.

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF QUALIFIED ZONE ACADEMY BONDS.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (1) of section 1397E(e) is amended by striking 'and 2005' and inserting '2005, 2006, and 2007'.

(b) *Special Rules Relating to Expenditures, Arbitrage, and Reporting.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 1397E is amended--

(A) in subsection (d)(1), by striking 'and' at the end of subparagraph (C)(iii), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting ', and', and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(E) the issue meets the requirements of subsections (f), (g), and (h).", and

(B) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h), and (i) as subsection (i), (j), (k), and (l), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections:

``(f) *Special Rules Relating to Expenditures.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--An issue shall be treated as meeting the requirements of this subsection if, as of the date of issuance, the issuer reasonably expects--

``(A) at least 95 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the issue are to be spent for 1 or more qualified purposes with respect to qualified zone academies

within the 5-year period beginning on the date of issuance of the qualified zone academy bond,

``(B) a binding commitment with a third party to spend at least 10 percent of the proceeds from the sale of the issue will be incurred within the 6-month period beginning on the date of issuance of the qualified zone academy bond, and

``(C) such purposes will be completed with due diligence and the proceeds from the sale of the issue will be spent with due diligence.

``(2) **EXTENSION OF PERIOD.**--Upon submission of a request prior to the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary may extend such period if the issuer establishes that the failure to satisfy the 5-year requirement is due to reasonable cause and the related purposes will continue to proceed with due diligence.

``(3) **FAILURE TO SPEND REQUIRED AMOUNT OF BOND PROCEEDS WITHIN 5 YEARS.**--To the extent that less than 95 percent of the proceeds of such issue are expended by the close of the 5-year period beginning on the date of issuance (or if an extension has been obtained under paragraph (2), by the close of the extended period), the issuer shall redeem all of the nonqualified bonds within 90 days after the end of such period. For purposes of this paragraph, the amount of the nonqualified bonds required to be redeemed shall be determined in the same manner as under section 142.

``(g) *Special Rules Relating to Arbitrage.*--An issue shall be treated as meeting the requirements of this subsection if the issuer satisfies the arbitrage requirements of section 148 with respect to proceeds of the issue.

``(h) *Reporting.*--Issuers of qualified academy zone bonds shall submit reports similar to the reports required under section 149(e)."

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**--Sections 54(l)(3)(B) and 1400N(l)(7)(B)(ii) are each amended by striking ``section 1397E(i)" and inserting ``section 1397E(l)".

(c) *Effective Dates.*--

(1) **EXTENSION.**--The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to obligations issued after December 31, 2005.

(2) **SPECIAL RULES.**--The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to obligations issued after the date of the enactment of this Act pursuant to allocations of the national zone academy bond limitation for calendar years after 2005.

SEC. 108. ABOVE-THE-LINE DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS.

(a) *In General.*--Subparagraph (D) of section 62(a)(2) is amended by striking ``or 2005" and inserting ``2005, 2006, or 2007".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 109. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF EXPENSING OF BROWNFIELDS REMEDIATION COSTS.

(a) *Extension.*--Subsection (h) of section 198 is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Expansion.*--Section 198(d)(1) (defining hazardous substance) is amended by striking ``and" at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting `` , and", and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(C) any petroleum product (as defined in section 4612(a)(3)).".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 110. TAX INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENT IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) *Designation of Zone.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subsection (f) of section 1400 is amended by striking ``2005" both places it appears and inserting ``2007".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to periods beginning after December 31, 2005.

(b) *Tax-Exempt Economic Development Bonds.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subsection (b) of section 1400A is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to bonds issued after December 31, 2005.

(c) *Zero Percent Capital Gains Rate.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subsection (b) of section 1400B is amended by striking ``2006" each place it appears and inserting ``2008".

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**--

(A) Section 1400B(e)(2) is amended--

(i) by striking ``2010" and inserting ``2012", and

(ii) by striking ``**2010**" in the heading thereof and inserting ``**2012**".

(B) Section 1400B(g)(2) is amended by striking ``2010" and inserting ``2012".

(C) Section 1400F(d) is amended by striking ``2010" and inserting ``2012".

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATES.**--

(A) **EXTENSION.**--The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply to acquisitions after December 31, 2005.

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**--The amendments made by paragraph (2) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) *First-Time Homebuyer Credit.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subsection (i) of section 1400C is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2008".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to property purchased after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 111. INDIAN EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT.

(a) *In General.*--Section 45A(f) is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 112. ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION FOR BUSINESS PROPERTY ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 168(j)(8) is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 113. FIFTEEN-YEAR STRAIGHT-LINE COST RECOVERY FOR QUALIFIED LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS AND QUALIFIED RESTAURANT PROPERTY.

(a) *In General.*--Clauses (iv) and (v) of section 168(e)(3)(E) are each amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2008".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 114. COVER OVER OF TAX ON DISTILLED SPIRITS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 7652(f)(1) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2008".

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(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to articles brought into the United States after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 115. PARITY IN APPLICATION OF CERTAIN LIMITS TO MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS.

(a) *Amendment to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.*--Section 9812(f)(3) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Amendment to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.*--Section 712(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1185a(f)) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2007".

(c) *Amendment to the Public Health Service Act.*--Section 2705(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-5(f)) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2007".

SEC. 116. CORPORATE DONATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC PROPERTY USED FOR RESEARCH AND OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT.

(a) *Extension of Computer Technology and Equipment Donation.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 170(e)(6)(G) is amended by striking ``2005" and inserting ``2007".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to contributions made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

(b) *Expansion of Charitable Contribution Allowed for Scientific Property Used for Research and for Computer Technology and Equipment Used for Educational Purposes.*--

(1) **SCIENTIFIC PROPERTY USED FOR RESEARCH.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Clause (ii) of section 170(e)(4)(B) (defining qualified research contributions) is amended by inserting ``or assembled" after ``constructed".

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**--Clause (iii) of section 170(e)(4)(B) is amended by inserting ``or assembly" after ``construction".

(2) **COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Clause (ii) of section 170(e)(6)(B) is amended by inserting ``or assembled" after ``constructed" and ``or assembling" after ``construction".

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**--Subparagraph (D) of section 170(e)(6) is amended by inserting ``or assembled" after ``constructed" and ``or assembly" after ``construction".

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 117. AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraphs (2) and (3)(B) of section 220(i) are each amended by striking ``2005" each place it appears in the text and headings and inserting ``2007".

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Paragraph (2) of section 220(j) is amended--

(A) in the text by striking `` or 2004" each place it appears and inserting `` 2004, 2005, or 2006", and

(B) in the heading by striking `` **OR 2004**" and inserting `` **2004, 2005, OR 2006**".

(2) Subparagraph (A) of section 220(j)(4) is amended by striking `` and 2004" and inserting `` 2004, 2005, and 2006".

(c) *Time for Filing Reports, etc.*--

(1) The report required by section 220(j)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to be made on August 1, 2005, or August 1, 2006, as the case may be, shall be treated as timely if made before the close of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) The determination and publication required by section 220(j)(5) of such Code with respect to calendar year 2005 or calendar year 2006, as the case may be, shall be treated as timely if made before the close of the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act. If the determination under the preceding sentence is that 2005 or 2006 is a cut-off year under section 220(i) of such Code, the cut-off date under such section 220(i) shall be the last day of such 120-day period.

SEC. 118. TAXABLE INCOME LIMIT ON PERCENTAGE DEPLETION FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCED FROM MARGINAL PROPERTIES.

(a) *In General.*--Section 613A(c)(6)(H) is amended by striking `` 2006" and inserting `` 2008".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 119. AMERICAN SAMOA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CREDIT.

(a) *In General.*--For purposes of section 30A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a domestic corporation shall be treated as a qualified domestic corporation to which such section applies if such corporation--

(1) is an existing credit claimant with respect to American Samoa, and

(2) elected the application of section 936 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for its last taxable year beginning before January 1, 2006.

(b) *Special Rules for Application of Section.*--The following rules shall apply in applying section 30A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes of this section:

(1) **AMOUNT OF CREDIT.**--Notwithstanding section 30A(a)(1) of such Code, the amount of the credit determined under section 30A(a)(1) of such Code for any taxable year shall be the amount determined under section 30A(d) of such Code, except that section 30A(d) shall be applied without regard to paragraph (3) thereof.

(2) **SEPARATE APPLICATION.**--In applying section 30A(a)(3) of such Code in the case of a corporation treated as a qualified domestic corporation by reason of this section, section 30A of such Code (and so much of section 936 of such Code as relates to such section 30A) shall be applied separately with respect to American Samoa.

(3) **FOREIGN TAX CREDIT ALLOWED.**--Notwithstanding section 30A(e) of such Code, the provisions of section 936(c) of such Code shall not apply with respect to the credit allowed by reason of this section.

(c) *Definitions.*--For purposes of this section, any term which is used in this section which is also used in section 30A or 936 of such Code shall have the same meaning given such term by such section 30A or 936.

(d) *Application of Section.*--Notwithstanding section 30A(h) or section 936(j) of such Code, this section (and so much of section 30A and section 936 of such Code as relates to this section) shall apply to the first two taxable years of a corporation to which subsection (a) applies which begin after December 31, 2005, and before January 1, 2008.

SEC. 120. EXTENSION OF BONUS DEPRECIATION FOR CERTAIN QUALIFIED GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE PROPERTY.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (d) of section 1400N is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(6) **EXTENSION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In the case of any specified Gulf Opportunity Zone extension property, paragraph (2)(A) shall be applied without regard to clause (v) thereof.

``(B) **SPECIFIED GULF OPPORTUNITY ZONE EXTENSION PROPERTY.**--

For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'specified Gulf Opportunity Zone extension property' means property--

``(i) substantially all of the use of which is in one or more specified portions of the GO Zone, and

``(ii) which is--

``(I) nonresidential real property or residential rental property which is placed in service by the taxpayer on or before December 31, 2010, or

``(II) in the case of a taxpayer who places a building described in subclause (I) in service on or before December 31, 2010, property described in section 168(k)(2)(A)(i) if substantially all of the use of such property is in such building and such property is placed in service by the taxpayer not later than 90 days after such building is placed in service.

``(C) **SPECIFIED PORTIONS OF THE GO ZONE.**--For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'specified portions of the GO Zone' means those portions of the GO Zone which are in any county or parish which is identified by the Secretary as being a county or parish in which hurricanes occurring during 2005 damaged (in the aggregate) more than 60 percent of the housing units in such county or parish which were occupied (determined according to the 2000 Census).

``(D) **ONLY PRE-JANUARY 1, 2010, BASIS OF REAL PROPERTY ELIGIBLE FOR ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE.**--In the case of property which is qualified Gulf Opportunity Zone property solely by reason of subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent of the adjusted basis thereof attributable to manufacture, construction, or production before January 1, 2010."

(b) *Extension Not Applicable to Increased Section 179 Expensing.*--Paragraph (2) of section 1400N(e) is amended by inserting ``without regard to subsection (d)(6)" after ``subsection (d)(2)".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 101 of the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.

SEC. 121. AUTHORITY FOR UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS.

Paragraph (6) of section 7608(c) (relating to application of section) is amended by striking ``2007" both places it appears and inserting ``2008".

SEC. 122. DISCLOSURES OF CERTAIN TAX RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) *Disclosures to Facilitate Combined Employment Tax Reporting.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subparagraph (B) of section 6103(d)(5) (relating to termination) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2007".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to disclosures after December 31, 2006.

(b) *Disclosures Relating to Terrorist Activities.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Clause (iv) of section 6103(i)(3)(C) and subparagraph (E) of section 6103(i)(7) are each amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2007".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply to disclosures after December 31, 2006.

(c) *Disclosures Relating to Student Loans.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subparagraph (D) of section 6103(l)(13) (relating to termination) is amended by striking ``2006" and inserting ``2007".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to requests made after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 123. SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTIONS UNDER EXPIRED PROVISIONS.

(a) *Research Credit Elections.*--In the case of any taxable year ending after December 31, 2005, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, any election under section 41(c)(4) or section 280C(c)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as

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having been timely made for such taxable year if such election is made not later than the later of April 15, 2007, or such time as the Secretary of the Treasury, or his designee, may specify. Such election shall be made in the manner prescribed by such Secretary or designee.

(b) *Other Elections.*--Except as otherwise provided by such Secretary or designee, a rule similar to the rule of subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections under any other expired provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 the applicability of which is extended by reason of the amendments made by this title.

TITLE II--ENERGY TAX PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

Subsection (d) of section 45 is amended by striking ``January 1, 2008" each place it appears and inserting ``January 1, 2009".

SEC. 202. CREDIT TO HOLDERS OF CLEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY BONDS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 54 is amended--

(1) by striking ``\$800,000,000" in subsection (f)(1) and inserting ``\$1,200,000,000",

(2) by striking ``\$500,000,000" in subsection (f)(2) and inserting ``\$750,000,000", and

(3) by striking ``December 31, 2007" in subsection (m) and inserting ``December 31, 2008".

(b) *Effective Dates.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a) shall apply to bonds issued after December 31, 2006.

(2) **ALLOCATIONS.**--The amendment made by subsection (a)(2) shall apply to allocations or reallocations after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 203. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SULFUR DIOXIDE REMOVAL IN ADVANCED COAL-BASED GENERATION TECHNOLOGY UNITS DESIGNED TO USE SUBBITUMINOUS COAL.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (1) of section 48A(f) (relating to advanced coal-based generation technology) is amended by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

``For purposes of the performance requirement specified for the removal of SO

**2 in the table contained in subparagraph (B), the SO
2 removal design level in the case of a unit designed for the use of
feedstock substantially all of which is subbituminous coal shall be 99
percent SO**

**2 removal or the achievement of an emission level of 0.04 pounds or
less of SO**

2 per million Btu, determined on a 30-day average.".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take apply with respect to applications for certification under section 48A(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 submitted after October 2, 2006.

SEC. 204. DEDUCTION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS.

Subsection (h) of section 179D is amended by striking ``December 31, 2007'' and inserting ``December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 205. CREDIT FOR NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT HOMES.

Subsection (g) of section 45L is amended by striking ``December 31, 2007'' and inserting ``December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 206. CREDIT FOR RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENT PROPERTY.

(a) *Extension.*--Subsection (g) of section 25D is amended by striking ``December 31, 2007'' and inserting ``December 31, 2008''.

(b) *Clarification of Term.*--

(1) Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1)(A), and (e)(4)(A)(i) of section 25D are each amended by striking ``qualified photovoltaic property expenditures'' and inserting ``qualified solar electric property expenditures''.

(2) Section 25D(d)(2) is amended--

(A) by striking ``qualified photovoltaic property expenditure'' and inserting ``qualified solar electric property expenditure'', and

(B) in the heading by striking ``**QUALIFIED PHOTOVOLTAIC PROPERTY EXPENDITURE**'' and inserting ``**QUALIFIED SOLAR ELECTRIC PROPERTY EXPENDITURE**''.

SEC. 207. ENERGY CREDIT.

Section 48 is amended--

(1) by striking ``January 1, 2008'' both places it appears and inserting ``January 1, 2009'', and

(2) by striking ``December 31, 2007'' both places it appears and inserting ``December 31, 2008''.

SEC. 208. SPECIAL RULE FOR QUALIFIED METHANOL OR ETHANOL FUEL.

(a) *Extension*.--Subparagraph (D) of section 4041(b)(2) is amended by striking ``October 1, 2007" and inserting ``January 1, 2009".

(b) *Applicable Blender Rate*.--Section 4041(b)(2)(C)(ii) is amended by striking ``2007" and inserting ``2008".

(c) *Clerical Amendment*.--The heading for section 4041(b)(2)(B) is amended to read as follows: ``**QUALIFIED METHANOL AND ETHANOL FUEL PRODUCED FROM COAL**".

SEC. 209. SPECIAL DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCE FOR CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL PLANT PROPERTY.

(a) *In General*.--Section 168 (relating to accelerated cost recovery system) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(l) *Special Allowance for Cellulosic Biomass Ethanol Plant Property*.--

``(1) **ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE**.--In the case of any qualified cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property--

``(A) the depreciation deduction provided by section 167(a) for the taxable year in which such property is placed in service shall include an allowance equal to 50 percent of the adjusted basis of such property, and

``(B) the adjusted basis of such property shall be reduced by the amount of such deduction before computing the amount otherwise allowable as a depreciation deduction under this chapter for such taxable year and any subsequent taxable year.

``(2) **QUALIFIED CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL PLANT PROPERTY**.--

The term `qualified cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property' means property of a character subject to the allowance for depreciation--

``(A) which is used in the United States solely to produce cellulosic biomass ethanol,

``(B) the original use of which commences with the taxpayer after the date of the enactment of this subsection,

``(C) which is acquired by the taxpayer by purchase (as defined in section 179(d)) after the date of the enactment of this subsection, but only if no written binding contract for the acquisition was in effect on or before the date of the enactment of this subsection, and

``(D) which is placed in service by the taxpayer before January 1, 2013.

``(3) **CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL**.--For purposes of this subsection, the term `cellulosic biomass ethanol' means ethanol produced by enzymatic hydrolysis of any lignocellulosic or hemicellulosic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis.

``(4) **EXCEPTIONS**.--

``(A) **ALTERNATIVE DEPRECIATION PROPERTY**.--Such term shall not include any property described in section 168(k)(2)(D)(i).

``(B) **TAX-EXEMPT BOND-FINANCED PROPERTY**.--Such term shall not include any property any portion of which is financed with the proceeds of any obligation the interest on which is exempt from tax under section 103.

``(C) **ELECTION OUT**.--If a taxpayer makes an election under this subparagraph with respect to any class of property for any taxable year, this subsection shall not apply to all property in such class placed in service during such taxable year.

``(5) **SPECIAL RULES**.--For purposes of this subsection, rules similar to the rules of subparagraph (E) of section 168(k)(2) shall apply, except that such subparagraph shall be applied--

``(A) by substituting `the date of the enactment of subsection (I)' for `September 10, 2001' each place it appears therein,
``(B) by substituting `January 1, 2013' for `January 1, 2005' in clause (i) thereof, and
``(C) by substituting `qualified cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property' for `qualified property' in clause (iv) thereof.
``(6) **ALLOWANCE AGAINST ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.**--For purposes of this subsection, rules similar to the rules of section 168(k)(2)(G) shall apply.
``(7) **RECAPTURE.**--For purposes of this subsection, rules similar to the rules under section 179(d)(10) shall apply with respect to any qualified cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property which ceases to be qualified cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property.
``(8) **DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.**--Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any qualified cellulosic biomass ethanol plant property with respect to which an election has been made under section 179C (relating to election to expense certain refineries)."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 210. EXPENDITURES PERMITTED FROM THE LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK TRUST FUND.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (c) of section 9508 is amended--
(1) by striking ``section 9003(h)" and inserting ``sections 9003(h), 9003(i), 9003(j), 9004(f), 9005(c), 9010, 9011, 9012, and 9013", and
(2) by striking ``Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986" and inserting ``Public Law 109-168".

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--Section 9014(2) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act is amended by striking ``Fund, notwithstanding section 9508(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986" and inserting ``Fund".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 211. TREATMENT OF COKE AND COKE GAS.

(a) *Nonapplication of Phaseout.*--Section 45K(g)(2) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(D) **NONAPPLICATION OF PHASEOUT.**--Subsection (b)(1) shall not apply."

(b) *Clarification of Qualifying Facility.*--Section 45K(g)(1) is amended by inserting `` (other than from petroleum based products)" after ``coke or coke gas".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 1321 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

TITLE III--HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ``Health Opportunity Patient Empowerment Act of 2006".

SEC. 302. FSA AND HRA TERMINATIONS TO FUND HSAS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 106 (relating to contributions by employer to accident and health plans) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(e) *FSA and HRA Terminations to Fund HSAs.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--A plan shall not fail to be treated as a health flexible spending arrangement or health reimbursement arrangement under this section or section 105

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merely because such plan provides for a qualified HSA distribution.

``(2) **QUALIFIED HSA DISTRIBUTION.**--The term `qualified HSA distribution' means a distribution from a health flexible spending arrangement or health reimbursement arrangement to the extent that such distribution--

``(A) does not exceed the lesser of the balance in such arrangement on September 21, 2006, or as of the date of such distribution, and

``(B) is contributed by the employer directly to the health savings account of the employee before January 1, 2012.

Such term shall not include more than 1 distribution with respect to any arrangement.

``(3) **ADDITIONAL TAX FOR FAILURE TO MAINTAIN HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--If, at any time during the testing period, the employee is not an eligible individual, then the amount of the qualified HSA distribution--

``(i) shall be includible in the gross income of the employee for the taxable year in which occurs the first month in the testing period for which such employee is not an eligible individual, and

``(ii) the tax imposed by this chapter for such taxable year on the employee shall be increased by 10 percent of the amount which is so includible.

``(B) **EXCEPTION FOR DISABILITY OR DEATH.**--Clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the employee ceases to be an eligible individual by reason of the death of the employee or the employee becoming disabled (within the meaning of section 72(m)(7)).

``(4) **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.**--For purposes of this subsection--

``(A) **TESTING PERIOD.**--The term `testing period' means the period beginning with the month in which the qualified HSA distribution is contributed to the health savings account and ending on the last day of the 12th month following such month.

``(B) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.**--The term `eligible individual' has the meaning given such term by section 223(c)(1).

``(C) **TREATMENT AS ROLLOVER CONTRIBUTION.**--A qualified HSA distribution shall be treated as a rollover contribution described in section 223(f)(5).

``(5) **TAX TREATMENT RELATING TO DISTRIBUTIONS.**--For purposes of this title--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--A qualified HSA distribution shall be treated as a payment described in subsection (d).

``(B) **COMPARABILITY EXCISE TAX.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in clause (ii), section 4980G shall not apply to qualified HSA distributions.

“(ii) **FAILURE TO OFFER TO ALL EMPLOYEES.**--In the case of a qualified HSA distribution to any employee, the failure to offer such distribution to any eligible individual covered under a high deductible health plan of the employer shall (notwithstanding section 4980G(d)) be treated for purposes of section 4980G as a failure to meet the requirements of section 4980G(b).”.

(b) *Certain FSA Coverage Disregarded Coverage.*--Subparagraph (B) of section 223(c)(1) (relating to certain coverage disregarded) is amended by striking “and” at the end of clause (i), by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

“(iii) for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006, coverage under a health flexible spending arrangement during any period immediately following the end of a plan year of such arrangement during which unused benefits or contributions remaining at the end of such plan year may be paid or reimbursed to plan participants for qualified benefit expenses incurred during such period if--
“(I) the balance in such arrangement at the end of such plan year is zero, or
“(II) the individual is making a qualified HSA distribution (as defined in section 106(e)) in an amount equal to the remaining balance in such arrangement as of the end of such plan year, in accordance with rules prescribed by the Secretary.”.

(c) *Application of Section.*--

(1) **SUBSECTION** (a).--The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to distributions on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **SUBSECTION** (b).--The amendment made by subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. REPEAL OF ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE LIMITATION ON HSA CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (2) of section 223(b) (relating to monthly limitation) is amended--

(1) in subparagraph (A) by striking “the lesser of--” and all that follows and inserting “\$2,250.”, and

(2) in subparagraph (B) by striking “the lesser of--” and all that follows and inserting “\$4,500.”.

(b) *Conforming Amendment.*--Section 223(d)(1)(A)(ii)(I) is amended by striking “subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii)” and inserting “subsection (b)(2)(B)”.

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 304. MODIFICATION OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.

Paragraph (1) of section 223(g) (relating to cost-of-living adjustment) is amended by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

“In the case of adjustments made for any taxable year beginning after 2007, section 1(f)(4) shall be applied for purposes of this paragraph by substituting ‘March 31’ for ‘August 31’, and the Secretary shall publish the adjusted amounts under subsections (b)(2) and (c)(2)(A) for taxable years beginning in any calendar year no later than June 1 of the preceding calendar year.”.

SEC. 305. CONTRIBUTION LIMITATION NOT REDUCED FOR PART-YEAR COVERAGE.

(a) *Increase in Limit for Individuals Becoming Eligible Individuals After Beginning of the Year.*--Subsection (b) of section 223 (relating to limitations) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(8) INCREASE IN LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUALS BECOMING ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.--

``(A) IN GENERAL.--For purposes of computing the limitation under paragraph (1) for any taxable year, an individual who is an eligible individual during the last month of such taxable year shall be treated--

``(i) as having been an eligible individual during each of the months in such taxable year, and

``(ii) as having been enrolled, during each of the months such individual is treated as an eligible individual solely by reason of clause (i), in the same high deductible health plan in which the individual was enrolled for the last month of such taxable year.

``(B) FAILURE TO MAINTAIN HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE.--

``(i) IN GENERAL.--If, at any time during the testing period, the individual is not an eligible individual, then--

``(I) gross income of the individual for the taxable year in which occurs the first month in the testing period for which such individual is not an eligible individual is increased by the aggregate amount of all contributions to the health savings account of the individual which could not have been made but for subparagraph (A), and

``(II) the tax imposed by this chapter for any taxable year on the individual shall be increased by 10 percent of the amount of such increase.

``(ii) EXCEPTION FOR DISABILITY OR DEATH.--Subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) shall not apply if the individual ceased to be an eligible individual by reason of the death of the individual or the individual becoming disabled (within the meaning of section 72(m)(7)).

``(iii) TESTING PERIOD.--The term 'testing period' means the period beginning with the last month of the taxable year referred to in subparagraph (A) and ending on the last day of the 12th month following such month."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 306. EXCEPTION TO REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYERS TO MAKE COMPARABLE HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 4980G (relating to failure of employer to make comparable health savings account contributions) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(d) Exception.--For purposes of applying section 4980E to a contribution to a health savings account of an employee who is not a highly compensated employee (as defined in section 414(q)), highly compensated employees shall not be treated as comparable participating employees."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 307. ONE-TIME DISTRIBUTION FROM INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT PLANS TO FUND HSAS.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (d) of section 408 (relating to taxability of beneficiary of employees' trust) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(9) DISTRIBUTION FOR HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNT FUNDING.--

``(A) IN GENERAL.--In the case of an individual who is an eligible individual (as defined in section 223(c)) and who elects the application of this paragraph

for a taxable year, gross income of the individual for the taxable year does not include a qualified HSA funding distribution to the extent such distribution is otherwise includible in gross income.

``(B) **QUALIFIED HSA FUNDING DISTRIBUTION.**--For purposes of this paragraph, the term `qualified HSA funding distribution' means a distribution from an individual retirement plan (other than a plan described in subsection (k) or (p)) of the employee to the extent that such distribution is contributed to the health savings account of the individual in a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer.

``(C) **LIMITATIONS.**--

``(i) **MAXIMUM DOLLAR LIMITATION.**--The amount excluded from gross income by subparagraph (A) shall not exceed the excess of--

``(I) the annual limitation under section 223(b) computed on the basis of the type of coverage under the high deductible health plan covering the individual at the time of the qualified HSA funding distribution, over

``(II) in the case of a distribution described in clause (ii)(II), the amount of the earlier qualified HSA funding distribution.

``(ii) **ONE-TIME TRANSFER.**--

``(I) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in subclause (II), an individual may make an election under subparagraph (A) only for one qualified HSA funding distribution during the lifetime of the individual. Such an election, once made, shall be irrevocable.

``(II) **CONVERSION FROM SELF-ONLY TO FAMILY COVERAGE.**--If a qualified HSA funding

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distribution is made during a month in a taxable year during which an individual has self-only coverage under a high deductible health plan as of the first day of the month, the individual may elect to make an additional qualified HSA funding distribution during a subsequent month in such taxable year during which the individual has family coverage under a high deductible health plan as of the first day of the subsequent month.

``(D) **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLAN COVERAGE.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--If, at any time during the testing period, the individual is not an eligible individual, then the aggregate amount of all contributions to the health savings account of the individual made under subparagraph (A)--

``(I) shall be includible in the gross income of the individual for the taxable year in which occurs the first month in the testing period for which such individual is not an eligible individual, and

``(II) the tax imposed by this chapter for any taxable year on the individual shall be increased by 10 percent of the amount which is so includible.

``(ii) **EXCEPTION FOR DISABILITY OR DEATH.**--Subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) shall not apply if the individual ceased to be an eligible individual by reason of the death of the individual or the individual becoming disabled (within the meaning of section 72(m)(7)).

``(iii) **TESTING PERIOD.**--The term `testing period' means the period beginning with the month in which the qualified HSA funding distribution is contributed to a health savings account and ending on the last day of the 12th month following such month.

``(E) **APPLICATION OF SECTION 72.**--Notwithstanding section 72, in determining the extent to which an amount is treated as otherwise includible in

gross income for purposes of subparagraph (A), the aggregate amount distributed from an individual retirement plan shall be treated as includible in gross income to the extent that such amount does not exceed the aggregate amount which would have been so includible if all amounts from all individual retirement plans were distributed. Proper adjustments shall be made in applying section 72 to other distributions in such taxable year and subsequent taxable years."

(b) *Coordination With Limitation on Contributions to HSAs.*--Section 223(b)(4) (relating to coordination with other contributions) is amended by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ", and", and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) the aggregate amount contributed to health savings accounts of such individual for such taxable year under section 408(d)(9) (and such amount shall not be allowed as a deduction under subsection (a))."

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

TITLE IV--OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. DEDUCTION ALLOWABLE WITH RESPECT TO INCOME ATTRIBUTABLE TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN PUERTO RICO.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (d) of section 199 (relating to definitions and special rules) is amended by redesignating paragraph (8) as paragraph (9) and by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

"(8) **TREATMENT OF ACTIVITIES IN PUERTO RICO.**--

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In the case of any taxpayer with gross receipts for any taxable year from sources within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if all of such receipts are taxable under section 1 or 11 for such taxable year, then for purposes of determining the domestic production gross receipts of such taxpayer for such taxable year under subsection (c)(4), the term 'United States' shall include the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

"(B) **SPECIAL RULE FOR APPLYING WAGE LIMITATION.**--In the case of any taxpayer described in subparagraph (A), for purposes of applying the limitation under subsection (b) for any taxable year, the determination of W-2 wages of such taxpayer shall be made without regard to any exclusion under section 3401(a)(8) for remuneration paid for services performed in Puerto Rico.

"(C) **TERMINATION.**--This paragraph shall apply only with respect to the first 2 taxable years of the taxpayer beginning after December 31, 2005, and before January 1, 2008."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 402. CREDIT FOR PRIOR YEAR MINIMUM TAX LIABILITY MADE REFUNDABLE AFTER PERIOD OF YEARS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 53 (relating to credit for prior year minimum tax liability) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) *Special Rule for Individuals With Long-Term Unused Credits.*--

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**--If an individual has a long-term unused minimum tax credit for any taxable year beginning before January 1, 2013, the amount

determined under subsection (c) for such taxable year shall not be less than the AMT refundable credit amount for such taxable year.

``(2) **AMT REFUNDABLE CREDIT AMOUNT.**--For purposes of paragraph (1)--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The term `AMT refundable credit amount' means, with respect to any taxable year, the amount equal to the greater of--

``(i) the lesser of--

``(I) \$5,000, or

``(II) the amount of long-term unused minimum tax credit for such taxable year, or

``(ii) 20 percent of the amount of such credit.

``(B) **PHASEOUT OF AMT REFUNDABLE CREDIT AMOUNT.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--In the case of an individual whose adjusted gross income for any taxable year exceeds the threshold amount (within the meaning of section 151(d)(3)(C)), the AMT refundable credit amount determined under subparagraph (A) for such taxable year shall be reduced by the applicable percentage (within the meaning of section 151(d)(3)(B)).

``(ii) **ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.**--For purposes of clause (i), adjusted gross income shall be determined without regard to sections 911, 931, and 933.

``(3) **LONG-TERM UNUSED MINIMUM TAX CREDIT.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--For purposes of this subsection, the term `long-term unused minimum tax credit' means, with respect to any taxable year, the portion of the minimum tax credit determined under subsection (b) attributable to the adjusted net minimum tax for taxable years before the 3rd taxable year immediately preceding such taxable year.

``(B) **FIRST-IN, FIRST-OUT ORDERING RULE.**--For purposes of subparagraph (A), credits shall be treated as allowed under subsection (a) on a first-in, first-out basis.

``(4) **CREDIT REFUNDABLE.**--For purposes of this title (other than this section), the credit allowed by reason of this subsection shall be treated as if it were allowed under subpart C."

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Section 6211(b)(4)(A) is amended by striking `` and 34" and inserting ``34, and 53(e)".

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting `` or 53(e)" after ``section 35".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 403. RETURNS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN OPTIONS.

(a) *In General.*--So much of section 6039(a) as follows paragraph (2) is amended to read as follows:

`` shall, for such calendar year, make a return at such time and in such manner, and setting forth such information, as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe."

(b) *Statements to Persons With Respect to Whom Information Is Furnished.*--Section 6039 is amended by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsection (c) and (d), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

``(b) *Statements To Be Furnished to Persons With Respect to Whom Information Is Reported.*--Every corporation making a return under subsection (a) shall furnish to each person whose name is set forth in such return a written statement setting forth such information as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe. The written statement required under the preceding sentence shall be furnished to such person on or before January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was made.".

(c) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Section 6724(d)(1)(B) is amended by striking ``or" at the end of clause (xvii), by striking ``and" at the end of clause (xviii) and inserting ``or", and by adding at the end the following new clause:

``(xix) section 6039(a) (relating to returns required with respect to certain options), and".

(2) Section 6724(d)(2)(B) is amended by striking ``section 6039(a)" and inserting ``section 6039(b)".

(3) The heading of section 6039 and the item relating to such section in the table of sections of subpart A of part III of subchapter A of chapter 61 of such Code are each amended by striking ``Information" and inserting ``Returns".

(4) The heading of subsection (a) of section 6039 is amended by striking ``Furnishing of Information" and inserting ``Requirement of Reporting".

(d) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to calendar years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 404. PARTIAL EXPENSING FOR ADVANCED MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

(a) *In General.*--Part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after section 179D the following new section:

``SEC. 179E. ELECTION TO EXPENSE ADVANCED MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

``(a) *Treatment as Expenses.*--A taxpayer may elect to treat 50 percent of the cost of any qualified advanced mine safety equipment property as an expense which is not chargeable to capital account. Any cost so treated shall be allowed as a deduction for the taxable year in which the qualified advanced mine safety equipment property is placed in service.

``(b) *Election.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--An election under this section for any taxable year shall be made on the taxpayer's return of the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year. Such election shall specify the advanced mine safety equipment property to which the election applies and shall be made in such manner as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe.

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``(2) **ELECTION IRREVOCABLE.**--Any election made under this section may not be revoked except with the consent of the Secretary.

``(c) *Qualified Advanced Mine Safety Equipment Property.*--For purposes of this section, the term `qualified advanced mine safety equipment property' means any advanced mine safety equipment property for use in any underground mine located in the United States--

``(1) the original use of which commences with the taxpayer, and

``(2) which is placed in service by the taxpayer after the date of the enactment of this section.

`` (d) *Advanced Mine Safety Equipment Property.*--For purposes of this section, the term `advanced mine safety equipment property' means any of the following:

`` (1) Emergency communication technology or device which is used to allow a miner to maintain constant communication with an individual who is not in the mine.

`` (2) Electronic identification and location device which allows an individual who is not in the mine to track at all times the movements and location of miners working in or at the mine.

`` (3) Emergency oxygen-generating, self-rescue device which provides oxygen for at least 90 minutes.

`` (4) Pre-positioned supplies of oxygen which (in combination with self-rescue devices) can be used to provide each miner on a shift, in the event of an accident or other event which traps the miner in the mine or otherwise necessitates the use of such a self-rescue device, the ability to survive for at least 48 hours.

`` (5) Comprehensive atmospheric monitoring system which monitors the levels of carbon monoxide, methane, and oxygen that are present in all areas of the mine and which can detect smoke in the case of a fire in a mine.

`` (e) *Coordination With Section 179.*--No expenditures shall be taken into account under subsection (a) with respect to the portion of the cost of any property specified in an election under section 179.

`` (f) *Reporting.*--No deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) to any taxpayer for any taxable year unless such taxpayer files with the Secretary a report containing such information with respect to the operation of the mines of the taxpayer as the Secretary shall require.

`` (g) *Termination.*--This section shall not apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2008."

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Section 263(a)(1) is amended by striking ``or" at the end of subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (K) and inserting `` , or", and by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following new subparagraph:

`` (L) expenditures for which a deduction is allowed under section 179E."

(2) Section 312(k)(3)(B) is amended by striking ``or 179D" each place it appears in the heading and text thereof and inserting `` 179D, or 179E".

(3) Paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(C) of section 1245(a) are each amended by inserting `` 179E," after `` 179D,".

(4) The table of sections for part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 179D the following new item:

`` Sec. 179E. Election to expense advanced mine safety equipment."

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to costs paid or incurred after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 405. MINE RESCUE TEAM TRAINING TAX CREDIT.

(a) *In General.*--Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 (relating to business related credits) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

`` SEC. 45N. MINE RESCUE TEAM TRAINING CREDIT.

`` (a) *Amount of Credit.*--For purposes of section 38, the mine rescue team training credit determined under this section with respect to each qualified mine

rescue team employee of an eligible employer for any taxable year is an amount equal to the lesser of--

((1) 20 percent of the amount paid or incurred by the taxpayer during the taxable year with respect to the training program costs of such qualified mine rescue team employee (including wages of such employee while attending such program), or

((2) \$10,000.

(b) *Qualified Mine Rescue Team Employee.*--For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified mine rescue team employee' means with respect to any taxable year any full-time employee of the taxpayer who is--

((1) a miner eligible for more than 6 months of such taxable year to serve as a mine rescue team member as a result of completing, at a minimum, an initial 20-hour course of instruction as prescribed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration's Office of Educational Policy and Development, or

((2) a miner eligible for more than 6 months of such taxable year to serve as a mine rescue team member by virtue of receiving at least 40 hours of refresher training in such instruction.

(c) *Eligible Employer.*--For purposes of this section, the term 'eligible employer' means any taxpayer which employs individuals as miners in underground mines in the United States.

(d) *Wages.*--For purposes of this section, the term 'wages' has the meaning given to such term by subsection (b) of section 3306 (determined without regard to any dollar limitation contained in such section).

(e) *Termination.*--This section shall not apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2008."

(b) *Credit Made Part of General Business Credit.*--Section 38(b) is amended by striking 'and' at the end of paragraph (29), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (30) and inserting ', plus', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((31) the mine rescue team training credit determined under section 45N(a)."

(c) *No Double Benefit.*--Section 280C is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

((e) *Mine Rescue Team Training Credit.*--No deduction shall be allowed for that portion of the expenses otherwise allowable as a deduction for the taxable year which is equal to the amount of the credit determined for the taxable year under section 45N(a)."

(d) *Clerical Amendment.*--The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

'Sec. 45N. Mine rescue team training credit."

(e) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

SEC. 406. WHISTLEBLOWER REFORMS.

(a) *Awards to Whistleblowers.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 7623 (relating to expenses of detection of underpayments and fraud, etc.) is amended--

(A) by striking 'The Secretary' and inserting '(a) *In General.*--The Secretary',

(B) by striking 'and' at the end of paragraph (1) and inserting 'or',

(C) by striking "(other than interest)", and

(D) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) *Awards to Whistleblowers.*--

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**--If the Secretary proceeds with any administrative or judicial action described in subsection (a) based on information brought to the Secretary's attention by an individual, such individual shall, subject to paragraph (2), receive as an award at least 15 percent but not more than 30 percent of the collected proceeds (including penalties, interest, additions to tax, and additional amounts) resulting from the action (including any related actions) or from any settlement in response to such action. The determination of the amount of such award by the Whistleblower Office shall depend upon the extent to which the individual substantially contributed to such action.

"(2) **AWARD IN CASE OF LESS SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION.**--

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In the event the action described in paragraph (1) is one which the Whistleblower Office determines to be based principally on disclosures of specific allegations (other than information provided by the individual described in paragraph (1)) resulting from a judicial or administrative hearing, from a governmental report, hearing, audit, or investigation, or from the news media, the Whistleblower Office may award such sums as it considers appropriate, but in no case more than 10 percent of the collected proceeds (including penalties, interest, additions to tax, and additional amounts) resulting from the action (including any related actions) or from any settlement in response to such action, taking into account the significance of the individual's information and the role of such individual and any legal representative of such individual in contributing to such action.

"(B) **NONAPPLICATION OF PARAGRAPH WHERE INDIVIDUAL IS ORIGINAL SOURCE OF INFORMATION.**--Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the information resulting in the initiation of the action described in paragraph (1) was originally provided by the individual described in paragraph (1).

"(3) **REDUCTION IN OR DENIAL OF AWARD.**--If the Whistleblower Office determines that the claim for an award under paragraph (1) or (2) is brought by an individual who planned and initiated the actions that led to the underpayment of tax or actions described in subsection (a)(2), then the Whistleblower Office may appropriately reduce such award. If such individual is convicted of criminal conduct arising from the role described in the preceding sentence, the Whistleblower Office shall deny any award.

"(4) **APPEAL OF AWARD DETERMINATION.**--Any determination regarding an award under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) may, within 30 days of such determination, be appealed to the Tax Court (and the Tax Court shall have jurisdiction with respect to such matter).

"(5) **APPLICATION OF THIS SUBSECTION.**--This subsection shall apply with respect to any action--

"(A) against any taxpayer, but in the case of any individual, only if such individual's gross income exceeds \$200,000 for any taxable year subject to such action, and

"(B) if the tax, penalties, interest, additions to tax, and additional amounts in dispute exceed \$2,000,000.

"(6) **ADDITIONAL RULES.**--

"(A) **NO CONTRACT NECESSARY.**--No contract with the Internal Revenue Service is necessary for any individual to receive an award under this subsection.

``(B) **REPRESENTATION.**--Any individual described in paragraph (1) or (2) may be represented by counsel.

``(C) **SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.**--No award may be made under this subsection

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based on information submitted to the Secretary unless such information is submitted under penalty of perjury."

(2) **ASSIGNMENT TO SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGES.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 7443A(b) (relating to proceedings which may be assigned to special trial judges) is amended by striking ``and" at the end of paragraph (5), by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7), and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

``(6) any proceeding under section 7623(b)(4), and"

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**--Section 7443A(c) is amended by striking ``or (5)" and inserting ``(5), or (6)".

(3) **DEDUCTION ALLOWED WHETHER OR NOT TAXPAYER ITEMIZES.**-- Subsection (a) of section 62 (relating to general rule defining adjusted gross income) is amended by inserting after paragraph (20) the following new paragraph:

``(21) **ATTORNEYS FEES RELATING TO AWARDS TO WHISTLEBLOWERS.**--Any deduction allowable under this chapter for attorney fees and court costs paid by, or on behalf of, the taxpayer in connection with any award under section 7623(b) (relating to awards to whistleblowers). The preceding sentence shall not apply to any deduction in excess of the amount includible in the taxpayer's gross income for the taxable year on account of such award."

(b) *Whistleblower Office.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Not later than the date which is 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue guidance for the operation of a whistleblower program to be administered in the Internal Revenue Service by an office to be known as the ``Whistleblower Office" which-

(A) shall at all times operate at the direction of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and coordinate and consult with other divisions in the Internal Revenue Service as directed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue,

(B) shall analyze information received from any individual described in section 7623(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and either investigate the matter itself or assign it to the appropriate Internal Revenue Service office, and

(C) in its sole discretion, may ask for additional assistance from such individual or any legal representative of such individual.

(2) **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.**--The guidance issued under paragraph (1) shall specify that any assistance requested under paragraph (1)(C) shall be under the direction and control of the Whistleblower Office or the office assigned to investigate the matter under paragraph (1)(A). No individual or legal representative whose assistance is so requested may by reason of such request represent himself or herself as an employee of the Federal Government.

(c) *Report by Secretary.*--The Secretary of the Treasury shall each year conduct a study and report to Congress on the use of section 7623 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, including--

(1) an analysis of the use of such section during the preceding year and the results of such use, and

(2) any legislative or administrative recommendations regarding the provisions of such section and its application.

(d) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to information provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 407. FRIVOLOUS TAX SUBMISSIONS.

(a) *Civil Penalties.*--Section 6702 is amended to read as follows:

SEC. 6702. FRIVOLOUS TAX SUBMISSIONS.

(a) *Civil Penalty for Frivolous Tax Returns.*--A person shall pay a penalty of \$5,000 if--

(1) such person files what purports to be a return of a tax imposed by this title but which--

(A) does not contain information on which the substantial correctness of the self-assessment may be judged, or

(B) contains information that on its face indicates that the self-assessment is substantially incorrect, and

(2) the conduct referred to in paragraph (1)--

(A) is based on a position which the Secretary has identified as frivolous under subsection (c), or

(B) reflects a desire to delay or impede the administration of Federal tax laws.

(b) *Civil Penalty for Specified Frivolous Submissions.*--

(1) **IMPOSITION OF PENALTY.**--Except as provided in paragraph (3), any person who submits a specified frivolous submission shall pay a penalty of \$5,000.

(2) **SPECIFIED FRIVOLOUS SUBMISSION.**--For purposes of this section--

(A) **SPECIFIED FRIVOLOUS SUBMISSION.**--The term 'specified frivolous submission' means a specified submission if any portion of such submission--

(i) is based on a position which the Secretary has identified as frivolous under subsection (c), or

(ii) reflects a desire to delay or impede the administration of Federal tax laws.

(B) **SPECIFIED SUBMISSION.**--The term 'specified submission' means--

(i) a request for a hearing under--

(I) section 6320 (relating to notice and opportunity for hearing upon filing of notice of lien), or

(II) section 6330 (relating to notice and opportunity for hearing before levy), and

(ii) an application under--

(I) section 6159 (relating to agreements for payment of tax liability in installments),

(II) section 7122 (relating to compromises), or

(III) section 7811 (relating to taxpayer assistance orders).

(3) **OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW SUBMISSION.**--If the Secretary provides a person with notice that a submission is a specified frivolous submission and such person withdraws such submission within 30 days after

such notice, the penalty imposed under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to such submission.

``(c) *Listing of Frivolous Positions.*--The Secretary shall prescribe (and periodically revise) a list of positions which the Secretary has identified as being frivolous for purposes of this subsection. The Secretary shall not include in such list any position that the Secretary determines meets the requirement of section 6662(d)(2)(B)(ii)(II).

``(d) *Reduction of Penalty.*--The Secretary may reduce the amount of any penalty imposed under this section if the Secretary determines that such reduction would promote compliance with and administration of the Federal tax laws.

``(e) *Penalties in Addition to Other Penalties.*--The penalties imposed by this section shall be in addition to any other penalty provided by law."

(b) *Treatment of Frivolous Requests for Hearings Before Levy.*--

(1) **FRIVOLOUS REQUESTS DISREGARDED.**--Section 6330 (relating to notice and opportunity for hearing before levy) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(g) *Frivolous Requests for Hearing, etc.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the Secretary determines that any portion of a request for a hearing under this section or section 6320 meets the requirement of clause (i) or (ii) of section 6702(b)(2)(A), then the Secretary may treat such portion as if it were never submitted and such portion shall not be subject to any further administrative or judicial review."

(2) **PRECLUSION FROM RAISING FRIVOLOUS ISSUES AT HEARING.**--Section 6330(c)(4) is amended--

(A) by striking ``(A)" and inserting ``(A)(i)";

(B) by striking ``(B)" and inserting ``(ii)";

(C) by striking the period at the end of the first sentence and inserting `` ; or"; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (A)(ii) (as so redesignated) the following:

``(B) the issue meets the requirement of clause (i) or (ii) of section 6702(b)(2)(A)."

(3) **STATEMENT OF GROUNDS.**--Section 6330(b)(1) is amended by striking ``under subsection (a)(3)(B)" and inserting ``in writing under subsection (a)(3)(B) and states the grounds for the requested hearing".

(c) *Treatment of Frivolous Requests for Hearings Upon Filing of Notice of Lien.*--Section 6320 is amended--

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ``under subsection (a)(3)(B)" and inserting ``in writing under subsection (a)(3)(B) and states the grounds for the requested hearing", and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ``and (e)" and inserting ``(e), and (g)".

(d) *Treatment of Frivolous Applications for Offers-in-Compromise and Installment Agreements.*--Section 7122 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(f) *Frivolous Submissions, etc.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if the Secretary determines that any portion of an application for an offer-in-compromise or installment agreement submitted under this section or section 6159 meets the requirement of clause (i) or (ii) of section 6702(b)(2)(A), then the Secretary may treat such portion as if it were never submitted and such portion shall not be subject to any further administrative or judicial review."

(e) *Clerical Amendment.*--The table of sections for part I of subchapter B of chapter 68 is amended by striking the item relating to section 6702 and inserting the following new item:

``Sec..6702..Frivolous tax submissions.".

(f) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to submissions made and issues raised after the date on which the Secretary first prescribes a list under section 6702(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by subsection (a).

SEC. 408. ADDITION OF MENINGOCOCCAL AND HUMAN PAPILOMAVIRUS VACCINES TO LIST OF TAXABLE VACCINES.

(a) *Meningococcal Vaccine.*--Section 4132(a)(1) (defining taxable vaccine) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(O) Any meningococcal vaccine.".

(b) *Human Papillomavirus Vaccine.*--Section 4132(a)(1), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(P) Any vaccine against the human papillomavirus.".

(c) *Effective Date.*--

(1) **SALES, ETC.**--The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales and uses on or after the first day of the first month which begins more than 4 weeks after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **DELIVERIES.**--For purposes of paragraph (1) and section 4131 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of sales on or before the effective date described in such paragraph for which delivery is made after such date, the delivery date shall be considered the sale date.

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SEC. 409. CLARIFICATION OF TAXATION OF CERTAIN SETTLEMENT FUNDS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (g) of section 468B is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 201 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 410. MODIFICATION OF ACTIVE BUSINESS DEFINITION UNDER SECTION 355 MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 355(b)(3) are each amended by striking `` and on or before December 31, 2010".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 202 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 411. REVISION OF STATE VETERANS LIMIT MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Subparagraph (B) of section 143(l)(3) is amended by striking clause (iv).

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 203 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 412. CAPITAL GAINS TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN SELF-CREATED MUSICAL WORKS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (3) of section 1221(b) is amended by striking `` before January 1, 2011,".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 204 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 413. REDUCTION IN MINIMUM VESSEL TONNAGE WHICH QUALIFIES FOR TONNAGE TAX MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (4) of section 1355(a) is amended by striking ``10,000 (6,000, in the case of taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005, and ending before January 1, 2011)" and inserting ``6,000".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 205 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 414. MODIFICATION OF SPECIAL ARBITRAGE RULE FOR CERTAIN FUNDS MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Section 206 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 is amended by striking ``and before August 31, 2009".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 206 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 415. GREAT LAKES DOMESTIC SHIPPING TO NOT DISQUALIFY VESSEL FROM TONNAGE TAX.

(a) *In General.*--Section 1355 (relating to definitions and special rules) is amended by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h) and by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

``(g) *Great Lakes Domestic Shipping to Not Disqualify Vessel.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--If the electing corporation elects (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require) to apply this subsection for any taxable year to any qualifying vessel which is used in qualified zone domestic trade during the taxable year--

``(A) solely for purposes of subsection (a)(4), such use shall be treated as use in United States foreign trade (and not as use in United States domestic trade), and

``(B) subsection (f) shall not apply with respect to such vessel for such taxable year.

``(2) **EFFECT OF TEMPORARILY OPERATING VESSEL IN UNITED STATES DOMESTIC TRADE.**--In the case of a qualifying vessel to which this subsection applies--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--An electing corporation shall be treated as using such vessel in qualified zone domestic trade during any period of temporary use in the United States domestic trade (other than qualified zone domestic trade) if the electing corporation gives timely notice to the Secretary stating--

``(i) that it temporarily operates or has operated in the United States domestic trade (other than qualified zone domestic trade) a qualifying vessel which had been used in the United States foreign trade or qualified zone domestic trade, and

``(ii) its intention to resume operation of the vessel in the United States foreign trade or qualified zone domestic trade.

``(B) **NOTICE.**--Notice shall be deemed timely if given not later than the due date (including extensions) for the corporation's tax return for the taxable year in which the temporary cessation begins.

``(C) **PERIOD DISREGARD IN EFFECT.**--The period of temporary use under subparagraph (A) continues until the earlier of the date of which--

``(i) the electing corporation abandons its intention to resume operations of the vessel in the United States foreign trade or qualified zone domestic trade, or

``(ii) the electing corporation resumes operation of the vessel in the United States foreign trade or qualified zone domestic trade.

``(D) **NO DISREGARD IF DOMESTIC TRADE USE EXCEEDS 30 DAYS.**--Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any qualifying vessel which is operated in the United States domestic trade (other than qualified zone domestic trade) for more than 30 days during the taxable year.

``(3) **ALLOCATION OF INCOME AND DEDUCTIONS TO QUALIFYING SHIPPING ACTIVITIES.**--In the case of a qualifying vessel to which this subsection applies, the Secretary shall prescribe rules for the proper allocation of income, expenses, losses, and deductions between the qualified shipping activities and the other activities of such vessel.

``(4) **QUALIFIED ZONE DOMESTIC TRADE.**--For purposes of this subsection--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The term 'qualified zone domestic trade' means the transportation of goods or passengers between places in the qualified zone if such transportation is in the United States domestic trade.

``(B) **QUALIFIED ZONE.**--The term 'qualified zone' means the Great Lakes Waterway and the St. Lawrence Seaway."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 416. USE OF QUALIFIED MORTGAGE BONDS TO FINANCE RESIDENCES FOR VETERANS WITHOUT REGARD TO FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER REQUIREMENT.

(a) *In General.*--Section 143(d)(2) (relating to exceptions to 3-year requirement) is amended by striking ``and" at the end of subparagraph (B), by adding ``and" at the end of subparagraph (C), and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

``(D) in the case of bonds issued after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph and before January 1, 2008, financing of any residence for a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code), if such veteran has not previously qualified for and received such financing by reason of this subparagraph,".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to bonds issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 417. EXCLUSION OF GAIN FROM SALE OF A PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE BY CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) *In General.*--Subparagraph (A) of section 121(d)(9) (relating to exclusion of gain from sale of principal residence) is amended by striking ``duty" and all that follows and inserting ``duty--

``(i) as a member of the uniformed services,

``(ii) as a member of the Foreign Service of the United States, or

``(iii) as an employee of the intelligence community."

(b) *Employee of Intelligence Community Defined.*--Subparagraph (C) of section 121(d)(9) is amended by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v) and by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

``(iv) **EMPLOYEE OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**--The term 'employee of the intelligence community' means an employee (as defined by section 2105 of title 5, United States Code) of--

``(I) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence,
``(II) the Central Intelligence Agency,
``(III) the National Security Agency,
``(IV) the Defense Intelligence Agency,
``(V) the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency,
``(VI) the National Reconnaissance Office,
``(VII) any other office within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized national intelligence through reconnaissance programs,
``(VIII) any of the intelligence elements of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Treasury, the Department of Energy, and the Coast Guard,
``(IX) the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, or
``(X) any of the elements of the Department of Homeland Security concerned with the analyses of foreign intelligence information."

(c) *Special Rule.*--Subparagraph (C) of section 121(d)(9), as amended by subsection (b), is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

``(vi) **SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**--An employee of the intelligence community shall not be treated as serving on qualified extended duty unless such duty is at a duty station located outside the United States."

(d) *Conforming Amendment.*--The heading for section 121(d)(9) is amended to read as follows: ``**UNIFORMED SERVICES, FOREIGN SERVICE, AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY**".

(e) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales or exchanges after the date of the enactment of this Act and before January 1, 2011.

SEC. 418. SALE OF PROPERTY BY JUDICIAL OFFICERS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 1043(b) (relating to the sale of property to comply with conflict-of-interest requirements) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (1)--

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting `` , or a judicial officer," after ``an officer or employee of the executive branch"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ``judicial canon," after ``any statute, regulation, rule,";

(2) in paragraph (2)--

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ``judicial canon," after ``any Federal conflict of interest statute, regulation, rule,"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after ``the Director of the Office of Government Ethics," the following: ``in the case of executive branch officers or employees, or by the Judicial Conference of the United States (or its designee), in the case of judicial officers,"; and

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(3) in paragraph (5)(B), by inserting ``judicial canon," after ``any statute, regulation, rule,".

(b) *Judicial Officer Defined.*--Section 1043(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(6) **JUDICIAL OFFICER.**--The term `judicial officer' means the Chief Justice of the United States, the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, and the judges of the United States courts of appeals, United States district courts, including the district courts in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands, Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Court of International Trade, Tax Court, Court of Federal Claims, Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and any court created by Act of Congress, the judges of which are entitled to hold office during good behavior."

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 419. PREMIUMS FOR MORTGAGE INSURANCE.

(a) *In General.*--Section 163(h)(3) (relating to qualified residence interest) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(E) **MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUMS TREATED AS INTEREST.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--Premiums paid or accrued for qualified mortgage insurance by a taxpayer during the taxable year in connection with acquisition indebtedness with respect to a qualified residence of the taxpayer shall be treated for purposes of this section as interest which is qualified residence interest.

``(ii) **PHASEOUT.**--The amount otherwise treated as interest under clause (i) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by 10 percent of such amount for each \$1,000 (\$500 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return) (or fraction thereof) that the taxpayer's adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds \$100,000 (\$50,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return).

``(iii) **LIMITATION.**--Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any mortgage insurance contracts issued before January 1, 2007.

``(iv) **TERMINATION.**--Clause (i) shall not apply to amounts--

``(I) paid or accrued after December 31, 2007, or

``(II) properly allocable to any period after such date."

(b) *Definition and Special Rules.*--Section 163(h)(4) (relating to other definitions and special rules) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

``(E) **QUALIFIED MORTGAGE INSURANCE.**--The term `qualified mortgage insurance' means--

``(i) mortgage insurance provided by the Veterans Administration, the Federal Housing Administration, or the Rural Housing Administration, and

``(ii) private mortgage insurance (as defined by section 2 of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (12 U.S.C. 4901), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph).

``(F) **SPECIAL RULES FOR PREPAID QUALIFIED MORTGAGE INSURANCE.**--Any amount paid by the taxpayer for qualified mortgage insurance that is properly allocable to any mortgage the payment of which extends to periods that are after the close of the taxable year in which such amount is paid shall be chargeable to capital account and shall be treated as paid in such periods to which so allocated. No deduction shall be allowed for the unamortized balance of such account if such mortgage is satisfied before the end of its term. The preceding sentences shall not apply to amounts paid for qualified

mortgage insurance provided by the Veterans Administration or the Rural Housing Administration."

(c) *Information Returns Relating to Mortgage Insurance.*--Section 6050H (relating to returns relating to mortgage interest received in trade or business from individuals) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(h) *Returns Relating to Mortgage Insurance Premiums.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary may prescribe, by regulations, that any person who, in the course of a trade or business, receives from any individual premiums for mortgage insurance aggregating \$600 or more for any calendar year, shall make a return with respect to each such individual. Such return shall be in such form, shall be made at such time, and shall contain such information as the Secretary may prescribe.

``(2) **STATEMENT TO BE FURNISHED TO INDIVIDUALS WITH RESPECT TO WHOM INFORMATION IS REQUIRED.**--Every person required to make a return under paragraph (1) shall furnish to each individual with respect to whom a return is made a written statement showing such information as the Secretary may prescribe. Such written statement shall be furnished on or before January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under paragraph (1) was required to be made.

``(3) **SPECIAL RULES.**--For purposes of this subsection--

``(A) rules similar to the rules of subsection (c) shall apply, and

``(B) the term `mortgage insurance' means--

``(i) mortgage insurance provided by the Veterans Administration, the Federal Housing Administration, or the Rural Housing Administration, and

``(ii) private mortgage insurance (as defined by section 2 of the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 (12 U.S.C. 4901), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection)."

(d) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid or accrued after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 420. MODIFICATION OF REFUNDS FOR KEROSENE USED IN AVIATION.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (4) of section 6427(l) (relating to nontaxable uses of diesel fuel and kerosene) is amended to read as follows:

``(4) **REFUNDS FOR KEROSENE USED IN AVIATION.**--

``(A) **KEROSENE USED IN COMMERCIAL AVIATION.**--In the case of kerosene used in commercial aviation (as defined in section 4083(b)) (other than supplies for vessels or aircraft within the meaning of section 4221(d)(3)), paragraph (1) shall not apply to so much of the tax imposed by section 4041 or 4081, as the case may be, as is attributable to--

``(i) the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate imposed by such section, and

``(ii) so much of the rate of tax specified in section 4041(c) or 4081(a)(2)(A)(iii), as the case may be, as does not exceed 4.3 cents per gallon.

``(B) **KEROSENE USED IN NONCOMMERCIAL AVIATION.**--In the case of kerosene used in aviation that is not commercial aviation (as so defined) (other than any use which is exempt from the tax imposed by section 4041(c) other than by reason of a prior imposition of tax), paragraph (1) shall not apply to--

``(i) any tax imposed by subsection (c) or (d)(2) of section 4041, and

``(ii) so much of the tax imposed by section 4081 as is attributable to--

`` (I) the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate imposed by such section, and

`` (II) so much of the rate of tax specified in section 4081(a)(2)(A)(iii) as does not exceed the rate specified in section 4081(a)(2)(C)(ii).

`` (C) **PAYMENTS TO ULTIMATE, REGISTERED VENDOR.**--

`` (i) **IN GENERAL.**--With respect to any kerosene used in aviation (other than kerosene described in clause (ii) or kerosene to which paragraph (5) applies), if the ultimate purchaser of such kerosene waives (at such time and in such form and manner as the Secretary shall prescribe) the right to payment under paragraph (1) and assigns such right to the ultimate vendor, then the Secretary shall pay the amount which would be paid under paragraph (1) to such ultimate vendor, but only if such ultimate vendor--

`` (I) is registered under section 4101, and

`` (II) meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 6416(a)(1).

`` (ii) **PAYMENTS FOR KEROSENE USED IN NONCOMMERCIAL**

AVIATION.--The amount which would be paid under paragraph (1) with respect to any kerosene to which subparagraph (B) applies shall be paid only to the ultimate vendor of such kerosene. A payment shall be made to such vendor if such vendor--

`` (I) is registered under section 4101, and

`` (II) meets the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 6416(a)(1)."

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Section 6427(l) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (5).

(2) Section 4082(d)(2)(B) is amended by striking `` section 6427(l)(6)(B)" and inserting `` section 6427(l)(5)(B)".

(3) Section 6427(i)(4)(A) is amended--

(A) by striking `` paragraph (4)(B), (5), or (6)" each place it appears and inserting `` paragraph (4)(C) or (5)", and

(B) by striking `` (l)(5), and (l)(6)" and inserting `` (l)(4)(C)(ii), and (l)(5)".

(4) Section 6427(l)(1) is amended by striking `` paragraph (4)(B)" and inserting `` paragraph (4)(C)(i)".

(5) Section 9502(d) is amended--

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking `` and (l)(5)", and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking `` or (5)".

(6) Section 9503(c)(7) is amended--

(A) by amending subparagraphs (A) and (B) to read as follows:

`` (A) 4.3 cents per gallon of kerosene subject to section 6427(l)(4)(A) with respect to which a payment has been made by the Secretary under section 6427(l), and

`` (B) 21.8 cents per gallon of kerosene subject to section 6427(l)(4)(B) with respect to which a payment has been made by the Secretary under section 6427(l).", and

(B) in the matter following subparagraph (B), by striking `` or (5)".

(c) *Effective Date.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The amendments made by this section shall apply to kerosene sold after September 30, 2005.

(2) **SPECIAL RULE FOR PENDING CLAIMS.**--In the case of kerosene sold for use in aviation (other than kerosene to which section 6427(l)(4)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by subsection (a)) applies or kerosene to which section 6427(l)(5) of such Code (as redesignated by subsection (b)) applies) after September 30, 2005, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, the ultimate purchaser shall be treated as having waived the right to payment under section 6427(l)(1) of such Code and as having assigned such right to the ultimate vendor if such ultimate vendor has met the requirements of subparagraph (A), (B), or (D) of section 6416(a)(1) of such Code.

(d) *Special Rule for Kerosene Used in Aviation on a Farm for Farming Purposes.*--

(1) **REFUNDS FOR PURCHASES AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2004, AND BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2005.**--

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The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the ultimate purchaser of any kerosene which is used in aviation on a farm for farming purposes and which was purchased after December 31, 2004, and before October 1, 2005, an amount equal to the aggregate amount of tax imposed on such fuel under section 4041 or 4081 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as the case may be, reduced by any payment to the ultimate vendor under section 6427(l)(5)(C) of such Code (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users).

(2) **USE ON A FARM FOR FARMING PURPOSES.**--For purposes of paragraph (1), kerosene shall be treated as used on a farm for farming purposes if such kerosene is used for farming purposes (within the meaning of section 6420(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) in carrying on a trade or business on a farm situated in the United States. For purposes of the preceding sentence, rules similar to the rules of section 6420(c)(4) of such Code shall apply.

(3) **TIME FOR FILING CLAIMS.**--No claim shall be allowed under paragraph (1) unless the ultimate purchaser files such claim before the date that is 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.**--No amount shall be paid under paragraph (1) or section 6427(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to any kerosene described in paragraph (1) to the extent that such amount is in excess of the tax imposed on such kerosene under section 4041 or 4081 of such Code, as the case may be.

(5) **APPLICABLE LAWS.**--For purposes of this subsection, rules similar to the rules of section 6427(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply.

SEC. 421. REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCIES TREATED AS STATES FOR PURPOSES OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (5) of section 6103(b) is amended to read as follows:

``(5) **STATE.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The term `State' means--

``(i) any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

``(ii) for purposes of subsections (a)(2), (b)(4), (d)(1), (h)(4), and (p), any municipality--

``(I) with a population in excess of 250,000 (as determined under the most recent decennial United States census data available),

``(II) which imposes a tax on income or wages, and

``(III) with which the Secretary (in his sole discretion) has entered into an agreement regarding disclosure, and

``(iii) for purposes of subsections (a)(2), (b)(4), (d)(1), (h)(4), and (p), any governmental entity--

``(I) which is formed and operated by a qualified group of municipalities, and

``(II) with which the Secretary (in his sole discretion) has entered into an agreement regarding disclosure.

``(B) **REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCIES.**--For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii)--

``(i) **QUALIFIED GROUP OF MUNICIPALITIES.**--The term 'qualified group of municipalities' means, with respect to any governmental entity, 2 or more municipalities--

``(I) each of which imposes a tax on income or wages,

``(II) each of which, under the authority of a State statute, administers the laws relating to the imposition of such taxes through such entity, and

``(III) which collectively have a population in excess of 250,000 (as determined under the most recent decennial United States census data available).

``(ii) **REFERENCES TO STATE LAW, ETC.**--For purposes of applying subparagraph (A)(iii) to the subsections referred to in such subparagraph, any reference in such subsections to State law, proceedings, or tax returns shall be treated as references to the law, proceedings, or tax returns, as the case may be, of the municipalities which form and operate the governmental entity referred to in such subparagraph.

``(iii) **DISCLOSURE TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHER AGENTS.**--Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no return or return information shall be disclosed to any contractor or other agent of a governmental entity referred to in subparagraph (A)(iii) unless such entity, to the satisfaction of the Secretary--

``(I) has requirements in effect which require each such contractor or other agent which would have access to returns or return information to provide safeguards (within the meaning of subsection (p)(4)) to protect the confidentiality of such returns or return information,

``(II) agrees to conduct an on-site review every 3 years (or a mid-point review in the case of contracts or agreements of less than 3 years in duration) of each contractor or other agent to determine compliance with such requirements,

``(III) submits the findings of the most recent review conducted under subclause (II) to the Secretary as part of the report required by subsection (p)(4)(E), and

``(IV) certifies to the Secretary for the most recent annual period that such contractor or other agent is in compliance with all such requirements.

The certification required by subclause (IV) shall include the name and address of each contractor and other agent, a description of the contract or agreement with such contractor or other agent, and the duration of such contract or agreement. The requirements of this clause shall not apply to disclosures pursuant to subsection (n) for purposes of Federal tax administration and a rule

similar to the rule of subsection (p)(8)(B) shall apply for purposes of this clause."

(b) *Special Rules for Disclosure.*--Subsection (d) of section 6103 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(6) **LIMITATION ON DISCLOSURE REGARDING REGIONAL INCOME TAX AGENCIES TREATED AS STATES.**--For purposes of paragraph (1), inspection by or disclosure to an entity described in subsection (b)(5)(A)(iii) shall be for the purpose of, and only to the extent necessary in, the administration of the laws of the member municipalities in such entity relating to the imposition of a tax on income or wages. Such entity may not redisclose any return or return information received pursuant to paragraph (1) to any such member municipality."

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 422. DESIGNATION OF WINES BY SEMI-GENERIC NAMES.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (c) of section 5388 (relating to use of semi-generic designations) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(3) **SPECIAL RULE FOR USE OF CERTAIN SEMI-GENERIC DESIGNATIONS.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In the case of any wine to which this paragraph applies--

- ``(i) paragraph (1) shall not apply,
- ``(ii) in the case of wine of the European Community, designations referred to in subparagraph (C)(i) may be used for such wine only if the requirement of subparagraph (B)(ii) is met, and
- ``(iii) in the case any other wine bearing a brand name, or brand name and fanciful name, semi-generic designations may be used for such wine only if the requirements of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B) are met.

``(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**--

- ``(i) The requirement of this clause is met if there appears in direct conjunction with the semi-generic designation an appropriate appellation of origin disclosing the origin of the wine.
- ``(ii) The requirement of this clause is met if the wine conforms to the standard of identity, if any, for such wine contained in the regulations under this section or, if there is no such standard, to the trade understanding of such class or type.

``(iii) The requirement of this clause is met if the person, or its successor in interest, using the semi-generic designation held a Certificate of Label Approval or Certificate of Exemption from Label Approval issued by the Secretary for a wine label bearing such brand name, or brand name and fanciful name, before March 10, 2006, on which such semi-generic designation appeared.

``(C) **WINES TO WHICH PARAGRAPH APPLIES.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in clause (ii), this paragraph shall apply to any grape wine which is designated as Burgundy, Claret, Chablis, Champagne, Chianti, Malaga, Marsala, Madeira, Moselle, Port, Retsina, Rhine Wine or Hock, Sauterne, Haut Sauterne, Sherry, or Tokay.

``(ii) **EXCEPTION.**--This paragraph shall not apply to wine which--

- ``(I) contains less than 7 percent or more than 24 percent alcohol by volume,
- ``(II) is intended for sale outside the United States, or

``(III) does not bear a brand name.".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to wine imported or bottled in the United States on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 423. MODIFICATION OF RAILROAD TRACK MAINTENANCE CREDIT.

(a) *In General.*--Section 45G(d) (defining qualified railroad track maintenance expenditures) is amended--

(1) by inserting ``gross" after ``means", and

(2) by inserting ``(determined without regard to any consideration for such expenditures given by the Class II or Class III railroad which made the assignment of such track)" after ``Class II or Class III railroad".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the amendment made by section 245(a) of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004.

SEC. 424. MODIFICATION OF EXCISE TAX ON UNRELATED BUSINESS TAXABLE INCOME OF CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (c) of section 664 (relating to exemption from income taxes) is amended to read as follows:

``(c) *Taxation of Trusts.*--

``(1) **INCOME TAX.**--A charitable remainder annuity trust and a charitable remainder unitrust shall, for any taxable year, not be subject to any tax imposed by this subtitle.

``(2) **EXCISE TAX.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In the case of a charitable remainder annuity trust or a charitable remainder unitrust which has unrelated business taxable income (within the meaning of section 512, determined as if part III of subchapter F applied to such trust) for a taxable year, there is hereby imposed on such trust or unitrust an excise tax equal to the amount of such unrelated business taxable income.

``(B) **CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.**--The tax imposed by subparagraph (A) shall be treated

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as imposed by chapter 42 for purposes of this title other than subchapter E of chapter 42.

``(C) **TAX COURT PROCEEDINGS.**--For purposes of this paragraph, the references in section 6212(c)(1) to section 4940 shall be deemed to include references to this paragraph."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 425. LOANS TO QUALIFIED CONTINUING CARE FACILITIES MADE PERMANENT.

(a) *In General.*--Subsection (h) of section 7872 (relating to exception for loans to qualified continuing care facilities) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in section 209 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

SEC. 426. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) *Technical Correction Relating to Look-Through Treatment of Payments Between Related Controlled Foreign Corporations Under the Foreign Personal Holding Company Rules.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--

(A) The first sentence of section 954(c)(6)(A) is amended by striking ``which is not subpart F income'' and inserting ``which is neither subpart F income nor income treated as effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States''.

(B) Section 954(c)(6)(A) is amended by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: ``The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this paragraph, including such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to prevent the abuse of the purposes of this paragraph.''

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in section 103(b) of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

(b) *Technical Correction Regarding Authority to Exercise Reasonable Cause and Good Faith Exception.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 903(d)(2)(B)(iii) of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, as amended by section 303(a) of the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005, is amended by inserting ``or the Secretary's delegate'' after ``the Secretary of the Treasury''.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the provisions of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 to which it relates.

DIVISION B--MEDICARE AND OTHER HEALTH PROVISIONS

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE OF DIVISION.

This division may be cited as the ``Medicare Improvements and Extension Act of 2006''.

TITLE I--MEDICARE IMPROVED QUALITY AND PROVIDER PAYMENTS

SEC. 101. PHYSICIAN PAYMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT.

(a) *One-Year Increase in Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Conversion Factor.*--Section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(7) **CONVERSION FACTOR FOR 2007.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The conversion factor that would otherwise be applicable under this subsection for 2007 shall be the amount of such conversion factor divided by the product of--

``(i) 1 plus the Secretary's estimate of the percentage increase in the MEI (as defined in section 1842(i)(3)) for 2007 (divided by 100); and

``(ii) 1 plus the Secretary's estimate of the update adjustment factor under paragraph (4)(B) for 2007.

``(B) **NO EFFECT ON COMPUTATION OF CONVERSION FACTOR FOR 2008.**--The conversion factor under this subsection shall be computed under paragraph (1)(A) for 2008 as if subparagraph (A) had never applied.''

(b) *Quality Reporting System.*--Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(k) *Quality Reporting System.*--

`` (1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary shall implement a system for the reporting by eligible professionals of data on quality measures specified under paragraph (2). Such data shall be submitted in a form and manner specified by the Secretary (by program instruction or otherwise), which may include submission of such data on claims under this part.

`` (2) **USE OF CONSENSUS-BASED QUALITY MEASURES.**--

`` (A) **FOR 2007.**--

`` (i) **IN GENERAL.**--For purposes of applying this subsection for the reporting of data on quality measures for covered professional services furnished during the period beginning July 1, 2007, and ending December 31, 2007, the quality measures specified under this paragraph are the measures identified as 2007 physician quality measures under the Physician Voluntary Reporting Program as published on the public website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as of the date of the enactment of this subsection, except as may be changed by the Secretary based on the results of a consensus-based process in January of 2007, if such change is published on such website by not later than April 1, 2007.

`` (ii) **SUBSEQUENT REFINEMENTS IN APPLICATION PERMITTED.**--The Secretary may, from time to time (but not later than July 1, 2007), publish on such website (without notice or opportunity for public comment) modifications or refinements (such as code additions, corrections, or revisions) for the application of quality measures previously published under clause (i), but may not, under this clause, change the quality measures under the reporting system.

`` (iii) **IMPLEMENTATION.**--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may implement by program instruction or otherwise this subsection for 2007.

`` (B) **FOR 2008.**--

`` (i) **IN GENERAL.**--For purposes of reporting data on quality measures for covered professional services furnished during 2008, the quality measures specified under this paragraph for covered professional services shall be measures that have been adopted or endorsed by a consensus organization (such as the National Quality Forum or AQA), that include measures that have been submitted by a physician specialty, and that the Secretary identifies as having used a consensus-based process for developing such measures. Such measures shall include structural measures, such as the use of electronic health records and electronic prescribing technology.

`` (ii) **PROPOSED SET OF MEASURES.**--Not later than August 15, 2007, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a proposed set of quality measures that the Secretary determines are described in clause (i) and would be appropriate for eligible professionals to use to submit data to the Secretary in 2008. The Secretary shall provide for a period of public comment on such set of measures.

`` (iii) **FINAL SET OF MEASURES.**--Not later than November 15, 2007, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a final set of quality measures that the Secretary determines are described in clause (i) and would be appropriate for eligible professionals to use to submit data to the Secretary in 2008.

`` (3) **COVERED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONALS DEFINED.**--For purposes of this subsection:

`` (A) **COVERED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.**--The term 'covered professional services' means services for which payment is made under, or is

based on, the fee schedule established under this section and which are furnished by an eligible professional.

``(B) **ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL.**--The term `eligible professional' means any of the following:

- ``(i) A physician.
- ``(ii) A practitioner described in section 1842(b)(18)(C).
- ``(iii) A physical or occupational therapist or a qualified speech-language pathologist.

``(4) **USE OF REGISTRY-BASED REPORTING.**--As part of the publication of proposed and final quality measures for 2008 under clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary shall address a mechanism whereby an eligible professional may provide data on quality measures through an appropriate medical registry (such as the Society of Thoracic Surgeons National Database), as identified by the Secretary.

``(5) **IDENTIFICATION UNITS.**--For purposes of applying this subsection, the Secretary may identify eligible professionals through billing units, which may include the use of the Provider Identification Number, the unique physician identification number (described in section 1833(q)(1)), the taxpayer identification number, or the National Provider Identifier. For purposes of applying this subsection for 2007, the Secretary shall use the taxpayer identification number as the billing unit.

``(6) **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**--The Secretary shall provide for education and outreach to eligible professionals on the operation of this subsection.

``(7) **LIMITATIONS ON REVIEW.**--There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise, of the development and implementation of the reporting system under paragraph (1), including identification of quality measures under paragraph (2) and the application of paragraphs (4) and (5).

``(8) **IMPLEMENTATION.**--The Secretary shall carry out this subsection acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services."

(c) *Transitional Bonus Incentive Payments for Quality Reporting in 2007.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--With respect to covered professional services furnished during a reporting period (as defined in paragraph (6)(C)) by an eligible professional, if--

(A) there are any quality measures that have been established under the physician reporting system that are applicable to any such services furnished by such professional for such period, and

(B) the eligible professional satisfactorily submits (as determined under paragraph (2)) to the Secretary data on such quality measures in accordance with such reporting system for such reporting period,

in addition to the amount otherwise paid under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, subject to paragraph (3), there also shall be paid to the eligible professional (or to an employer or facility in the cases described in clause (A) of section 1842(b)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6))) from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t) an amount equal to 1.5 percent of the Secretary's estimate (based on claims submitted not later than two months after the

end of the reporting period) of the allowed charges under such part for all such covered professional services furnished during the reporting period.

(2) **SATISFACTORY REPORTING DESCRIBED.**--For purposes of paragraph (1), an eligible professional shall be treated as satisfactorily submitting data on quality measures for covered professional services for a reporting period if quality measures have been reported as follows:

(A) **THREE OR FEWER QUALITY MEASURES APPLICABLE.**--If there are no more than 3 quality measures that are provided under the physician reporting system and that are applicable to such services of such professional furnished during the period, each such quality measure has been reported under such system in at least 80 percent of the cases in which such measure is reportable under the system.

(B) **FOUR OR MORE QUALITY MEASURES APPLICABLE.**--If there are 4 or more quality measures that are provided under the physician reporting system and that are applicable to such services of such professional furnished during the period, at least 3 such quality measures have been reported under such system in at least 80 percent of the cases in which the respective measure is reportable under the system.

(3) **PAYMENT LIMITATION.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--In no case shall the total payment made under this subsection to an eligible professional (or to an employer or facility in the cases described in clause (A) of section 1842(b)(6) of the Social Security Act) exceed the product of--

(i) the total number of quality measures for which data are submitted under the physician reporting system for covered professional services of such professional that are furnished during the reporting period; and

(ii) 300 percent of the average per measure payment amount specified in subparagraph (B).

(B) **AVERAGE PER MEASURE PAYMENT AMOUNT SPECIFIED.**--The average per measure payment amount specified in this subparagraph is an amount, estimated by the Secretary (based on claims submitted not later than two months after the end of the reporting period), equal to--

(i) the total of the amount of allowed charges under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act for all covered professional services furnished during the reporting period on claims for which quality measures are reported under the physician reporting system; divided by

(ii) the total number of quality measures for which data are reported under such system for covered professional services furnished during the reporting period.

(4) **FORM OF PAYMENT.**--The payment under this subsection shall be in the form of a single consolidated payment.

(5) **APPLICATION.**--

(A) **PHYSICIAN REPORTING SYSTEM RULES.**--Paragraphs (5), (6), and (8) of section 1848(k) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (b), shall apply for purposes of this subsection in the same manner as they apply for purposes of such section.

(B) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER BONUS PAYMENTS.**--The provisions of this subsection shall not be taken into account in applying subsections (m) and (u) of section 1833 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l) and any payment

under such subsections shall not be taken into account in computing allowable charges under this subsection.

(C) **IMPLEMENTATION.**--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may implement by program instruction or otherwise this subsection.

(D) **VALIDATION.**--

(i) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to the succeeding provisions of this subparagraph, for purposes of determining whether a measure is applicable to the covered professional services of an eligible professional under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall presume that if an eligible professional submits data for a measure, such measure is applicable to such professional.

(ii) **METHOD.**-- The Secretary shall validate (by sampling or other means as the Secretary determines to be appropriate) whether measures applicable to covered professional services of an eligible professional have been reported.

(iii) **DENIAL OF PAYMENT AUTHORITY.**--If the Secretary determines that an eligible professional has not reported measures applicable to covered professional services of such professional, the Secretary shall not pay the bonus incentive payment.

(E) **LIMITATIONS ON REVIEW.**--

(i) **IN GENERAL.**--There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869 or 1878 of the Social Security Act or otherwise of--

(I) the determination of measures applicable to services furnished by eligible professionals under this subsection;

(II) the determination of satisfactory reporting under paragraph (2);

(III) the determination of the payment limitation under paragraph (3); and

(IV) the determination of the bonus incentive payment under this subsection.

(ii) **TREATMENT OF DETERMINATIONS.**--A determination under this subsection shall not be treated as a determination for purposes of section 1869 of the Social Security Act.

(6) **DEFINITIONS.**--For purposes of this subsection:

(A) **ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONAL; COVERED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.**--The terms "eligible professional" and "covered professional services" have the meanings given such terms in section 1848(k)(3) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (b).

(B) **PHYSICIAN REPORTING SYSTEM.**--The term "physician reporting system" means the system established under section 1848(k) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (b).

(C) **REPORTING PERIOD.**--The term "reporting period" means the period beginning on July 1, 2007, and ending on December 31, 2007.

(D) **SECRETARY.**--The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(d) *Physician Assistance and Quality Initiative Fund.*--Section 1848 of the Social Security Act, as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(1) *Physician Assistance and Quality Initiative Fund.*--

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**--The Secretary shall establish under this subsection a Physician Assistance and Quality Initiative Fund (in this subsection referred to as the "Fund") which shall be available to the Secretary for physician payment and quality improvement initiatives, which may include application of an adjustment to the update of the conversion factor under subsection (d).

(2) **FUNDING.**--

``(A) **AMOUNT AVAILABLE.**--There shall be available to the Fund for expenditures an amount equal to \$1,350,000,000.

``(B) **TIMELY OBLIGATION OF ALL AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR SERVICES FURNISHED DURING 2008.**--The Secretary shall provide for expenditures from the Fund in a manner designed to provide (to the maximum extent feasible) for the obligation of the entire amount specified in subparagraph (A) for payment with respect to physicians' services furnished during 2008.

``(C) **PAYMENT FROM TRUST FUND.**--The amount specified in subparagraph (A) shall be available to the Fund, as expenditures are made from the Fund, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841.

``(D) **FUNDING LIMITATION.**--Amounts in the Fund shall be available in advance of appropriations in accordance with subparagraph (B) but only if the total amount obligated from the Fund does not exceed the amount available to the Fund under subparagraph (A). The Secretary may obligate funds from the Fund only if the Secretary determines (and the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the appropriate budget officer certify) that there are available in the Fund sufficient amounts to cover all such obligations incurred consistent with the previous sentence.

``(E) **CONSTRUCTION.**--In the case that expenditures from the Fund are applied to, or otherwise affect, a conversion factor under subsection (d) for a year, the conversion factor under such subsection shall be computed for a subsequent year as if such application or effect had never occurred."

(e) *Implementation.*--For purposes of implementing the provisions of, and amendments made by, this section, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the transfer, from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t), of \$60,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for the period of fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009.

SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF FLOOR ON MEDICARE WORK GEOGRAPHIC ADJUSTMENT.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking ``before January 1, 2007" and inserting ``before January 1, 2008".

SEC. 103. UPDATE TO THE COMPOSITE RATE COMPONENT OF THE BASIC CASE-MIX ADJUSTED PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR DIALYSIS SERVICES.

(a) *In General.*--Section 1881(b)(12)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr(b)(12)(G)) is amended to read as follows:

``(G) The Secretary shall increase the amount of the composite rate component of the basic case-mix adjusted system under subparagraph (B) for dialysis services--

``(i) furnished on or after January 1, 2006, and before April 1, 2007, by 1.6 percent above the amount of such composite rate component for such services furnished on December 31, 2005; and

``(ii) furnished on or after April 1, 2007, by 1.6 percent above the amount of such composite rate component for such services furnished on March 31, 2007."

(b) *GAO Report on Home Dialysis Payment.*--Not later than January 1, 2009, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the costs for home hemodialysis treatment and patient training for both home

hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Such report shall also include recommendations for a payment methodology for payment under section 1881 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395rr) that measures, and is based on, the costs of providing such services and takes into account the case mix of patients.

SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PHYSICIAN PATHOLOGY SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.

Section 542(c) of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 (as enacted into law by section 1(a)(6) of Public Law 106-554), as amended by section 732 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173), is

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amended by striking `` and 2006" and inserting `` , 2006, and 2007".

SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE REASONABLE COSTS PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS FURNISHED TO HOSPITAL PATIENTS IN CERTAIN RURAL AREAS.

Effective as if included in the enactment of section 416 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (42 U.S.C. 1395l-4), subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking ``2-year period" and inserting ``3-year period".

SEC. 106. HOSPITAL MEDICARE REPORTS AND CLARIFICATIONS.

(a) *Correction of Mid-Year Reclassification Expiration.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of a subsection (d) hospital (as defined for purposes of section 1886 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww)) with respect to which a reclassification of its wage index for purposes of such section would (but for this subsection) expire on March 31, 2007, such reclassification of such hospital shall be extended through September 30, 2007. The previous sentence shall not be effected in a budget-neutral manner.

(b) *Revision of the Medicare Wage Index Classification System.*--

(1) **MEDPAC REPORT.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress, by not later than June 30, 2007, a report on its study of the wage index classification system applied under Medicare prospective payment systems, including under section 1886(d)(3)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)). Such report shall include any alternatives the Commission recommends to the method to compute the wage index under such section.

(B) **FUNDING.**--Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 to carry out this paragraph.

(2) **PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE HOSPITAL WAGE INDEX CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.**-- The Secretary of Health and Human Services, taking into account the recommendations described in the report under paragraph (1), shall include in the proposed rule published under section 1886(e)(5)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(e)(5)(A)) for fiscal year 2009 one or more proposals to revise the wage index adjustment applied under section 1886(d)(3)(E) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(3)(E)) for purposes of the Medicare prospective payment system for inpatient hospital services. Such proposal (or proposals) shall consider each of the following:

(A) Problems associated with the definition of labor markets for purposes of such wage index adjustment.

(B) The modification or elimination of geographic reclassifications and other adjustments.

(C) The use of Bureau of Labor Statistics data, or other data or methodologies, to calculate relative wages for each geographic area involved.

(D) Minimizing variations in wage index adjustments between and within Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Statewide rural areas.

(E) The feasibility of applying all components of the proposal to other settings, including home health agencies and skilled nursing facilities.

(F) Methods to minimize the volatility of wage index adjustments, while maintaining the principle of budget neutrality in applying such adjustments.

(G) The effect that the implementation of the proposal would have on health care providers and on each region of the country.

(H) Methods for implementing the proposal, including methods to phase-in such implementation.

(I) Issues relating to occupational mix, such as staffing practices and any evidence on the effect on quality of care and patient safety and any recommendations for alternative calculations.

(c) *Elimination of Unnecessary Report.*--Section 1886 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww) is amended--

(1) in subsection (d)(4)(C), by striking clause (iv); and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (3).

SEC. 107. PAYMENT FOR BRACHYTHERAPY.

(a) *Extension of Payment Rule.*--Section 1833(t)(16)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)(16)(C)) is amended by striking ``January 1, 2007" and inserting ``January 1, 2008".

(b) *Establishment of Separate Payment Groups.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 1833(t)(2)(H) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)(2)(H)) is amended by inserting ``and for stranded and non-stranded devices furnished on or after July 1, 2007" before the period at the end.

(2) **IMPLEMENTATION.**--The Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendment made by paragraph (1) by program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 108. PAYMENT PROCESS UNDER THE COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION PROGRAM (CAP).

(a) *In General.*--Section 1847B(a)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3b(a)(3)) is amended--

(1) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking ``and biologicals" and all that follows and inserting ``and biologicals shall be made only to such contractor upon receipt of a claim for a drug or biological supplied by the contractor for administration to a beneficiary."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(D) **POST-PAYMENT REVIEW PROCESS.**--The Secretary shall establish (by program instruction or otherwise) a post-payment review process (which may include the use of statistical sampling) to assure that payment is made for a drug or biological under this section only if the drug or biological has been administered to a beneficiary. The Secretary shall recoup, offset, or collect any overpayments determined by the Secretary under such process.".

(b) *Construction.*--Nothing in this section shall be construed as--

(1) requiring the conduct of any additional competition under subsection (b)(1) of section 1847B of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3b); or

(2) requiring any additional process for elections by physicians under subsection (a)(1)(A)(ii) of such section or additional selection by a selecting physician of a contractor under subsection (a)(5) of such section.

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to payment for drugs and biologicals supplied under section 1847B of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-3b)--

(1) on or after April 1, 2007; and

(2) on or after July 1, 2006, and before April 1, 2007, for claims that are unpaid as of April 1, 2007.

SEC. 109. QUALITY REPORTING FOR HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SERVICES AND AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER SERVICES.

(a) *Outpatient Hospital Services.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)) is amended--

(A) in paragraph (3)(C)(iv), by inserting "subject to paragraph (17)," after "For purposes of this subparagraph,"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(17) **QUALITY REPORTING.**--

(A) **REDUCTION IN UPDATE FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.**--

(i) **IN GENERAL.**--For purposes of paragraph (3)(C)(iv) for 2009 and each subsequent year, in the case of a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B)) that does not submit, to the Secretary in accordance with this paragraph, data required to be submitted on measures selected under this paragraph with respect to such a year, the OPD fee schedule increase factor under paragraph (3)(C)(iv) for such year shall be reduced by 2.0 percentage points.

(ii) **NON-CUMULATIVE APPLICATION.**--A reduction under this subparagraph shall apply only with respect to the year involved and the Secretary shall not take into account such reduction in computing the OPD fee schedule increase factor for a subsequent year.

(B) **FORM AND MANNER OF SUBMISSION.**--Each subsection (d) hospital shall submit data on measures selected under this paragraph to the Secretary in a form and manner, and at a time, specified by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph.

(C) **DEVELOPMENT OF OUTPATIENT MEASURES.**--

(i) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary shall develop measures that the Secretary determines to be appropriate for the measurement of the quality of care (including medication errors) furnished by hospitals in outpatient settings and that reflect consensus among affected parties and, to the extent feasible and practicable, shall include measures set forth by one or more national consensus building entities.

(ii) **CONSTRUCTION.**--Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing the Secretary from selecting measures that are the same as (or a subset of) the measures for which data are required to be submitted under section 1886(b)(3)(B)(viii).

(D) **REPLACEMENT OF MEASURES.**--For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary may replace any measures or indicators in appropriate cases, such as where all hospitals are effectively in compliance or the measures or indicators have been subsequently shown not to represent the best clinical practice.

``(E) **AVAILABILITY OF DATA.**--The Secretary shall establish procedures for making data submitted under this paragraph available to the public. Such procedures shall ensure that a hospital has the opportunity to review the data that are to be made public with respect to the hospital prior to such data being made public. The Secretary shall report quality measures of process, structure, outcome, patients' perspectives on care, efficiency, and costs of care that relate to services furnished in outpatient settings in hospitals on the Internet website of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services."

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**--Section 1886(b)(3)(B)(viii)(III) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(B)(viii)(III)) is amended by inserting `` (including medication errors)" after `` quality of care".

(b) *Application to Ambulatory Surgical Centers.*--Section 1833(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1935l(i)) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (2)(D), by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v) and by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

``(iv) The Secretary may implement such system in a manner so as to provide for a reduction in any annual update for failure to report on quality measures in accordance with paragraph (7)."; and

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(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(7)(A) For purposes of paragraph (2)(D)(iv), the Secretary may provide, in the case of an ambulatory surgical center that does not submit, to the Secretary in accordance with this paragraph, data required to be submitted on measures selected under this paragraph with respect to a year, any annual increase provided under the system established under paragraph (2)(D) for such year shall be reduced by 2.0 percentage points. A reduction under this subparagraph shall apply only with respect to the year involved and the Secretary shall not take into account such reduction in computing any annual increase factor for a subsequent year.

``(B) Except as the Secretary may otherwise provide, the provisions of subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (E) of paragraph (17) of section 1833(t) shall apply with respect to services of ambulatory surgical centers under this paragraph in a similar manner to the manner in which they apply under such paragraph and, for purposes of this subparagraph, any reference to a hospital, outpatient setting, or outpatient hospital services is deemed a reference to an ambulatory surgical center, the setting of such a center, or services of such a center, respectively."

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply to payment for services furnished on or after January 1, 2009.

SEC. 110. REPORTING OF ANEMIA QUALITY INDICATORS FOR MEDICARE PART B CANCER ANTI-ANEMIA DRUGS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 1842 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(u) Each request for payment, or bill submitted, for a drug furnished to an individual for the treatment of anemia in connection with the treatment of cancer shall include (in a form and manner specified by the Secretary) information on the hemoglobin or hematocrit levels for the individual."

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to drugs furnished on or after January 1, 2008. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall address the implementation of such amendment in the rulemaking

process under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) for payment for physicians' services for 2008, consistent with the previous sentence.

SEC. 111. CLARIFICATION OF HOSPICE SATELLITE DESIGNATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of calculating the hospice aggregate payment cap for 2004, 2005, and 2006 for a hospice program under section 1814(i)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(i)(2)(A)) for hospice care provided on or after November 1, 2003, and before December 27, 2005, Medicare provider number 29-1511 is deemed to be a multiple location of Medicare provider number 29-1500.

TITLE II--MEDICARE BENEFICIARY PROTECTIONS

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF EXCEPTIONS PROCESS FOR MEDICARE THERAPY CAPS.

Section 1833(g)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(g)(5)) is amended by striking "2006" and inserting "the period beginning on January 1, 2006, and ending on December 31, 2007,".

SEC. 202. PAYMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PART D VACCINES.

(a) *Transition for 2007.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of a vaccine that is a covered part D drug under section 1860D-2(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)) and that is administered during 2007, the administration of such vaccine shall be paid under part B of title XVIII of such Act as if it were the administration of a vaccine described in section 1861(s)(10)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w(s)(10)(B)).

(b) *Administration Included in Coverage of Covered Part D Drugs Beginning in 2008.*--Section 1860D-2(e)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)(1)) is amended, in the matter following subparagraph (B), by inserting "(and, for vaccines administered on or after January 1, 2008, its administration)" after "Public Health Service Act".

SEC. 203. OIG STUDY OF NEVER EVENTS.

(a) *Study.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Inspector General in the Department of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study on--

(A) incidences of never events for Medicare beneficiaries, including types of such events and payments by any party for such events;

(B) the extent to which the Medicare program paid, denied payment, or recouped payment for services furnished in connection with such events and the extent to which beneficiaries paid for such services; and

(C) the administrative processes of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to detect such events and to deny or recoup payments for services furnished in connection with such an event.

(2) **CONDUCT OF STUDY.**--In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Inspector General--

(A) shall audit a representative sample of claims and medical records of Medicare beneficiaries to identify never events and any payment (or recoupment) for services furnished in connection with such events;

(B) may request access to such claims and records from any Medicare contractor; and

(C) shall not release individually identifiable information or facility-specific information.

(b) *Report.*--Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall submit a report to Congress on the study conducted under this section. Such report shall include recommendations for such legislation and administrative action, such as a noncoverage policy or denial of payments, as the Inspector General determines appropriate, including--

(1) recommendations on processes to identify never events and to deny or recoup payments for services furnished in connection with such events; and

(2) a recommendation on a potential process (or processes) for public disclosure of never events which--

(A) will ensure protection of patient privacy; and

(B) will permit the use of the disclosed information for a root cause analysis to inform the public and the medical community about safety issues involved.

(c) *Funding.*--Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services \$3,000,000 to carry out this section, to be available until January 1, 2010.

(d) *Never Events Defined.*--For purposes of this section, the term "never event" means an event that is listed and endorsed as a serious reportable event by the National Quality Forum as of November 16, 2006.

SEC. 204. MEDICARE MEDICAL HOME DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) *In General.*--The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall establish under title XVIII of the Social Security Act a medical home demonstration project (in this section referred to as the "project") to redesign the health care delivery system to provide targeted, accessible, continuous and coordinated, family-centered care to high-need populations and under which--

(1) care management fees are paid to persons performing services as personal physicians; and

(2) incentive payments are paid to physicians participating in practices that provide services as a medical home under subsection (d).

For purposes of this subsection, the term "high-need population" means individuals with multiple chronic illnesses that require regular medical monitoring, advising, or treatment.

(b) *Details.*--

(1) **DURATION; SCOPE.**--The project shall operate during a period of three years and shall include urban, rural, and underserved areas in a total of no more than 8 States.

(2) **ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION OF SMALL PHYSICIAN PRACTICES.**--The project shall be designed to include the participation of physicians in practices with fewer than three full-time equivalent physicians, as well as physicians in larger practices particularly in rural and underserved areas.

(c) *Personal Physician Defined.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--For purposes of this section, the term "personal physician" means a physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(r)(1)) who--

(A) meets the requirements described in paragraph (2); and

(B) performs the services described in paragraph (3).

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as preventing such a physician from being a specialist or subspecialist for an individual requiring ongoing care for a specific chronic condition or multiple chronic conditions (such as severe

asthma, complex diabetes, cardiovascular disease, rheumatologic disorder) or for an individual with a prolonged illness.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**--The requirements described in this paragraph for a personal physician are as follows:

(A) The physician is a board certified physician who provides first contact and continuous care for individuals under the physician's care.

(B) The physician has the staff and resources to manage the comprehensive and coordinated health care of each such individual.

(3) **SERVICES PERFORMED.**--A personal physician shall perform or provide for the performance of at least the following services:

(A) Advocates for and provides ongoing support, oversight, and guidance to implement a plan of care that provides an integrated, coherent, cross-discipline plan for ongoing medical care developed in partnership with patients and including all other physicians furnishing care to the patient involved and other appropriate medical personnel or agencies (such as home health agencies).

(B) Uses evidence-based medicine and clinical decision support tools to guide decision-making at the point-of-care based on patient-specific factors.

(C) Uses health information technology, that may include remote monitoring and patient registries, to monitor and track the health status of patients and to provide patients with enhanced and convenient access to health care services.

(D) Encourages patients to engage in the management of their own health through education and support systems.

(d) *Medical Home Defined.*--For purposes of this section, the term "medical home" means a physician practice that--

(1) is in charge of targeting beneficiaries for participation in the project; and

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(2) is responsible for--

(A) providing safe and secure technology to promote patient access to personal health information;

(B) developing a health assessment tool for the individuals targeted; and

(C) providing training programs for personnel involved in the coordination of care.

(e) *Payment Mechanisms.*--

(1) **PERSONAL PHYSICIAN CARE MANAGEMENT FEE.**--Under the project, the Secretary shall provide for payment under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) of a care management fee to personal physicians providing care management under the project. Under such section and using the relative value scale update committee (RUC) process under such section, the Secretary shall develop a care management fee code for such payments and a value for such code.

(2) **MEDICAL HOME SHARING IN SAVINGS.**--The Secretary shall provide for payment under the project of a medical home based on the payment methodology applied to physician group practices under section 1866A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-1). Under such methodology, 80 percent of the reductions in expenditures under title XVIII of the Social Security Act resulting from participation of individuals that are attributable to the medical home (as reduced by the total care management fees paid to the medical home under the project) shall be paid to the medical home. The amount of such reductions in expenditures shall be determined by using assumptions with

respect to reductions in the occurrence of health complications, hospitalization rates, medical errors, and adverse drug reactions.

(3) **SOURCE.**--Payments paid under the project shall be made from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund under section 1841 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t).

(f) *Evaluations and Reports.*--

(1) **ANNUAL INTERIM EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.**--For each year of the project, the Secretary shall provide for an evaluation of the project and shall submit to Congress, by a date specified by the Secretary, a report on the project and on the evaluation of the project for each such year.

(2) **FINAL EVALUATION AND REPORT.**--The Secretary shall provide for an evaluation of the project and shall submit to Congress, not later than one year after completion of the project, a report on the project and on the evaluation of the project.

SEC. 205. MEDICARE DRA TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) *PACE Clarification.*--Paragraph (7) of section 5302(c) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1395eee note) is amended to read as follows:

``(7) **APPROPRIATION.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Out of funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 to carry out this subsection for the period of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

``(B) **AVAILABILITY.**--Funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) shall remain available for obligation through fiscal year 2010.".

(b) *Miscellaneous Technical Corrections.*--

(1) **CORRECTION OF MARGIN (SECTION 5001).**--Section 1886(b)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(B)), as amended by section 5001(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171), is amended by moving clause (viii) (including subclauses (I) through (VII) of such clause) 6 ems to the left.

(2) **REFERENCE CORRECTION (SECTION 5114).**--Section 5114(a)(2) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), is amended by striking ``1842(b)(6)(F) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6)(F))" and inserting ``1842(b)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6))" .

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171).

SEC. 206. LIMITED CONTINUOUS OPEN ENROLLMENT OF ORIGINAL MEDICARE FEE-FOR-SERVICE ENROLLEES INTO MEDICARE ADVANTAGE NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 1851(e)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

``(E) **LIMITED CONTINUOUS OPEN ENROLLMENT OF ORIGINAL FEE-FOR-SERVICE ENROLLEES IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLANS.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--On any date during 2007 or 2008 on which a Medicare Advantage eligible individual is an unenrolled fee-for-service individual (as defined in clause (ii)), the individual may elect under subsection (a)(1) to enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan that is not an MA-PD plan.

``(ii) **UNENROLLED FEE-FOR-SERVICE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.**--In this subparagraph, the term 'unenrolled fee-for-service individual' means, with respect to a date, a Medicare Advantage eligible individual who--

``(I) is receiving benefits under this title through enrollment in the original medicare fee-for-service program under parts A and B;

``(II) is not enrolled in an MA plan on such date; and

``(III) as of such date is not otherwise eligible to elect to enroll in an MA plan.

``(iii) **LIMITATION OF ONE CHANGE DURING YEAR.**--An individual may exercise the right under clause (i) only once during the year.

``(iv) **NO EFFECT ON COVERAGE UNDER A PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN.**--Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed as permitting an individual exercising the right under clause (i)--

``(I) who is enrolled in a prescription drug plan under part D, to disenroll from such plan or to enroll in a different prescription drug plan; or

``(II) who is not enrolled in a prescription drug plan, to enroll in such a plan.".

(b) *Conforming Amendment.*--Section 1860D-1(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(b)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking ``subparagraphs (B) and (C)" and inserting ``subparagraphs (B), (C), and (E)".

TITLE III--MEDICARE PROGRAM INTEGRITY EFFORTS

SEC. 301. OFFSETTING ADJUSTMENT IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE STABILIZATION FUND.

Section 1858(e)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-27a(e)(2)(A)(i)) is amended by striking ``2007," and ``\$10,000,000,000" and inserting ``2012," and ``\$3,500,000,000", respectively.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF RECOVERY AUDIT CONTRACTOR PROGRAM UNDER THE MEDICARE INTEGRITY PROGRAM.

(a) *In General.*--Section 1893 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ddd) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(h) *Use of Recovery Audit Contractors.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Under the Program, the Secretary shall enter into contracts with recovery audit contractors in accordance with this subsection for the purpose of identifying underpayments and overpayments and recouping overpayments under this title with respect to all services for which payment is made under part A or B. Under the contracts--

``(A) payment shall be made to such a contractor only from amounts recovered;

``(B) from such amounts recovered, payment--

``(i) shall be made on a contingent basis for collecting overpayments; and

``(ii) may be made in such amounts as the Secretary may specify for identifying underpayments; and

``(C) the Secretary shall retain a portion of the amounts recovered which shall be available to the program management account of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for purposes of activities conducted under the recovery audit program under this subsection.

``(2) **DISPOSITION OF REMAINING RECOVERIES.**--The amounts recovered under such contracts that are not paid to the contractor under

paragraph (1) or retained by the Secretary under paragraph (1)(C) shall be applied to reduce expenditures under parts A and B.

``(3) **NATIONWIDE COVERAGE.**--The Secretary shall enter into contracts under paragraph (1) in a manner so as to provide for activities in all States under such a contract by not later than January 1, 2010.

``(4) **AUDIT AND RECOVERY PERIODS.**--Each such contract shall provide that audit and recovery activities may be conducted during a fiscal year with respect to payments made under part A or B--

``(A) during such fiscal year; and

``(B) retrospectively (for a period of not more than 4 fiscal years prior to such fiscal year).

``(5) **WAIVER.**--The Secretary shall waive such provisions of this title as may be necessary to provide for payment of recovery audit contractors under this subsection in accordance with paragraph (1).

``(6) **QUALIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTORS.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary may not enter into a contract under paragraph (1) with a recovery audit contractor unless the contractor has staff that has the appropriate clinical knowledge of, and experience with, the payment rules and regulations under this title or the contractor has, or will contract with, another entity that has such knowledgeable and experienced staff.

``(B) **INELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN CONTRACTORS.**--The Secretary may not enter into a contract under paragraph (1) with a recovery audit contractor to the extent the contractor is a fiscal intermediary under section 1816, a carrier under section 1842, or a medicare administrative contractor under section 1874A.

``(C) **PREFERENCE FOR ENTITIES WITH DEMONSTRATED PROFICIENCY.**--In awarding contracts to recovery audit contractors under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to those risk entities that the Secretary determines have demonstrated more than 3 years direct management experience and a proficiency for cost control or recovery audits with private insurers, health care providers, health plans, under the Medicaid program under title XIX, or under this title.

``(7) **CONSTRUCTION RELATING TO CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION OF FRAUD.**--A recovery of an overpayment to a individual or entity by a recovery audit contractor under this subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the Secretary or the Attorney General from investigating and prosecuting, if appropriate, allegations of fraud or abuse arising from such overpayment.

``(8) **ANNUAL REPORT.**--The Secretary shall annually submit to Congress a report on the use of recovery audit contractors under this subsection. Each such report shall include information on the performance of such contractors in identifying underpayments and overpayments and recouping overpayments, including an evaluation of the comparative

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performance of such contractors and savings to the program under this title."

(b) *Access to Coordination of Benefits Contractor Database.*--The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for access by recovery audit contractors conducting audit and recovery activities under section 1893(h) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a), to the database of the Coordination of Benefits Contractor of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

Services with respect to the audit and recovery periods described in paragraph (4) of such section 1893(h).

(c) *Conforming Amendments to Current Demonstration Project.*--Section 306 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173; 117 Stat. 2256) is amended--

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "last for not longer than 3 years" and inserting "continue until contracts are entered into under section 1893(h) of the Social Security Act"; and

(2) by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 303. FUNDING FOR THE HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL ACCOUNT.

(a) *Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 1817(k)(3)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i(k)(3)(A)(i)) is amended--

(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by inserting "until expended" after "without further appropriation";

(B) in subclause (II), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in subclause (III)--

(i) by striking "for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2003" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006"; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

"(IV) for each of fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, the limit under this clause for the preceding fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items; United States city average) over the previous year; and

"(V) for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2010, the limit under this clause for fiscal year 2010."

(2) **OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**--Section 1817(k)(3)(A)(ii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i(k)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended--

(A) in subclause (VI), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subclause (VII)--

(i) by striking "for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2002" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006"; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subclauses:

"(VIII) for fiscal year 2007, not less than \$160,000,000, increased by the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items; United States city average) over the previous year;

"(IX) for each of fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010, not less than the amount required under this clause for the preceding fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items; United States city average) over the previous year; and

"(X) for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2010, not less than the amount required under this clause for fiscal year 2010."

(b) *Federal Bureau of Investigation.*--Section 1817(k)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i(k)(3)(B)) is amended--

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting "until expended" after "without further appropriation";

- (2) in clause (vi), by striking "and" at the end;
- (3) in clause (vii)--
- (A) by striking "for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2002" and inserting "for each of fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006"; and
- (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
- (4) by adding at the end the following new clauses:
 - (viii) for each of fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, the amount to be appropriated under this subparagraph for the preceding fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items; United States city average) over the previous year; and
 - (ix) for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2010, the amount to be appropriated under this subparagraph for fiscal year 2010."

SEC. 304. IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING.

For purposes of implementing the provisions of, and amendments made by, this title and titles I and II of this division, other than section 203, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide for the transfer, in appropriate part from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1817 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i) and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1841 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395t), of \$45,000,000 to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Program Management Account for the period of fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

TITLE IV--MEDICAID AND OTHER HEALTH PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF TRANSITIONAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (TMA) AND ABSTINENCE EDUCATION PROGRAM.

Activities authorized by sections 510 and 1925 of the Social Security Act shall continue through June 30, 2007, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2006, notwithstanding section 1902(e)(1)(A) of such Act, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the third quarter of fiscal year 2007 at the level provided for such activities through the third quarter of fiscal year 2006.

SEC. 402. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON VACCINE AGAINST VALLEY FEVER.

(a) *In General.*--In supporting research on the development of vaccines against human diseases, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make grants for the purpose of conducting research toward the development of a vaccine against coccidioidomycosis (commonly known as Valley Fever).

(b) *Sunset.*--No grant may be made under subsection (a) on or after October 1, 2012. The preceding sentence does not have any legal effect on payments under grants for which amounts appropriated under subsection (c) were obligated prior to such date.

(c) *Authorization of Appropriations.*--For the purpose of making grants under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated \$40,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2012.

SEC. 403. CHANGE IN THRESHOLD FOR MEDICAID INDIRECT HOLD HARMLESS PROVISION OF BROAD-BASED HEALTH CARE TAXES.

Section 1903(w)(4)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(w)(4)(C)) is amended--

(1) by inserting "(i)" after "(C)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

(ii) For purposes of clause (i), a determination of the existence of an indirect guarantee shall be made under paragraph (3)(i) of section 433.68(f) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on November 1, 2006, except that for portions of fiscal years beginning on or after January 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2011, '5.5 percent' shall be substituted for '6 percent' each place it appears."

SEC. 404. DSH ALLOTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 FOR TENNESSEE AND HAWAII.

Section 1923(f)(6) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-4(f)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

(6) **ALLOTMENT ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007.--**

(A) **TENNESSEE.--**

(i) **IN GENERAL.--**Only with respect to fiscal year 2007, the DSH allotment for Tennessee for such fiscal year, notwithstanding the table set forth in paragraph (2) or the terms of the TennCare Demonstration Project in effect for the State, shall be the greater of--

(I) the amount that the Secretary determines is equal to the Federal medical assistance percentage component attributable to disproportionate share hospital payment adjustments for the demonstration year ending in 2006 that is reflected in the budget neutrality provision of the TennCare Demonstration Project; and

(II) \$280,000,000.

(ii) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION.--**Payment under section 1903(a) shall not be made to Tennessee with respect to the aggregate amount of any payment adjustments made under this section for hospitals in the State for fiscal year 2007 that is in excess of 30 percent of the DSH allotment for the State for such fiscal year determined pursuant to clause (i).

(iii) **STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.--**The Secretary shall permit Tennessee to submit an amendment to its State plan under this title that describes the methodology to be used by the State to identify and make payments to disproportionate share hospitals, including children's hospitals and institutions for mental diseases or other mental health facilities. The Secretary may not approve such plan amendment unless the methodology described in the amendment is consistent with the requirements under this section for making payment adjustments to disproportionate share hospitals. For purposes of demonstrating budget neutrality under the TennCare Demonstration Project, payment adjustments made pursuant to a State plan amendment approved in accordance with this subparagraph shall be considered expenditures under such project.

(iv) **OFFSET OF FEDERAL SHARE OF PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 AGAINST ESSENTIAL ACCESS HOSPITAL SUPPLEMENTAL POOL PAYMENTS UNDER THE TENNCARE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.--**

(I) The total amount of Essential Access Hospital supplemental pool payments that may be made under the TennCare Demonstration Project for fiscal year 2007 shall be reduced on a dollar for dollar basis by the amount of any payments made under section 1903(a) to Tennessee with respect to

payment adjustments made under this section for hospitals in the State for such fiscal year.

``(II) The sum of the total amount of payments made under section 1903(a) to Tennessee with respect to payment adjustments made under this section for hospitals in the State for fiscal year 2007 and the total amount of Essential Access Hospital supplemental pool payments made under the TennCare Demonstration Project for such fiscal year shall not exceed the State's DSH allotment for such fiscal year established under clause (i).

``(B) **HAWAII.**--

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``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--Only with respect to fiscal year 2007, the DSH allotment for Hawaii for such fiscal year, notwithstanding the table set forth in paragraph (2), shall be \$10,000,000.

``(ii) **STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.**--The Secretary shall permit Hawaii to submit an amendment to its State plan under this title that describes the methodology to be used by the State to identify and make payments to disproportionate share hospitals, including children's hospitals and institutions for mental diseases or other mental health facilities. The Secretary may not approve such plan amendment unless the methodology described in the amendment is consistent with the requirements under this section for making payment adjustments to disproportionate share hospitals."

SEC. 405. CERTAIN MEDICAID DRA TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) *Technical Corrections Relating to State Option for Alternative Premiums and Cost Sharing (Sections 6041 Through 6043).*--

(1) **CLARIFICATION OF CONTINUED APPLICATION OF REGULAR COST SHARING RULES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH FAMILY INCOME NOT EXCEEDING 100 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LINE.**--Section 1916A of the Social Security Act, as inserted by section 6041(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and amended by sections 6042 and 6043 of such Act, is amended--

(A) in subsection (a)(1)--

(i) by inserting ``but subject to paragraph (2)," after ``1902(a)(10)(B),"; and

(ii) by inserting ``and non-emergency services furnished in a hospital emergency department for which cost sharing may be imposed under subsection (e)" after ``(c)";

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as paragraph (3);

(C) in subsection (a), by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

``(2) **EXEMPTION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH FAMILY INCOME NOT EXCEEDING 100 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LINE.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Paragraph (1) and subsection (d) shall not apply, and sections 1916 and 1902(a)(10)(B) shall continue to apply, in the case of an individual whose family income does not exceed 100 percent of the poverty line applicable to a family of the size involved.

``(B) **LIMIT ON AGGREGATE COST SHARING.**--To the extent cost sharing under subsection (c) and (e) or under section 1916 is imposed against individuals described in subparagraph (A), the limitation under subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii) on the total aggregate amount of cost sharing shall apply to such cost sharing for all individuals in a family described in subparagraph (A) in the same manner as such limitations apply to cost sharing and families described in subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii).";

(D) in subsections (c)(2)(C) and (e)(2)(C), by inserting `` under subsection (a)(2)(B) or" after `` cap on cost sharing applied"; and

(E) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by inserting `` who is not described in subparagraph (B)" after `` subsection (b)(1)".

(2) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF NON-PREFERRED DRUG AND NON-EMERGENCY COST-SHARING.--Such section is further amended--

(A) in subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2), by striking `` , subject to subsections (c)(2) and (e)(2)(A)";

(B) in subsection (c)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking `` least (or less) costly effective" and inserting `` most (or more) cost effective";

(C) in subsection (c)(1)(B), by striking `` otherwise be imposed under" and inserting `` be imposed under subsection (a) due to the application of";

(D) in subsection (c)(2)(B), by striking `` otherwise not subject to cost sharing due to the application of subsection (b)(3)(B)" and inserting `` not subject to cost sharing under subsection (a) due to the application of paragraph (1)(B)";

(E) in subsection (e)(2)(A)--

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: `` **INDIVIDUALS WITH FAMILY INCOME BETWEEN 100 AND 150 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LINE.**--"; and

(ii) by striking `` under subsection (b)(1)" and inserting `` under subsection (b)(1)(B)(ii)";

(F) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking `` who is otherwise not subject to cost sharing under subsection (b)(3)" and inserting `` described in subsection (a)(2)(A) or who is not subject to cost sharing under subsection (b)(3)(B) with respect to non-emergency services described in paragraph (1)" and

(G) in subsection (e)(2)(C), by inserting `` or section 1916" after `` subsection (a)".

(3) CLARIFICATION OF COST SHARING RULES APPLICABLE TO DISABLED CHILDREN PROVIDED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY ADDED BY THE FAMILY OPPORTUNITY ACT.--

Such section is further amended--

(A) in subsection (a)(1), in the second sentence, by striking `` section 1916(g)" and inserting `` subsection (g) or (i) of section 1916"; and

(B) in subsection (b)(3)--

(i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following:

`` (vi) Disabled children who are receiving medical assistance by virtue of the application of sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIX) and 1902(cc)."; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at the end the following:

`` (ix) Services furnished to disabled children who are receiving medical assistance by virtue of the application of sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIX) and 1902(cc).".

(4) CORRECTION OF IV-B REFERENCES.--Such section is further amended in subsection (b)(3)--

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking `` aid or assistance is made available under part B of title IV to children in foster care" and inserting `` child welfare services are made available under part B of title IV on the basis of being a child in foster care"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking `` aid or assistance is made available under part B of title IV to children in foster care" and inserting `` child welfare

services are made available under part B of title IV on the basis of being a child in foster care or".

(5) **NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES.**--Section 1916A(e)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 6043(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is amended by striking ``the physician determines".

(6) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect as if included in the amendments made by sections 6041(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, except that insofar as such amendments are to, or relate to, subsection (c) or (e) of section 1916A of the Social Security Act, such amendments shall take effect as if included in the amendments made by section 6042 or 6043, respectively, of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

(b) *Clarifying Treatment of Certain Annuities (Section 6012).*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 1917(c)(1)(F)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396p(c)(1)(F)(i)), as added by section 6012(b) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, is amended by striking ``annuitant" and inserting ``institutionalized individual".

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective as if included in the enactment of section 6012 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

(c) *Additional Miscellaneous Technical Corrections.*--

(1) **DOCUMENTATION (SECTION 6036).**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Effective as if included in the amendment made by section 6036(a)(2) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, section 1903(x) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(x)), as inserted by such section 6036(a)(2), is amended--

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ``(i)(23)" and inserting ``(i)(22)";

(ii) in paragraph (2)--

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ``alien" and inserting ``individual declaring to be a citizen or national of the United States";

(II) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

``(B) and is receiving--

``(i) disability insurance benefits under section 223 or monthly insurance benefits under section 202 based on such individual's disability (as defined in section 223(d)); or

``(ii) supplemental security income benefits under title XVI;"

(III) in subparagraph (C)--

(aa) by striking ``other"; and

(bb) by striking ``had" and inserting ``has";

(IV) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(V) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

``(C) and with respect to whom--

``(i) child welfare services are made available under part B of title IV on the basis of being a child in foster care; or

``(ii) adoption or foster care assistance is made available under part E of title IV; or"; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)(C)(iii), by striking ``I-97" and inserting ``I-197".

(B) **ASSURANCE OF STATE FOSTER CARE AGENCY VERIFICATION OF CITIZENSHIP OR LEGAL STATUS.**--

(i) **STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.**--Section 471(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 671(a)) is amended--

- (I) in paragraph (25), by striking "and" at the end;
- (II) in paragraph (26)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and
- (III) by adding at the end the following:
 - (27) provides that, with respect to any child in foster care under the responsibility of the State under this part or part B and without regard to whether foster care maintenance payments are made under section 472 on behalf of the child, the State has in effect procedures for verifying the citizenship or immigration status of the child."

(ii) **INCLUSION IN REVIEWS OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS.**--Section 1123A(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-2a(b)(2)) is amended by inserting "(which shall include determining whether the State program is in conformity with the requirement of section 471(a)(27))" after "review".

(iii) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subparagraph shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **MISCELLANEOUS TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**--

(A) Effective as if included in the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171), the following sections of such Act are amended as follows:

(i) Section 5114(a)(2) is amended by striking "section 1842(b)(6)(F) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6)(F))" and inserting "section 1842(b)(6) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(6))".

(ii) Section 6003(b)(2) is amended, by striking "subsection (k)" and inserting "subsection (k)(1)".

(iii) Sections 6031(b), 6032(b), and 6035(c) are each amended by striking "section 6035(e)" and inserting "section 6034(e)".

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(iv) Section 6034(b) is amended by striking "section 6033(a)" and inserting "section 6032(a)".

(v) Section 6036 is amended--

(I) in subsection (b), by striking "section 1903(z)" and inserting "section 1903(x)"; and

(II) in subsection (c), by striking "(i)(23)" and inserting "(i)(22)".

(B) Effective as if included in the amendment made by section 6015(a)(1) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, section 1919(c)(5)(A)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r(c)(5)(A)(i)(II)) is amended by striking "clause (v)" and inserting "subparagraph (B)(v)".

DIVISION C--OTHER PROVISIONS

TITLE I--GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006".

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **181 AREA.**--The term "181 Area" means the area identified in map 15, page 58, of the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997-2002, dated August 1996, of the Minerals Management

Service, available in the Office of the Director of the Minerals Management Service, excluding the area offered in OCS Lease Sale 181, held on December 5, 2001.

(2) **181 SOUTH AREA.**--The term "181 South Area" means any area--

(A) located--

(i) south of the 181 Area;

(ii) west of the Military Mission Line; and

(iii) in the Central Planning Area;

(B) excluded from the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997-2002, dated August 1996, of the Minerals Management Service; and

(C) included in the areas considered for oil and gas leasing, as identified in map 8, page 37 of the document entitled "Draft Proposed Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012", dated February 2006.

(3) **BONUS OR ROYALTY CREDIT.**--The term "bonus or royalty credit" means a legal instrument or other written documentation, or an entry in an account managed by the Secretary, that may be used in lieu of any other monetary payment for--

(A) a bonus bid for a lease on the outer Continental Shelf; or

(B) a royalty due on oil or gas production from any lease located on the outer Continental Shelf.

(4) **CENTRAL PLANNING AREA.**--The term "Central Planning Area" means the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area of the outer Continental Shelf, as designated in the document entitled "Draft Proposed Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012", dated February 2006.

(5) **EASTERN PLANNING AREA.**--The term "Eastern Planning Area" means the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area of the outer Continental Shelf, as designated in the document entitled "Draft Proposed Program Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012", dated February 2006.

(6) **2002-2007 PLANNING AREA.**--The term "2002-2007 planning area" means any area--

(A) located in--

(i) the Eastern Planning Area, as designated in the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002-2007, dated April 2002, of the Minerals Management Service;

(ii) the Central Planning Area, as designated in the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002-2007, dated April 2002, of the Minerals Management Service; or

(iii) the Western Planning Area, as designated in the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2002-2007, dated April 2002, of the Minerals Management Service; and

(B) not located in--

(i) an area in which no funds may be expended to conduct offshore preleasing, leasing, and related activities under sections 104 through 106 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-54; 119 Stat. 521) (as in effect on August 2, 2005);

(ii) an area withdrawn from leasing under the ``Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Leasing Disposition'', from 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1111, dated June 12, 1998; or
(iii) the 181 Area or 181 South Area.

(7) **GULF PRODUCING STATE.**--The term ``Gulf producing State'' means each of the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

(8) **MILITARY MISSION LINE.**--The term ``Military Mission Line'' means the north-south line at 86°41'

(9) **QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The term ``qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues'' means--

(i) in the case of each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016, all rentals, royalties, bonus bids, and other sums due and payable to the United States from leases entered into on or after the date of enactment of this Act for--

(I) areas in the 181 Area located in the Eastern Planning Area; and

(II) the 181 South Area; and

(ii) in the case of fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter, all rentals, royalties, bonus bids, and other sums due and payable to the United States received on or after October 1, 2016, from leases entered into on or after the date of enactment of this Act for--

(I) the 181 Area;

(II) the 181 South Area; and

(III) the 2002-2007 planning area.

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**--The term ``qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues'' does not include--

(i) revenues from the forfeiture of a bond or other surety securing obligations other than royalties, civil penalties, or royalties taken by the Secretary in-kind and not sold; or

(ii) revenues generated from leases subject to section 8(g) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(g)).

(10) **COASTAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.**--The term ``coastal political subdivision'' means a political subdivision of a Gulf producing State any part of which political subdivision is--

(A) within the coastal zone (as defined in section 304 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1453)) of the Gulf producing State as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) not more than 200 nautical miles from the geographic center of any leased tract.

(11) **SECRETARY.**--The term ``Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 103. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING IN 181 AREA AND 181 SOUTH AREA OF GULF OF MEXICO.

(a) *181 Area Lease Sale.*--Except as provided in section 104, the Secretary shall offer the 181 Area for oil and gas leasing pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) *181 South Area Lease Sale.*--The Secretary shall offer the 181 South Area for oil and gas leasing pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) *Leasing Program.*--The 181 Area and 181 South Area shall be offered for lease under this section notwithstanding the omission of the 181 Area or the 181 South Area from any outer Continental Shelf leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344).

(d) *Conforming Amendment.*--Section 105 of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-54; 119 Stat. 522) is amended by inserting `` (other than the 181 South Area (as defined in section 102 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006))" after ``lands located outside Sale 181".

SEC. 104. MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS LEASING IN CERTAIN AREAS OF GULF OF MEXICO.

(a) *In General.*--Effective during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on June 30, 2022, the Secretary shall not offer for leasing, preleasing, or any related activity--

- (1) any area east of the Military Mission Line in the Gulf of Mexico;
- (2) any area in the Eastern Planning Area that is within 125 miles of the coastline of the State of Florida; or
- (3) any area in the Central Planning Area that is--
 - (A) within--
 - (i) the 181 Area; and
 - (ii) 100 miles of the coastline of the State of Florida; or
 - (B)(i) outside the 181 Area;
 - (ii) east of the western edge of the Pensacola Official Protraction Diagram (UTM X coordinate 1,393,920 (NAD 27 feet)); and
 - (iii) within 100 miles of the coastline of the State of Florida.

(b) *Military Mission Line.*--Notwithstanding subsection (a), the United States reserves the right to designate by and through the Secretary of Defense, with the approval of the President, national defense areas on the outer Continental Shelf pursuant to section 12(d) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1341(d)).

(c) *Exchange of Certain Leases.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary shall permit any person that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, has entered into an oil or gas lease with the Secretary in any area described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) to exchange the lease for a bonus or royalty credit that may only be used in the Gulf of Mexico.

(2) **VALUATION OF EXISTING LEASE.**--The amount of the bonus or royalty credit for a lease to be exchanged shall be equal to--

- (A) the amount of the bonus bid; and
- (B) any rental paid for the lease as of the date the lessee notifies the Secretary of the decision to exchange the lease.

(3) **REVENUE DISTRIBUTION.**--No bonus or royalty credit may be used under this subsection in lieu of any payment due under, or to acquire any interest in, a lease subject to the revenue distribution provisions of section 8(g) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(g)).

(4) **REGULATIONS.**--Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that shall provide a process for--

- (A) notification to the Secretary of a decision to exchange an eligible lease;
- (B) issuance of bonus or royalty credits in exchange for relinquishment of the existing lease;
- (C) transfer of the bonus or royalty credit to any other person; and

(D) determining the proper allocation of bonus or royalty credits to each lease interest owner.

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SEC. 105. DISPOSITION OF QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES FROM 181 AREA, 181 SOUTH AREA, AND 2002-2007 PLANNING AREAS OF GULF OF MEXICO.

(a) *In General.*--Notwithstanding section 9 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1338) and subject to the other provisions of this section, for each applicable fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit--

(1) 50 percent of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues in the general fund of the Treasury; and

(2) 50 percent of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues in a special account in the Treasury from which the Secretary shall disburse--

(A) 75 percent to Gulf producing States in accordance with subsection (b); and

(B) 25 percent to provide financial assistance to States in accordance with section 6 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-8), which shall be considered income to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for purposes of section 2 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 4601-5).

(b) *Allocation Among Gulf Producing States and Coastal Political Subdivisions.*--

(1) ALLOCATION AMONG GULF PRODUCING STATES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 THROUGH 2016.--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to subparagraph (B), effective for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2016, the amount made available under subsection (a)(2)(A) shall be allocated to each Gulf producing State in amounts (based on a formula established by the Secretary by regulation) that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each Gulf producing State that is closest to the geographic center of the applicable leased tract and the geographic center of the leased tract.

(B) **MINIMUM ALLOCATION.**--The amount allocated to a Gulf producing State each fiscal year under subparagraph (A) shall be at least 10 percent of the amounts available under subsection (a)(2)(A).

(2) ALLOCATION AMONG GULF PRODUCING STATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 AND THEREAFTER.--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), effective for fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year thereafter--

(i) the amount made available under subsection (a)(2)(A) from any lease entered into within the 181 Area or the 181 South Area shall be allocated to each Gulf producing State in amounts (based on a formula established by the Secretary by regulation) that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each Gulf pro

ducing State that is closest to the geographic center of the applicable leased tract and the geographic center of the leased tract; and

(ii) the amount made available under subsection (a)(2)(A) from any lease entered into within the 2002-2007 planning area shall be allocated to each Gulf producing State in amounts that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each Gulf producing State that is closest to the geographic center of each historical lease site and the geographic center of the historical lease site, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) **MINIMUM ALLOCATION.**--The amount allocated to a Gulf producing State each fiscal year under subparagraph (A) shall be at least 10 percent of the amounts available under subsection (a)(2)(A).

(C) **HISTORICAL LEASE SITES.**--

(i) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to clause (ii), for purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii), the historical lease sites in the 2002-2007 planning area shall include all leases entered into by the Secretary for an area in the Gulf of Mexico during the period beginning on October 1, 1982 (or an earlier date if practicable, as determined by the Secretary), and ending on December 31, 2015.

(ii) **ADJUSTMENT.**--Effective January 1, 2022, and every 5 years thereafter, the ending date described in clause (i) shall be extended for an additional 5 calendar years.

(3) **PAYMENTS TO COASTAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary shall pay 20 percent of the allocable share of each Gulf producing State, as determined under paragraphs (1) and (2), to the coastal political subdivisions of the Gulf producing State.

(B) **ALLOCATION.**--The amount paid by the Secretary to coastal political subdivisions shall be allocated to each coastal political subdivision in accordance with subparagraphs (B), (C), and (E) of section 31(b)(4) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1356a(b)(4)).

(c) *Timing.*--The amounts required to be deposited under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) for the applicable fiscal year shall be made available in accordance with that paragraph during the fiscal year immediately following the applicable fiscal year.

(d) *Authorized Uses.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to paragraph (2), each Gulf producing State and coastal political subdivision shall use all amounts received under subsection (b) in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws, only for 1 or more of the following purposes:

(A) Projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses.

(B) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.

(C) Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan.

(D) Mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through the funding of onshore infrastructure projects.

(E) Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section.

(2) **LIMITATION.**--Not more than 3 percent of amounts received by a Gulf producing State or coastal political subdivision under subsection (b) may be used for the purposes described in paragraph (1)(E).

(e) *Administration.*--Amounts made available under subsection (a)(2) shall--

(1) be made available, without further appropriation, in accordance with this section;

(2) remain available until expended; and

(3) be in addition to any amounts appropriated under--

(A) the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.);

(B) the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l-4 et seq.); or

(C) any other provision of law.

(f) *Limitations on Amount of Distributed Qualified Outer Continental Shelf Revenues.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to paragraph (2), the total amount of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues made available under subsection (a)(2) shall not exceed \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2055.

(2) **EXPENDITURES.**--For the purpose of paragraph (1), for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2055, expenditures under subsection (a)(2) shall be net of receipts from that fiscal year from any area in the 181 Area in the Eastern Planning Area and the 181 South Area.

(3) **PRO RATA REDUCTIONS.**--If paragraph (1) limits the amount of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenue that would be paid under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(2)--

(A) the Secretary shall reduce the amount of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenue provided to each recipient on a pro rata basis; and

(B) any remainder of the qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues shall revert to the general fund of the Treasury.

TITLE II--SURFACE MINING CONTROL AND RECLAMATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2006

SEC. 200. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2006".

Subtitle A--Mining Control and Reclamation

SEC. 201. ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND AND PURPOSES.

(a) *In General.*--Section 401 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231) is amended--

(1) in subsection (c)--

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (6); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) and paragraphs (7) through (13) as paragraphs (2) through (11), respectively;

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

"(d) *Availability of Moneys; No Fiscal Year Limitation.*--

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Moneys from the fund for expenditures under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 402(g)(3) shall be available only when appropriated for those subparagraphs.

"(2) **NO FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION.**--Appropriations described in paragraph (1) shall be made without fiscal year limitation.

"(3) **OTHER PURPOSES.**--Moneys from the fund shall be available for all other purposes of this title without prior appropriation as provided in subsection (f).";

(3) in subsection (e)--

(A) in the second sentence, by striking "the needs of such fund" and inserting "achieving the purposes of the transfers under section 402(h)"; and

(B) in the third sentence, by inserting before the period the following: "for the purpose of the transfers under section 402(h)"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) *General Limitation on Obligation Authority.*--

`` (1) **IN GENERAL.**--From amounts deposited into the fund under subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute during each fiscal year beginning after September 30, 2007, an amount determined under paragraph (2).

`` (2) **AMOUNTS.**--

`` (A) **FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2022.**--For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2022, the amount distributed by the Secretary under this subsection shall be equal to--

`` (i) the amounts deposited into the fund under paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of subsection (b) for the preceding fiscal year that were allocated under paragraphs (1) and (5) of section 402(g); plus

`` (ii) the amount needed for the adjustment under section 402(g)(8) for the current fiscal year.

`` (B) **FISCAL YEARS 2023 AND THEREAFTER.**--For fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, to the extent that funds are available, the Secretary shall distribute an amount equal to the amount distributed under subparagraph (A) during fiscal year 2022.

`` (3) **DISTRIBUTION.**--

`` (A) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in subparagraph (B), for each fiscal year, of the amount to be distributed to States and Indian tribes pursuant to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall distribute--

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`` (i) the amounts allocated under paragraph (1) of section 402(g), the amounts allocated under paragraph (5) of section 402(g), and any amount reallocated under section 411(h)(3) in accordance with section 411(h)(2), for grants to States and Indian tribes under section 402(g)(5); and

`` (ii) the amounts allocated under section 402(g)(8).

`` (B) **EXCLUSION.**--Beginning on October 1, 2007, certified States shall be ineligible to receive amounts under section 402(g)(1).

`` (4) **AVAILABILITY.**--Amounts in the fund available to the Secretary for obligation under this subsection shall be available until expended.

`` (5) **ADDITION.**--

`` (A) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount distributed under this subsection for each fiscal year shall be in addition to the amount appropriated from the fund during the fiscal year.

`` (B) **EXCEPTIONS.**--Notwithstanding paragraph (3), the amount distributed under this subsection for the first 4 fiscal years beginning on and after October 1, 2007, shall be equal to the following percentage of the amount otherwise required to be distributed:

`` (i) 50 percent in fiscal year 2008.

`` (ii) 50 percent in fiscal year 2009.

`` (iii) 75 percent in fiscal year 2010.

`` (iv) 75 percent in fiscal year 2011."

(b) *Conforming Amendment.*--Section 712(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1302(b)) is amended by striking ``section 401(c)(11)" and inserting ``section 401(c)(9)".

SEC. 202. RECLAMATION FEE.

(a) *Amounts.*--

(1) **FISCAL YEARS 2008-2012.**--Effective October 1, 2007, section 402(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(a)) is amended--

- (A) by striking ``35" and inserting ``31.5";
- (B) by striking ``15" and inserting ``13.5"; and
- (C) by striking ``10 cents" and inserting ``9 cents".

(2) **FISCAL YEARS 2013-2021.**--Effective October 1, 2012, section 402(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(a)) (as amended by paragraph (1)) is amended--

- (A) by striking ``31.5" and inserting ``28";
- (B) by striking ``13.5" and inserting ``12"; and
- (C) by striking ``9 cents" and inserting ``8 cents".

(b) *Duration.*--Effective September 30, 2007, section 402(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(b)) (as amended by section 7007 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109-234; 120 Stat. 484)) is amended by striking ``September 30, 2007" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting ``September 30, 2021.".

(c) *Allocation of Funds.*--Section 402(g) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(g)) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (1)(D)--

(A) by inserting ``(except for grants awarded during fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 to the extent not expended within 5 years)" after ``this paragraph"; and

(B) by striking ``in any area under paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (5)" and inserting ``under paragraph (5)";

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting:

``(2) In making the grants referred to in paragraph (1)(C) and the grants referred to in paragraph (5), the Secretary shall ensure strict compliance by the States and Indian tribes with the priorities described in section 403(a) until a certification is made under section 411(a).";

(3) in paragraph (3)--

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ``paragraphs (2) and" and inserting ``paragraph";

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ``401(c)(11)" and inserting ``401(c)(9)"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

``(E) For the purpose of paragraph (8).";

(4) in paragraph (5)--

(A) by inserting ``(A)" after ``(5)";

(B) in the first sentence, by striking ``40" and inserting ``60";

(C) in the last sentence, by striking ``Funds allocated or expended by the Secretary under paragraphs (2), (3), or (4)" and inserting ``Funds made available under paragraph (3) or (4)"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

``(B) Any amount that is reallocated and available under section 411(h)(3) shall be in addition to amounts that are allocated under subparagraph (A)."; and

(5) by striking paragraphs (6) through (8) and inserting the following:

``(6)(A) Any State with an approved abandoned mine reclamation program pursuant to section 405 may receive and retain, without regard to the 3-year limitation referred to in paragraph (1)(D), up to 30 percent of the total of the grants made annually to the State under paragraphs (1) and (5) if those amounts are deposited into an acid mine drainage abatement and treatment

fund established under State law, from which amounts (together with all interest earned on the amounts) are expended by the State for the abatement of the causes and the treatment of the effects of acid mine drainage in a comprehensive manner within qualified hydrologic units affected by coal mining practices.

``(B) In this paragraph, the term `qualified hydrologic unit' means a hydrologic unit--

``(i) in which the water quality has been significantly affected by acid mine drainage from coal mining practices in a manner that adversely impacts biological resources; and

``(ii) that contains land and water that are--

``(I) eligible pursuant to section 404 and include any of the priorities described in section 403(a); and

``(II) the subject of expenditures by the State from the forfeiture of bonds required under section 509 or from other States sources to abate and treat acid mine drainage.

``(7) In complying with the priorities described in section 403(a), any State or Indian tribe may use amounts available in grants made annually to the State or tribe under paragraphs (1) and (5) for the reclamation of eligible land and water described in section 403(a)(3) before the completion of reclamation projects under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 403(a) only if the expenditure of funds for the reclamation is done in conjunction with the expenditure before, on, or after the date of enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2006 of funds for reclamation projects under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 403(a).

``(8)(A) In making funds available under this title, the Secretary shall ensure that the grant awards total not less than \$3,000,000 annually to each State and each Indian tribe having an approved abandoned mine reclamation program pursuant to section 405 and eligible land and water pursuant to section 404, so long as an allocation of funds to the State or tribe is necessary to achieve the priorities stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 403(a).

``(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this paragraph applies to the States of Tennessee and Missouri."

(d) *Transfers of Interest Earned by Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.*--Section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232) is amended by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

``(h) *Transfers of Interest Earned by Fund.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--

``(A) **TRANSFERS TO COMBINED BENEFIT FUND.**--As soon as practicable after the beginning of fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter, and before making any allocation with respect to the fiscal year under subsection (g), the Secretary shall use an amount not to exceed the amount of interest that the Secretary estimates will be earned and paid to the fund during the fiscal year to transfer to the Combined Benefit Fund such amounts as are estimated by the trustees of such fund to offset the amount of any deficit in net assets in the Combined Benefit Fund as of October 1, 2006, and to make the transfer described in paragraph (2)(A).

``(B) **TRANSFERS TO 1992 AND 1993 PLANS.**--As soon as practicable after the beginning of fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, and before making any allocation with respect to the fiscal year under subsection (g), the

Secretary shall use an amount not to exceed the amount of interest that the Secretary estimates will be earned and paid to the fund during the fiscal year (reduced by the amount used under subparagraph (A)) to make the transfers described in paragraphs (2)(B) and (2)(C).

``(2) **TRANSFERS DESCRIBED.**--The transfers referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

``(A) **UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA COMBINED BENEFIT FUND.**--A transfer to the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund equal to the amount that the trustees of the Combined Benefit Fund estimate will be expended from the fund for the fiscal year in which the transfer is made, reduced by--

``(i) the amount the trustees of the Combined Benefit Fund estimate the Combined Benefit Fund will receive during the fiscal year in--

``(I) required premiums; and

``(II) payments paid by Federal agencies in connection with benefits provided by the Combined Benefit Fund; and

``(ii) the amount the trustees of the Combined Benefit Fund estimate will be expended during the fiscal year to provide health benefits to beneficiaries who are unassigned beneficiaries solely as a result of the application of section 9706(h)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, but only to the extent that such amount does not exceed the amounts described in subsection (i)(1)(A) that the Secretary estimates will be available to pay such estimated expenditures.

``(B) **UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA 1992 BENEFIT PLAN.**--A transfer to the United Mine Workers of America 1992 Benefit Plan, in an amount equal to the difference between--

``(i) the amount that the trustees of the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan estimate will be expended from the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan during the next calendar year to provide the benefits required by the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan on the date of enactment of this subparagraph; minus

``(ii) the amount that the trustees of the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan estimate the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan will receive during the next calendar year in--

``(I) required monthly per beneficiary premiums, including the amount of any security provided to the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan that is available for use in the provision of benefits; and

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``(II) payments paid by Federal agencies in connection with benefits provided by the 1992 UMWA benefit plan.

``(C) **MULTIEMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN.**--A transfer to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan established after July 20, 1992, by the parties that are the settlors of the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan referred to in subparagraph (B) (referred to in this subparagraph and subparagraph (D) as 'the Plan'), in an amount equal to the excess (if any) of--

``(i) the amount that the trustees of the Plan estimate will be expended from the Plan during the next calendar year, to provide benefits no greater than those provided by the Plan as of December 31, 2006; over

``(ii) the amount that the trustees estimated the Plan will receive during the next calendar year in payments paid by Federal agencies in connection with benefits provided by the Plan.

Such excess shall be calculated by taking into account only those beneficiaries actually enrolled in the Plan as of December 31, 2006, who are eligible to receive

benefits under the Plan on the first day of the calendar year for which the transfer is made.

``(D) **INDIVIDUALS CONSIDERED ENROLLED.**--For purposes of subparagraph (C), any individual who was eligible to receive benefits from the Plan as of the date of enactment of this subsection, even though benefits were being provided to the individual pursuant to a settlement agreement approved by order of a bankruptcy court entered on or before September 30, 2004, will be considered to be actually enrolled in the Plan and shall receive benefits from the Plan beginning on December 31, 2006.

``(3) **ADJUSTMENT.**--If, for any fiscal year, the amount of a transfer under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2) is more or less than the amount required to be transferred under that subparagraph, the Secretary shall appropriately adjust the amount transferred under that subparagraph for the next fiscal year.

``(4) **ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.**--

``(A) **PREVIOUSLY CREDITED INTEREST.**--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any interest credited to the fund that has not previously been transferred to the Combined Benefit Fund referred to in paragraph (2)(A) under this section--

``(i) shall be held in reserve by the Secretary until such time as necessary to make the payments under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (i)(1), as described in clause (ii); and

``(ii) in the event that the amounts described in subsection (i)(1) are insufficient to make the maximum payments described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (i)(1), shall be used by the Secretary to supplement the payments so that the maximum amount permitted under those paragraphs is paid.

``(B) **PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED AMOUNTS.**--All amounts allocated under subsection (g)(2) before the date of enactment of this subparagraph for the program described in section 406, but not appropriated before that date, shall be available to the Secretary to make the transfers described in paragraph (2).

``(C) **ADEQUACY OF PREVIOUSLY CREDITED INTEREST.**--The Secretary shall--

``(i) consult with the trustees of the plans described in paragraph (2) at reasonable intervals; and

``(ii) notify Congress if a determination is made that the amounts held in reserve under subparagraph (A) are insufficient to meet future requirements under subparagraph (A)(ii).

``(D) **ADDITIONAL RESERVE AMOUNTS.**--In addition to amounts held in reserve under subparagraph (A), there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for transfer to the fund to carry out the purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii).

``(E) **INAPPLICABILITY OF CAP.**--The limitation described in subsection (i)(3)(A) shall not apply to payments made from the reserve fund under this paragraph.

``(5) **LIMITATIONS.**--

``(A) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR.**--The Secretary may make transfers under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2) for a calendar year only if the Secretary determines, using actuarial projections provided by the trustees of the Combined Benefit Fund referred to in paragraph

(2)(A), that amounts will be available under paragraph (1), after the transfer, for the next fiscal year for making the transfer under paragraph (2)(A).

``(B) **RATE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF OBLIGORS.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--

``(I) **RATE.**--A transfer under paragraph (2)(C) shall not be made for a calendar year unless the persons that are obligated to contribute to the plan referred to in paragraph (2)(C) on the date of the transfer are obligated to make the contributions at rates that are no less than those in effect on the date which is 30 days before the date of enactment of this subsection.

``(II) **APPLICATION.**--The contributions described in subclause (I) shall be applied first to the provision of benefits to those plan beneficiaries who are not described in paragraph (2)(C)(ii).

``(ii) **INITIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.**--

``(I) **IN GENERAL.**--From the date of enactment of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2006 through December 31, 2010, the persons that, on the date of enactment of that Act, are obligated to contribute to the plan referred to in paragraph (2)(C) shall be obligated, collectively, to make contributions equal to the amount described in paragraph (2)(C), less the amount actually transferred due to the operation of subparagraph (C).

``(II) **FIRST CALENDAR YEAR.**--Calendar year 2006 is the first calendar year for which contributions are required under this clause.

``(III) **AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION FOR 2006.**--Except as provided in subclause (IV), the amount described in paragraph (2)(C) for calendar year 2006 shall be calculated as if paragraph (2)(C) had been in effect during 2005.

``(IV) **LIMITATION.**--The contributions required under this clause for calendar year 2006 shall not exceed the amount necessary for solvency of the plan described in paragraph (2)(C), measured as of December 31, 2006 and taking into account all assets held by the plan as of that date.

``(iii) **DIVISION.**--The collective annual contribution obligation required under clause (ii) shall be divided among the persons subject to the obligation, and applied uniformly, based on the hours worked for which contributions referred to in clause (i) would be owed.

``(C) **PHASE-IN OF TRANSFERS.**--For each of calendar years 2008 through 2010, the transfers required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2) shall equal the following amounts:

``(i) For calendar year 2008, the Secretary shall make transfers equal to 25 percent of the amounts that would otherwise be required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2).

``(ii) For calendar year 2009, the Secretary shall make transfers equal to 50 percent of the amounts that would otherwise be required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2).

``(iii) For calendar year 2010, the Secretary shall make transfers equal to 75 percent of the amounts that would otherwise be required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2).

``(i) *Funding.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to paragraph (3), out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the plans described in subsection (h)(2) such sums as are necessary to pay the following amounts:

`` (A) To the Combined Fund (as defined in section 9701(a)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and referred to in this paragraph as the `Combined Fund'), the amount that the trustees of the Combined Fund estimate will be expended from premium accounts maintained by the Combined Fund for the fiscal year to provide benefits for beneficiaries who are unassigned beneficiaries solely as a result of the application of section 9706(h)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, subject to the following limitations:

`` (i) For fiscal year 2008, the amount paid under this subparagraph shall equal--

`` (I) the amount described in subparagraph (A); minus

`` (II) the amounts required under section 9706(h)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

`` (ii) For fiscal year 2009, the amount paid under this subparagraph shall equal--

`` (I) the amount described in subparagraph (A); minus

`` (II) the amounts required under section 9706(h)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

`` (iii) For fiscal year 2010, the amount paid under this subparagraph shall equal--

`` (I) the amount described in subparagraph (A); minus

`` (II) the amounts required under section 9706(h)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

`` (B) On certification by the trustees of any plan described in subsection (h)(2) that the amount available for transfer by the Secretary pursuant to this section (determined after application of any limitation under subsection (h)(5)) is less than the amount required to be transferred, to the plan the amount necessary to meet the requirement of subsection (h)(2).

`` (C) To the Combined Fund, \$9,000,000 on October 1, 2007, \$9,000,000 on October 1, 2008, and \$9,000,000 on October 1, 2009 (which amounts shall not be exceeded) to provide a refund of any premium (as described in section 9704(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) paid on or before September 7, 2000, to the Combined Fund, plus interest on the premium calculated at the rate of 7.5 percent per year, on a proportional basis and to be paid not later than 60 days after the date on which each payment is received by the Combined Fund, to those signatory operators (to the extent that the Combined Fund has not previously returned the premium amounts to the operators), or any related persons to the operators (as defined in section 9701(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), or their heirs, successors, or assigns who have been denied the refunds as the result of final judgments or settlements if--

`` (i) prior to the date of enactment of this paragraph, the signatory operator (or any related person to the operator)--

`` (I) had all of its beneficiary assignments made under section 9706 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 voided by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration; and

`` (II) was subject to a final judgment or final settlement of litigation adverse to a claim by the operator that the assignment of beneficiaries under section 9706 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 was unconstitutional as applied to the operator; and

`` (ii) on or before September 7, 2000, the signatory operator (or any related person to the

operator) had paid to the Combined Fund any premium amount that had not been refunded.

``(2) **PAYMENTS TO STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**--Subject to paragraph (3), out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior for distribution to States and Indian tribes such sums as are necessary to pay amounts described in paragraphs (1)(A) and (2)(A) of section 411(h).

``(3) **LIMITATIONS.**--

``(A) **CAP.**--The total amount transferred under this subsection for any fiscal year shall not exceed \$490,000,000.

``(B) **INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS.**--In a case in which the amount required to be transferred without regard to this paragraph exceeds the maximum annual limitation in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall adjust the transfers of funds so that--

``(i) each transfer for the fiscal year is a percentage of the amount described;

``(ii) the amount is determined without regard to subsection (h)(5)(A); and

``(iii) the percentage transferred is the same for all transfers made under this subsection for the fiscal year.

``(4) **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.**--Funds shall be transferred under paragraph (1) and (2) beginning in fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, and shall remain available until expended."

SEC. 203. OBJECTIVES OF FUND.

Section 403 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1233) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)--

(A) in paragraph (1)--

(i) by striking ``(1) the protection" and inserting the following:

``(1)(A) the protection";

(ii) in subparagraph (A) (as designated by clause (i)), by striking ``general welfare,"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

``(B) the restoration of land and water resources and the environment that--

``(i) have been degraded by the adverse effects of coal mining practices; and

``(ii) are adjacent to a site that has been or will be remediated under subparagraph (A);";

(B) in paragraph (2)--

(i) by striking ``(2) the protection" and inserting the following:

``(2)(A) the protection";

(ii) in subparagraph (A) (as designated by clause (i)), by striking ``health, safety, and general welfare" and inserting ``health and safety"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

``(B) the restoration of land and water resources and the environment that--

``(i) have been degraded by the adverse effects of coal mining practices; and

``(ii) are adjacent to a site that has been or will be remediated under subparagraph (A); and";

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(D) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5);

(2) in subsection (b)--

(A) by striking the subsection heading and inserting `` *Water Supply Restoration*.--"; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking `` up to 30 percent of the"; and

(3) in the second sentence of subsection (c), by inserting `` , subject to the approval of the Secretary," after `` amendments".

SEC. 204. RECLAMATION OF RURAL LAND.

(a) *Administration*.--Section 406(h) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1236(h)) is amended by striking `` Soil Conservation Service" and inserting `` Natural Resources Conservation Service".

(b) *Authorization of Appropriations for Carrying Out Rural Land Reclamation*.--Section 406 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1236) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(i) There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture, from amounts in the Treasury other than amounts in the fund, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.".

SEC. 205. LIENS.

Section 408(a) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1238) is amended in the last sentence by striking `` who owned the surface prior to May 2, 1977, and".

SEC. 206. CERTIFICATION.

Section 411 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1240a) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)--

(A) by inserting `` (1)" before the first sentence; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

``(2)(A) The Secretary may, on the initiative of the Secretary, make the certification referred to in paragraph (1) on behalf of any State or Indian tribe referred to in paragraph (1) if on the basis of the inventory referred to in section 403(c) all reclamation projects relating to the priorities described in section 403(a) for eligible land and water pursuant to section 404 in the State or tribe have been completed.

``(B) The Secretary shall only make the certification after notice in the Federal Register and opportunity for public comment."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

``(h) *Payments to States and Indian Tribes*.--

``(1) **IN GENERAL**.--

``(A) **PAYMENTS**.--

``(i) **IN GENERAL**.--Notwithstanding section 401(f)(3)(B), from funds referred to in section 402(i)(2), the Secretary shall make payments to States or Indian tribes for the amount due for the aggregate unappropriated amount allocated to the State or Indian tribe under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 402(g)(1).

``(ii) **CONVERSION AS EQUIVALENT PAYMENTS**.--Amounts allocated under subparagraphs (A) or (B) of section 402(g)(1) shall be reallocated to the allocation established in section 402(g)(5) in amounts equivalent to payments made to States or Indian tribes under this paragraph.

``(B) **AMOUNT DUE**.--In this paragraph, the term `amount due' means the unappropriated amount allocated to a State or Indian tribe before October 1, 2007, under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 402(g)(1).

``(C) **SCHEDULE.**--Payments under subparagraph (A) shall be made in 7 equal annual installments, beginning with fiscal year 2008.

``(D) **USE OF FUNDS.**--

``(i) **CERTIFIED STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**--A State or Indian tribe that makes a certification under subsection (a) in which the Secretary concurs shall use any amounts provided under this paragraph for the purposes established by the State legislature or tribal council of the Indian tribe, with priority given for addressing the impacts of mineral development.

``(ii) **UNCERTIFIED STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**--A State or Indian tribe that has not made a certification under subsection (a) in which the Secretary has concurred shall use any amounts provided under this paragraph for the purposes described in section 403.

``(2) **SUBSEQUENT STATE AND INDIAN TRIBE SHARE FOR CERTIFIED STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Notwithstanding section 401(f)(3)(B), from funds referred to in section 402(i)(2), the Secretary shall pay to each certified State or Indian tribe an amount equal to the sum of the aggregate unappropriated amount allocated on or after October 1, 2007, to the certified State or Indian tribe under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 402(g)(1).

``(B) **CERTIFIED STATE OR INDIAN TRIBE DEFINED.**--In this paragraph the term 'certified State or Indian tribe' means a State or Indian tribe for which a certification is made under subsection (a) in which the Secretary concurs.

``(3) **MANNER OF PAYMENT.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to subparagraph (B), payments to States or Indian tribes under this subsection shall be made without regard to any limitation in section 401(d) and concurrently with payments to States under that section.

``(B) **INITIAL PAYMENTS.**--The first 3 payments made to any State or Indian tribe shall be reduced to 25 percent, 50 percent, and 75 percent, respectively, of the amounts otherwise required under paragraph (2)(A).

``(C) **INSTALLMENTS.**--Amounts withheld from the first 3 annual installments as provided under subparagraph (B) shall be paid in 2 equal annual installments beginning with fiscal year 2018.

``(4) **REALLOCATION.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The amount allocated to any State or Indian tribe under subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 402(g)(1) that is paid to the State or Indian tribe as a result of a payment under paragraph (1) or (2) shall be reallocated and available for grants under section 402(g)(5).

``(B) **ALLOCATION.**--The grants shall be allocated based on the amount of coal historically produced before August 3, 1977, in the same manner as under section 402(g)(5)."

SEC. 207. REMINING INCENTIVES.

Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the following:

``**SEC. 415. REMINING INCENTIVES.**

``(a) *In General.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may, after opportunity for public comment, promulgate regulations that describe conditions under which amounts in the fund may be used to provide incentives to promote remining of eligible land under section 404 in a manner that leverages the use of amounts from the fund to achieve more

reclamation with respect to the eligible land than would be achieved without the incentives.

``(b) *Requirements.*--Any regulations promulgated under subsection (a) shall specify that the incentives shall apply only if the Secretary determines, with the concurrence of the State regulatory authority referred to in title V, that, without the incentives, the eligible land would not be likely to be mined and reclaimed.

``(c) *Incentives.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Incentives that may be considered for inclusion in the regulations promulgated under subsection (a) include, but are not limited to--

``(A) a rebate or waiver of the reclamation fees required under section 402(a); and

``(B) the use of amounts in the fund to provide financial assurance for remaining operations in lieu of all or a portion of the performance bonds required under section 509.

``(2) **LIMITATIONS.**--

``(A) **USE.**--A rebate or waiver under paragraph (1)(A) shall be used only for operations that--

``(i) remove or reprocess abandoned coal mine waste; or

``(ii) conduct remaining activities that meet the priorities specified in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 403(a).

``(B) **AMOUNT.**--The amount of a rebate or waiver provided as an incentive under paragraph (1)(A) to mine or reclaim eligible

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land shall not exceed the estimated cost of reclaiming the eligible land under this section."

SEC. 208. EXTENSION OF LIMITATION ON APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION ON ISSUANCE OF PERMIT.

Section 510(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1260(e)) is amended by striking the last sentence.

SEC. 209. TRIBAL REGULATION OF SURFACE COAL MINING AND RECLAMATION OPERATIONS.

(a) *In General.*--Section 710 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1300) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(j) *Tribal Regulatory Authority.*--

``(1) **TRIBAL REGULATORY PROGRAMS.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an Indian tribe may apply for, and obtain the approval of, a tribal program under section 503 regulating in whole or in part surface coal mining and reclamation operations on reservation land under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe using the procedures of section 504(e).

``(B) **REFERENCES TO STATE.**--For purposes of this subsection and the implementation and administration of a tribal program under title V, any reference to a 'State' in this Act shall be considered to be a reference to a 'tribe'.

``(2) **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The fact that an individual is a member of an Indian tribe does not in itself constitute a violation of section 201(f).

``(B) **EMPLOYEES OF TRIBAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**--Any employee of a tribal regulatory authority shall not be eligible for a per capita distribution of

any proceeds from coal mining operations conducted on Indian reservation lands under this Act.

``(3) **SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.**--To receive primary regulatory authority under section 504(e), an Indian tribe shall waive sovereign immunity for purposes of section 520 and paragraph (4).

``(4) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**--

``(A) **CIVIL ACTIONS.**--

``(i) **IN GENERAL.**--After exhausting all tribal remedies with respect to a civil action arising under a tribal program approved under section 504(e), an interested party may file a petition for judicial review of the civil action in the United States circuit court for the circuit in which the surface coal mining operation named in the petition is located.

``(ii) **SCOPE OF REVIEW.**--

``(I) **QUESTIONS OF LAW.**--The United States circuit court shall review de novo any questions of law under clause (i).

``(II) **FINDINGS OF FACT.**--The United States circuit court shall review findings of fact under clause (i) using a clearly erroneous standard.

``(B) **CRIMINAL ACTIONS.**--Any criminal action brought under section 518 with respect to surface coal mining or reclamation operations on Indian reservation lands shall be brought in--

``(i) the United States District Court for the District of Columbia; or

``(ii) the United States district court in which the criminal activity is alleged to have occurred.

``(5) **GRANTS.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in subparagraph (B), grants for developing, administering, and enforcing tribal programs approved in accordance with section 504(e) shall be provided to an Indian tribe in accordance with section 705.

``(B) **EXCEPTION.**--Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Federal share of the costs of developing, administering, and enforcing an approved tribal program shall be 100 percent.

``(6) **REPORT.**--Not later than 18 months after the date on which a tribal program is approved under subsection (e) of section 504, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, developed in cooperation with the applicable Indian tribe, on the tribal program that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on whether primary regulatory authority under that subsection should be expanded to include additional Indian lands."

(b) *Conforming Amendment.*--Section 710(i) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1300(i)) is amended in the first sentence by striking `` , except" and all that follows through `` section 503".

Subtitle B--Coal Industry Retiree Health Benefit Act

SEC. 211. CERTAIN RELATED PERSONS AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST RELIEVED OF LIABILITY IF PREMIUMS PREPAID.

(a) *Combined Benefit Fund.*--Section 9704 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to liability of assigned operators) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(j) *Prepayment of Premium Liability.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--If--

` `(A) a payment meeting the requirements of paragraph (3) is made to the Combined Fund by or on behalf of--

` `(i) any assigned operator to which this subsection applies, or

` `(ii) any related person to any assigned operator described in clause (i), and

` `(B) the common parent of the controlled group of corporations described in paragraph (2)(B) is jointly and severally liable for any premium under this section which (but for this subsection) would be required to be paid by the assigned operator or related person,

then such common parent (and no other person) shall be liable for such premium.

` `(2) **ASSIGNED OPERATORS TO WHICH SUBSECTION APPLIES.--**

` `(A) **IN GENERAL.--**This subsection shall apply to any assigned operator if--

` `(i) the assigned operator (or a related person to the assigned operator)--

` `(I) made contributions to the 1950 UMWA Benefit Plan and the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan for employment during the period covered by the 1988 agreement; and

` `(II) is not a 1988 agreement operator,

` `(ii) the assigned operator (and all related persons to the assigned operator) are not actively engaged in the production of coal as of July 1, 2005, and

` `(iii) the assigned operator was, as of July 20, 1992, a member of a controlled group of corporations described in subparagraph (B).

` `(B) **CONTROLLED GROUP OF CORPORATIONS.--**A controlled group of corporations is described in this subparagraph if the common parent of such group is a corporation the shares of which are publicly traded on a United States exchange.

` `(C) **COORDINATION WITH REPEAL OF ASSIGNMENTS.--**A person shall not fail to be treated as an assigned operator to which this subsection applies solely because the person ceases to be an assigned operator by reason of section 9706(h)(1) if the person otherwise meets the requirements of this subsection and is liable for the payment of premiums under section 9706(h)(3).

` `(D) **CONTROLLED GROUP.--**For purposes of this subsection, the term 'controlled group of corporations' has the meaning given such term by section 52(a).

` `(3) **REQUIREMENTS.--**A payment meets the requirements of this paragraph if--

` `(A) the amount of the payment is not less than the present value of the total premium liability under this chapter with respect to the Combined Fund of the assigned operators or related persons described in paragraph (1) or their assignees, as determined by the operator's or related person's enrolled actuary (as defined in section 7701(a)(35)) using actuarial methods and assumptions each of which is reasonable and which are reasonable in the aggregate, as determined by such enrolled actuary;

` `(B) such enrolled actuary files with the Secretary of Labor a signed actuarial report containing--

` `(i) the date of the actuarial valuation applicable to the report; and

` `(ii) a statement by the enrolled actuary signing the report that, to the best of the actuary's knowledge, the report is complete and accurate and that in the actuary's opinion the actuarial assumptions used are in the aggregate reasonably related to the experience of the operator and to reasonable expectations; and

` `(C) 90 calendar days have elapsed after the report required by subparagraph (B) is filed with the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Labor has not notified the assigned operator in writing that the requirements of this paragraph have not been satisfied.

` `(4) **USE OF PREPAYMENT.**--The Combined Fund shall--

` `(A) establish and maintain an account for each assigned operator or related person by, or on whose behalf, a payment described in paragraph (3) was made,

` `(B) credit such account with such payment (and any earnings thereon), and

` `(C) use all amounts in such account exclusively to pay premiums that would (but for this subsection) be required to be paid by the assigned operator.

Upon termination of the obligations for the premium liability of any assigned operator or related person for which such account is maintained, all funds remaining in such account (and earnings thereon) shall be refunded to such person as may be designated by the common parent described in paragraph (1)(B)."

(b) *Individual Employer Plans.*--Section 9711(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to joint and several liability) is amended to read as follows:

` `(c) *Joint and Several Liability of Related Persons.*--

` `(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in paragraph (2), each related person of a last signatory operator to which subsection (a) or (b) applies shall be jointly and severally liable with the last signatory operator for the provision of health care coverage described in subsection (a) or (b).

` `(2) **LIABILITY LIMITED IF SECURITY PROVIDED.**--If--

` `(A) security meeting the requirements of paragraph (3) is provided by or on behalf of--

` `(i) any last signatory operator which is an assigned operator described in section 9704(j)(2), or

` `(ii) any related person to any last signatory operator described in clause (i), and

` `(B) the common parent of the controlled group of corporations described in section 9704(j)(2)(B) is jointly and severally liable for the provision of health care under this section which, but for this paragraph, would be required to be provided by the last signatory operator or related person,

then, as of the date the security is provided, such common parent (and no other person) shall be liable for the provision of health care under this section which the last signatory operator or related person would otherwise be required to provide. Security may be provided under this paragraph without regard to whether a payment was made under section 9704(j).

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` `(3) **SECURITY.**--Security meets the requirements of this paragraph if--

` `(A) the security--

` `(i) is in the form of a bond, letter of credit, or cash escrow,

` `(ii) is provided to the trustees of the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan solely for the purpose of paying premiums for beneficiaries who would be described in section 9712(b)(2)(B) if the requirements of this section were not met by the last signatory operator, and

` `(iii) is in an amount equal to 1 year of liability of the last signatory operator under this section, determined by using the average cost of such operator's liability during the prior 3 calendar years;

``(B) the security is in addition to any other security required under any other provision of this title; and

``(C) the security remains in place for 5 years.

``(4) **REFUNDS OF SECURITY.**--The remaining amount of any security provided under this subsection (and earnings thereon) shall be refunded to the last signatory operator as of the earlier of--

``(A) the termination of the obligations of the last signatory operator under this section, or

``(B) the end of the 5-year period described in paragraph (4)(C)."

(c) *1992 UMWA Benefit Plan.*--Section 9712(d)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to joint and several liability) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ``The provisions of section 9711(c)(2) shall apply to any last signatory operator described in such section (without regard to whether security is provided under such section, a payment is made under section 9704(j), or both) and if security meeting the requirements of section 9711(c)(3) is provided, the common parent described in section 9711(c)(2)(B) shall be exclusively responsible for any liability for premiums under this section which, but for this sentence, would be required to be paid by the last signatory operator or any related person."

(d) *Successor in Interest.*--Section 9701(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to terms relating to operators) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

``(8) **SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST.**--

``(A) **SAFE HARBOR.**--The term `successor in interest' shall not include any person who--

``(i) is an unrelated person to an eligible seller described in subparagraph (C); and

``(ii) purchases for fair market value assets, or all of the stock, of a related person to such seller, in a bona fide, arm's-length sale.

``(B) **UNRELATED PERSON.**--The term `unrelated person' means a purchaser who does not bear a relationship to the eligible seller described in section 267(b).

``(C) **ELIGIBLE SELLER.**--For purposes of this paragraph, the term `eligible seller' means an assigned operator described in section 9704(j)(2) or a related person to such assigned operator."

(e) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, except that the amendment made by subsection (d) shall apply to transactions after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 212. TRANSFERS TO FUNDS; PREMIUM RELIEF.

(a) *Combined Fund.*--

(1) **FEDERAL TRANSFERS.**--Section 9705(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to transfers from Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund) is amended--

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ``section 402(h)" and inserting ``subsections (h) and (i) of section 402";

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraph:

``(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**--Any amount transferred under paragraph (1) for any fiscal year shall be used to pay benefits and administrative costs of beneficiaries

of the Combined Fund or for such other purposes as are specifically provided in the Acts described in paragraph (1)."; and

(C) by striking "` `From Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund" in the heading thereof.

(2) MODIFICATIONS OF PREMIUMS TO REFLECT FEDERAL TRANSFERS.--

(A) **ELIMINATION OF UNASSIGNED BENEFICIARIES PREMIUM.--**Section 9704(d) of such Code (establishing unassigned beneficiaries premium) is amended to read as follows:

` `(d) *Unassigned Beneficiaries Premium.--*

` `(1) **PLAN YEARS ENDING ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2006.--**For plan years ending on or before September 30, 2006, the unassigned beneficiaries premium for any assigned operator shall be equal to the applicable percentage of the product of the per beneficiary premium for the plan year multiplied by the number of eligible beneficiaries who are not assigned under section 9706 to any person for such plan year.

` `(2) **PLAN YEARS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2006.--**

` `(A) **IN GENERAL.--**For plan years beginning on or after October 1, 2006, subject to subparagraph (B), there shall be no unassigned beneficiaries premium, and benefit costs with respect to eligible beneficiaries who are not assigned under section 9706 to any person for any such plan year shall be paid from amounts transferred under section 9705(b).

` `(B) **INADEQUATE TRANSFERS.--**If, for any plan year beginning on or after October 1, 2006, the amounts transferred under section 9705(b) are less than the amounts required to be transferred to the Combined Fund under subsection (h)(2)(A) or (i) of section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232)), then the unassigned beneficiaries premium for any assigned operator shall be equal to the operator's applicable percentage of the amount required to be so transferred which was not so transferred."

(B) **PREMIUM ACCOUNTS.--**

(i) **CREDITING OF ACCOUNTS.--**Section 9704(e)(1) of such Code (relating to premium accounts; adjustments) is amended by inserting "` `and amounts transferred under section 9705(b)" after "` `premiums received".

(ii) **SURPLUSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO PUBLIC FUNDING.--**Section 9704(e)(3)(A) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "` `Amounts credited to an account from amounts transferred under section 9705(b) shall not be taken into account in determining whether there is a surplus in the account for purposes of this paragraph."

(C) **APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.--**Section 9704(f)(2) of such Code (relating to annual adjustments) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

` `(C) In the case of plan years beginning on or after October 1, 2007, the total number of assigned eligible beneficiaries shall be reduced by the eligible beneficiaries whose assignments have been revoked under section 9706(h)."

(3) **ASSIGNMENTS AND REASSIGNMENT.--**Section 9706 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to assignment of eligible beneficiaries) is amended by adding at the end the following:

` `(h) *Assignments as of October 1, 2007.--*

`` (1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to the premium obligation set forth in paragraph (3), the Commissioner of Social Security shall--

`` (A) revoke all assignments to persons other than 1988 agreement operators for purposes of assessing premiums for plan years beginning on and after October 1, 2007; and

`` (B) make no further assignments to persons other than 1988 agreement operators, except that no individual who becomes an unassigned beneficiary by reason of subparagraph (A) may be assigned to a 1988 agreement operator.

`` (2) **REASSIGNMENT UPON PURCHASE.**--This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit the reassignment under subsection (b)(2) of an eligible beneficiary.

`` (3) **LIABILITY OF PERSONS DURING THREE FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING ON AND AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2007.**--In the case of each of the fiscal years beginning on October 1, 2007, 2008, and 2009, each person other than a 1988 agreement operator shall pay to the Combined Fund the following percentage of the amount of annual premiums that such person would otherwise be required to pay under section 9704(a), determined on the basis of assignments in effect without regard to the revocation of assignments under paragraph (1)(A):

`` (A) For the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2007, 55 percent.

`` (B) For the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2008, 40 percent.

`` (C) For the fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2009, 15 percent."

(4) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to plan years of the Combined Fund beginning after September 30, 2006.

(b) *1992 UMWA Benefit and Other Plans.*--

(1) **TRANSFERS TO PLANS.**--Section 9712(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to the establishment and coverage of the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan) is amended by adding at the end the following:

`` (3) **TRANSFERS UNDER OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES.**--

`` (A) **IN GENERAL.**--The 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan shall include any amount transferred to the plan under subsections (h) and (i) of section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232).

`` (B) **USE OF FUNDS.**--Any amount transferred under subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year shall be used to provide the health benefits described in subsection (c) with respect to any beneficiary for whom no monthly per beneficiary premium is paid pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) or (3) of subsection (d).

`` (4) **SPECIAL RULE FOR 1993 PLAN.**--

`` (A) **IN GENERAL.**--The plan described in section 402(h)(2)(C) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)(C)) shall include any amount transferred to the plan under subsections (h) and (i) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232).

`` (B) **USE OF FUNDS.**--Any amount transferred under subparagraph (A) for any fiscal year shall be used to provide the health benefits described in section 402(h)(2)(C)(i) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)(C)(i)) to individuals described in section 402(h)(2)(C) of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(2)(C))."

(2) **PREMIUM ADJUSTMENTS.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 9712(d)(1) of such Code (relating to guarantee of benefits) is amended to read as follows:

` `(1) **IN GENERAL.**--All 1988 last signatory operators shall be responsible for financing the benefits described in subsection (c) by meeting the following requirements in accordance with the contribution requirements established in the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan:

` `(A) The payment of a monthly per beneficiary premium by each 1988 last signatory operator for each eligible beneficiary of such operator who is described in subsection (b)(2) and who is receiving benefits under the 1992 UMWA benefit plan.

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` `(B) The provision of a security (in the form of a bond, letter of credit, or cash escrow) in an amount equal to a portion of the projected future cost to the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan of providing health benefits for eligible and potentially eligible beneficiaries attributable to the 1988 last signatory operator.

` `(C) If the amounts transferred under subsection (a)(3) are less than the amounts required to be transferred to the 1992 UMWA Benefit Plan under subsections (h) and (i) of section 402 of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232), the payment of an additional backstop premium by each 1988 last signatory operator which is equal to such operator's share of the amounts required to be so transferred but which were not so transferred, determined on the basis of the number of eligible and potentially eligible beneficiaries attributable to the operator."

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**--Section 9712(d) of such Code is amended--

(i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "` prefunding" and inserting "` backstop", and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking "` paragraph (1)(B)" and inserting "` paragraph (1) (A)".

(C) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The amendments made by this paragraph shall apply to fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2010.

SEC. 213. OTHER PROVISIONS.

(a) *Board of Trustees.*--Section 9702(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to board of trustees of the Combined Fund) is amended to read as follows:

` `(b) *Board of Trustees.*--

` `(1) **IN GENERAL.**--For purposes of subsection (a), the board of trustees for the Combined Fund shall be appointed as follows:

` `(A) 2 individuals who represent employers in the coal mining industry shall be designated by the BCOA;

` `(B) 2 individuals designated by the United Mine Workers of America; and

` `(C) 3 individuals selected by the individuals appointed under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

` `(2) **SUCCESSOR TRUSTEES.**--Any successor trustee shall be appointed in the same manner as the trustee being succeeded. The plan establishing the Combined Fund shall provide for the removal of trustees.

` `(3) **SPECIAL RULE.**--If the BCOA ceases to exist, any trustee or successor under paragraph (1)(A) shall be designated by the 3 employers who were members of the BCOA on the enactment date and who have been assigned the greatest number of eligible beneficiaries under section 9706."

(b) *Enforcement of Obligations.*--

(1) **FAILURE TO PAY PREMIUMS.**--Section 9707(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

``(a) *Failures to Pay.*--

``(1) **PREMIUMS FOR ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARIES.**--There is hereby imposed a penalty on the failure of any assigned operator to pay any premium required to be paid under section 9704 with respect to any eligible beneficiary.

``(2) **CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED UNDER THE MINING LAWS.**--There is hereby imposed a penalty on the failure of any person to make a contribution required under section 402(h)(5)(B)(ii) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to a plan referred to in section 402(h)(2)(C) of such Act. For purposes of applying this section, each such required monthly contribution for the hours worked of any individual shall be treated as if it were a premium required to be paid under section 9704 with respect to an eligible beneficiary."

(2) **CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.**--Section 9721 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

``**SEC. 9721. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.**

``The provisions of section 4301 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 shall apply, in the same manner as any claim arising out of an obligation to pay withdrawal liability under subtitle E of title IV of such Act, to any claim--

``(1) arising out of an obligation to pay any amount required to be paid by this chapter; or

``(2) arising out of an obligation to pay any amount required by section 402(h)(5)(B)(ii) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(h)(5)(B)(ii))."

TITLE III--WHITE PINE COUNTY CONSERVATION, RECREATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title.

SEC. 302. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ``White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006".

SEC. 303. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COUNTY.**--The term ``County" means White Pine County, Nevada.

(2) **SECRETARY.**--The term ``Secretary" means--

(A) with respect to land in the National Forest System, the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) with respect to other Federal land, the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **STATE.**--The term ``State" means the State of Nevada.

Subtitle A--Land Disposal

SEC. 311. CONVEYANCE OF WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA, LAND.

(a) *In General.*--Notwithstanding sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), the Secretary, in cooperation with the County, in accordance with that Act, this subtitle, and other applicable law and subject to valid existing rights, shall, at such time as the

parcels of Federal land become available for disposal, conduct sales of the parcels of Federal land described in subsection (b) to qualified bidders.

(b) *Description of Land.*--The parcels of Federal land referred to in subsection (a) consist of not more than 45,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land in the County that--

(1) is not segregated or withdrawn on or after the date of enactment of this Act, unless the land is withdrawn in accordance with subsection (h); and

(2) is identified for disposal by the Bureau of Land Management through--

(A) the Ely Resource Management Plan; or

(B) a subsequent amendment to the management plan that is undertaken with full public involvement.

(c) *Availability.*--The map and any legal descriptions of the Federal land conveyed under this section shall be on file and available for public inspection in--

(1) the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) the Office of the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(3) the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

(d) *Joint Selection Required.*--The Secretary and the County shall jointly select which parcels of Federal land described in subsection (b) to offer for sale under subsection (a).

(e) *Compliance With Local Planning and Zoning Laws.*--Before a sale of Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall submit to the Secretary a certification that qualified bidders have agreed to comply with--

(1) County and city zoning ordinances; and

(2) any master plan for the area approved by the County.

(f) *Method of Sale; Consideration.*--The sale of Federal land under subsection (a) shall be--

(1) consistent with subsections (d) and (f) of section 203 of the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1713);

(2) unless otherwise determined by the Secretary, through a competitive bidding process; and

(3) for not less than fair market value.

(g) *Recreation and Public Purposes Act Conveyances.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Not later than 30 days before land is offered for sale under subsection (a), the State or County may elect to obtain any of the land for local public purposes in accordance with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ``Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(2) **RETENTION.**--Pursuant to an election made under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall retain the elected land for conveyance to the State or County in accordance with the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ``Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(h) *Withdrawal.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to valid existing rights and except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal land described in subsection (b) is withdrawn from--

(A) all forms of entry and appropriation under the public land laws and mining laws;

(B) location and patent under the mining laws; and

(C) operation of the mineral laws, geothermal leasing laws, and mineral material laws.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**--Paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply to sales made consistent with this section or an election by the County or the State to obtain the land described in subsection (b) for public purposes under the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ``Recreation and Public Purposes Act''(43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.).

(i) *Deadline for Sale.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later than 1 year after the date of the signing of the record of decision authorizing the implementation of the Ely Resource Management Plan and annually thereafter until the Federal land described in subsection (b) is disposed of or the County requests a postponement under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall offer for sale the Federal land described in subsection (b).

(2) **POSTPONEMENT; EXCLUSION FROM SALE.**--

(A) **REQUEST BY COUNTY FOR POSTPONEMENT OR EXCLUSION.**--At the request of the County, the Secretary shall postpone or exclude from the sale all or a portion of the land described in subsection (b).

(B) **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT.**--Unless specifically requested by the County, a postponement under subparagraph (A) shall not be indefinite.

SEC. 312. DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.

Of the proceeds from the sale of Federal land described in section X11(b)--

(1) 5 percent shall be paid directly to the State for use in the general education program of the State;

(2) 10 percent shall be paid to the County for use for fire protection, law enforcement, education, public safety, housing, social services, transportation, and planning; and

(3) the remainder shall be deposited in a special account in the Treasury of the United States, to be known as the ``White Pine County Special Account'' (referred to in this subtitle as the ``special account''), and

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shall be available without further appropriation to the Secretary until expended for--

(A) the reimbursement of costs incurred by the Nevada State office and the Ely Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management for preparing for the sale of Federal land described in section X11(b), including the costs of surveys and appraisals and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) and sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713);

(B) the inventory, evaluation, protection, and management of unique archaeological resources (as defined in section 3 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470bb)) of the County;

(C) the reimbursement of costs incurred by the Department of the Interior for preparing and carrying out the transfers of land to be held in trust by the United States under section X61;

(D) conducting a study of routes for the Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail as required by section X55(a);

(E) developing and implementing the Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail management plan described in section X55(c);

(F) wilderness protection and processing wilderness designations, including the costs of appropriate fencing, signage, public education, and enforcement for the wilderness areas designated;

- (G) if the Secretary determines necessary, developing and implementing conservation plans for endangered or at risk species in the County; and
- (H) carrying out a study to assess non-motorized recreation opportunities on Federal land in the County.

Subtitle B--Wilderness Areas

SEC. 321. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ``Pam White Wilderness Act of 2006".

SEC. 322. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that--

- (1) public land in the County contains unique and spectacular natural resources, including--
 - (A) priceless habitat for numerous species of plants and wildlife; and
 - (B) thousands of acres of land that remain in a natural state; and
- (2) continued preservation of those areas would benefit the County and all of the United States by--
 - (A) ensuring the conservation of ecologically diverse habitat;
 - (B) protecting prehistoric cultural resources;
 - (C) conserving primitive recreational resources; and
 - (D) protecting air and water quality.

SEC. 323. ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) *Additions.*--The following land in the State is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) **MT. MORIAH WILDERNESS ADDITION.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 11,261 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Eastern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the Mt. Moriah Wilderness, as designated by section 2(13) of the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 101-195).

(2) **MOUNT GRAFTON WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 78,754 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Southern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Mount Grafton Wilderness".

(3) **SOUTH EGAN RANGE WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 67,214 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Southern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``South Egan Range Wilderness".

(4) **HIGHLAND RIDGE WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, comprising approximately 68,627 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Southern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Highland Ridge Wilderness".

(5) **GOVERNMENT PEAK WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 6,313 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Eastern White Pine County" and dated

November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Government Peak Wilderness".

(6) **CURRENT MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS ADDITION.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,697 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Western White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, is incorporated in, and shall be managed as part of, the ``Curret Mountain Wilderness", as designated by section 2(4) of the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 101-195).

(7) **RED MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 20,490 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Western White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Red Mountain Wilderness".

(8) **BALD MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, comprising approximately 22,366 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Western White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Bald Mountain Wilderness".

(9) **WHITE PINE RANGE WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 40,013 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Western White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``White Pine Range Wilderness".

(10) **SHELLBACK WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 36,143 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Western White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Shellback Wilderness".

(11) **HIGH SCHELLS WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 121,497 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Eastern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``High Schells Wilderness".

(12) **BECKY PEAK WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 18,119 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Northern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Becky Peak Wilderness".

(13) **GOSHUTE CANYON WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 42,544 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Northern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Goshute Canyon Wilderness".

(14) **BRISTLECONE WILDERNESS.**--Certain Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, comprising approximately 14,095 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Eastern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, which shall be known as the ``Bristlecone Wilderness".

(b) *Boundary.*--The boundary of any portion of a wilderness area designated by subsection (a) that is bordered by a road shall be at least 100 feet from the edge of the road to allow public access.

(c) *Map and Legal Description.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each wilderness area designated by subsection (a) with the Committee on Energy and Natural

Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) **EFFECT.**--Each map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this section, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map or legal description.

(3) **AVAILABILITY.**--Each map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of--

(A) the Bureau of Land Management;

(B) the Forest Service; and

(C) the National Park Service.

(d) *Withdrawal.*--Subject to valid existing rights, the wilderness areas designated by subsection (a) are withdrawn from--

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws.

(e) *Mt. Moriah Wilderness Boundary Adjustment.*--The boundary of the Mt. Moriah Wilderness established under section 2(13) of the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 101-195) is adjusted to include only the land identified as the ``Mount Moriah Wilderness Area" and ``Mount Moriah Additions" on the map entitled ``Eastern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006.

SEC. 324. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) *Management.*--Subject to valid existing rights, each area designated as wilderness by this subtitle shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that--

(1) any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) any reference in that Act to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate.

(b) *Livestock.*--Within the wilderness areas designated under this subtitle that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, the grazing of livestock in areas in which grazing is established as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue--

(1) subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and practices that the Secretary considers necessary; and

(2) consistent with section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)), including the guidelines set forth in Appendix A of House Report 101-405.

(c) *Incorporation of Acquired Land and Interests.*--Any land or interest in land within the boundaries of an area designated as wilderness by this subtitle that is acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act shall be added to and administered as part of the wilderness area within which the acquired land or interest is located.

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(d) *Water Rights.*--

(1) **FINDINGS.**--Congress finds that--

(A) the land designated as wilderness by this subtitle is located--

(i) in the semiarid region of the Great Basin; and

(ii) at the headwaters of the streams and rivers on land with respect to which there are few if any--

(I) actual or proposed water resource facilities located upstream; and

(II) opportunities for diversion, storage, or other uses of water occurring outside the land that would adversely affect the wilderness values of the land;

(B) the land designated as wilderness by this subtitle is generally not suitable for use or development of new water resource facilities; and

(C) because of the unique nature of the land designated as wilderness by this subtitle, it is possible to provide for proper management and protection of the wilderness and other values of land in ways different from those used in other laws.

(2) **PURPOSE.**--The purpose of this section is to protect the wilderness values of the land designated as wilderness by this subtitle by means other than a federally reserved water right.

(3) **STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.**--Nothing in this subtitle--

(A) shall constitute or be construed to constitute either an express or implied reservation by the United States of any water or water rights with respect to a wilderness designated by this subtitle;

(B) shall affect any water rights in the State (including any water rights held by the United States) in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(C) shall be construed as establishing a precedent with regard to any future wilderness designations;

(D) shall affect the interpretation of, or any designation made pursuant to, any other Act; or

(E) shall be construed as limiting, altering, modifying, or amending any interstate compact or equitable apportionment decree that apportions water among and between the State and other States.

(4) **NEVADA WATER LAW.**--The Secretary shall follow the procedural and substantive requirements of State law in order to obtain and hold any water rights not in existence on the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle.

(5) **NEW PROJECTS.**--

(A) **DEFINITION OF WATER RESOURCE FACILITY.**--In this paragraph, the term "water resource facility"--

(i) means irrigation and pumping facilities, reservoirs, water conservation works, aqueducts, canals, ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower projects, transmission and other ancillary facilities, and other water diversion, storage, and carriage structures; and

(ii) does not include wildlife guzzlers.

(B) **RESTRICTION ON NEW WATER RESOURCE FACILITIES.**--Except as otherwise provided in this title, on or after the date of enactment of this Act, neither the President nor any other officer, employee, or agent of the United States shall fund, assist, authorize, or issue a license or permit for the development of any new water resource facility within a wilderness area that is wholly or partially within the County.

SEC. 325. ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.

(a) *In General.*--Congress does not intend for the designation of wilderness in the State by this subtitle to lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around any such wilderness area.

(b) *Nonwilderness Activities.*--The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within a wilderness designated under this subtitle shall not preclude the conduct of those activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 326. MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS.

Nothing in this subtitle restricts or precludes--

(1) low-level overflights of military aircraft over the areas designated as wilderness by this subtitle, including military overflights that can be seen or heard within the wilderness areas;

(2) flight testing and evaluation; or

(3) the designation or creation of new units of special use airspace, or the establishment of military flight training routes, over the wilderness areas.

SEC. 327. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS USES.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to diminish--

(1) the rights of any Indian tribe; or

(2) tribal rights regarding access to Federal land for tribal activities, including spiritual, cultural, and traditional food-gathering activities.

SEC. 328. RELEASE OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) *Finding.*--Congress finds that, for the purposes of section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782), the Bureau of Land Management land has been adequately studied for wilderness designation in any portion of the wilderness study areas or instant study areas--

(1) not designated as wilderness by section X23(a), excluding the portion of the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area located outside of the County; and

(2) depicted as released on the maps entitled--

(A) ``Eastern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006;

(B) ``Northern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006;

(C) ``Southern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006; and

(D) ``Western White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006.

(b) *Release.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Any public land described in subsection (a) that is not designated as wilderness by this subtitle--

(A) is no longer subject to section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c));

(B) shall be managed in accordance with--

(i) land management plans adopted under section 202 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1712); and

(ii) cooperative conservation agreements in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) shall be subject to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(2) **EXCEPTION.**--The requirements described in paragraph (1) shall not apply to the portion of the Goshute Canyon Wilderness Study Area located outside of the County.

SEC. 329. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.

(a) *In General.*--In accordance with section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this subtitle affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management, including the regulation of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle.

(b) *Management Activities.*--In furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct such management activities as are necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife populations and habitats in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle if those activities are conducted--

(1) consistent with relevant wilderness management plans; and

(2) in accordance with--

(A) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(B) appropriate policies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101-405, including the occasional and temporary use of motorized vehicles if the use, as determined by the Secretary, would promote healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations that would enhance wilderness values and accomplish those tasks with the minimal impact necessary to reasonably accomplish those tasks.

(c) *Existing Activities.*--Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)) and in accordance with appropriate policies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House Report 101-405, the State may continue to use aircraft, including helicopters, to survey, capture, transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife populations, including bighorn sheep, and feral stock, feral horses, and feral burros.

(d) *Wildlife Water Development Projects.*--Subject to subsection (f), the Secretary shall authorize structures and facilities, including existing structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects, including guzzlers, in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle if--

(1) the structures and facilities will, as determined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally distributed wildlife populations; and

(2) the visual impacts of the structures and facilities on the wilderness areas can reasonably be minimized.

(e) *Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary may designate by regulation areas in which, and establish periods during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be permitted in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**--Except in emergencies, the Secretary shall consult with the appropriate State agency before promulgating regulations under paragraph (1).

(f) *Cooperative Agreement.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The State (including a designee of the State) may conduct wildlife management activities in the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle--

(A) in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in the cooperative agreement between the Secretary and the State, entitled ``Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife Supplement No. 9," and signed November and December 2003, including any amendments to the cooperative agreement agreed to by the Secretary and the State; and

(B) subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

(2) **REFERENCES.**--

(A) **CLARK COUNTY.**--For purposes of this subsection, any references to Clark County in the cooperative agreement described in paragraph (1)(A) shall be considered to be references to White Pine County, Nevada.

(B) **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.**--For purposes of this subsection, any references to the Bureau of Land Management in the cooperative agreement described in paragraph (1)(A) shall also be considered to be references to the Forest Service.

SEC. 330. WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT.

Consistent with section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Secretary may take such measures as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and

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diseases, including coordination with a State or local agency, as the Secretary deems appropriate.

SEC. 331. CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION.

If the Secretary determines that hydrologic, meteorologic, or climatological collection devices are appropriate to further the scientific, educational, and conservation purposes of the wilderness areas designated by this subtitle, nothing in this subtitle precludes the installation and maintenance of the collection devices within the wilderness areas.

Subtitle C--Transfers of Administrative Jurisdiction

SEC. 341. TRANSFER TO THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

(a) *In General.*--Administrative jurisdiction over the land described in subsection (b) is transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

(b) *Description of Land.*--The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is approximately 645 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and identified on the map entitled ``Ruby Lake Land Transfer" and dated July 10, 2006, as ``Lands to be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service".

SEC. 342. TRANSFER TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

(a) *In General.*--Subject to subsection (c), administrative jurisdiction over the parcels of land described in subsection (b) is transferred from the Forest Service to the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) *Description of Land.*--The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are-

(1) the land administered by the Forest Service and identified on the map entitled ``Southern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, as ``Withdrawal Area";

(2) the land administered by the Forest Service and identified on the map entitled ``Southern White Pine County" and dated November 29, 2006, as ``Highland Ridge Wilderness"; and

(3) all other Federal land administered by the Forest Service that is located adjacent to the Highland Ridge Wilderness.

(c) *Continuation of Cooperative Agreements.*--Any existing Forest Service cooperative agreement or permit in effect on the date of enactment of this Act relating to a parcel of land to which administrative jurisdiction is transferred by

subsection (a) shall be continued by the Bureau of Land Management unless there is reasonable cause to terminate the agreement or permit, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) *Withdrawal.*--Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Withdrawal Area is withdrawn from all forms of--

- (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation of the mineral laws, geothermal leasing laws, and mineral materials laws.

(e) *Motorized and Mechanical Vehicles.*--Use of motorized and mechanical vehicles in the withdrawal area designated by this subtitle shall be permitted only on roads and trails designated for their use, unless the use of those vehicles is needed--

- (1) for administrative purposes; or
- (2) to respond to an emergency.

SEC. 343. TRANSFER TO THE FOREST SERVICE.

(a) *In General.*--Subject to subsection (c), administrative jurisdiction over the parcels of land described in subsection (b) is transferred from the Bureau of Land Management to the Forest Service.

(b) *Description of Land.*--The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are the approximately 5,799 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and identified on the map entitled ``Western White Pine County'', dated November 29, 2006, as the BLM Public Land Transfer to the US Forest Service.

(c) *Continuation of Cooperative Agreements.*--Any existing Bureau of Land Management cooperative agreement or permit in effect on the date of enactment of this Act relating to a parcel of land to which administrative jurisdiction is transferred by subsection (a) shall be continued by the Forest Service unless there is reasonable cause to terminate the agreement or permit, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 344. AVAILABILITY OF MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.

The maps of the land transferred by this subtitle shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of--

- (1) the Bureau of Land Management;
- (2) the Forest Service;
- (3) the National Park Service; and
- (4) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Subtitle D--Public Conveyances

SEC. 351. CONVEYANCE TO THE STATE OF NEVADA.

(a) *Conveyance.*--Notwithstanding section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), the Secretary shall convey to the State, subject to valid existing rights, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (b) if the State and the County enter into a written agreement supporting the conveyance.

(b) *Description of Land.*--The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are--

-

(1) the approximately 6,281 acres of Bureau of Land Management land identified as ``Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area Expansion Proposal" on the map entitled ``Ely, Nevada Area" and dated November 29, 2006;

(2) the approximately 658 acres of Bureau of Land Management land identified as ``Ward Charcoal Ovens Expansion" on the map entitled ``Ely, Nevada Area" and dated November 29, 2006; and

(3) the approximately 2,960 acres of Forest Service identified as ``Cave Lake State Park Expansion" on the map entitled ``Ely, Nevada Area" and dated November 29, 2006.

(c) *Costs.*--Any costs relating to a conveyance under subsection (a), including costs for surveys and other administrative costs, shall be paid by the State.

(d) *Use of Land.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Any parcel of land conveyed to the State under subsection (a) shall be used only for--

(A) the conservation of wildlife or natural resources; or

(B) a public park.

(2) **FACILITIES.**--Any facility on a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) shall be constructed and managed in a manner consistent with the uses described in paragraph (1).

(e) *Reversion.*--If a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the uses described in subsection (d), the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

SEC. 352. CONVEYANCE TO WHITE PINE COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) *In General.*--Notwithstanding section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712), the Secretary shall convey to the County, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land described in subsection (b).

(b) *Description of Land.*--The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are--

(1) the approximately 1,551 acres of land identified on the map entitled ``Ely, Nevada Area", dated November 29, 2006, as the Airport Expansion; and

(2) the approximately 202 acres of land identified on the map entitled ``Ely, Nevada Area", dated November 29, 2006, as the Industrial Park Expansion.

(c) *Authorized Uses.*--

(1) **AIRPORT EXPANSION.**--The parcel of land described in subsection (b)(1) shall be used by the County to expand the Ely Airport.

(2) **INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION.**--The parcel of land described in subsection (b)(2) shall be used by the County to expand the White Pine County Industrial Park.

(3) **USE OF CERTAIN LAND FOR NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--After conveyance to the County of the land described in subsection (b), the County may sell, lease, or otherwise convey any portion of the land conveyed for purposes of nonresidential development relating to the authorized uses described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(B) **METHOD OF SALE.**--The sale, lease, or conveyance of land under subparagraph (A) shall be--

(i) through a competitive bidding process; and

(ii) for not less than fair market value.

(C) **DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.**--The gross proceeds from the sale, lease, or conveyance of land under subparagraph (A) shall be distributed in accordance with section X12.

(d) *Reversion.*--If a parcel of land conveyed under subsection (a) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the use described for the parcel in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (c), the parcel of land shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the United States.

Subtitle E--Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail

SEC. 355. SILVER STATE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAIL.

(a) *Study.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete a study of routes (with emphasis on roads and trails in existence on the date of enactment of this Act) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for the Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail (referred to in this section as the "Trail").

(2) **PREFERRED ROUTE.**--Based on the study conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the State, the County, and any interested persons, shall identify the preferred route for the Trail.

(b) *Designation of Trail.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 90 days after the date on which the study is completed under subsection (a), the Secretary shall designate the Trail.

(2) **LIMITATIONS.**--The Secretary shall designate the Trail only if the Secretary--

(A) determines that the route of the Trail would not have significant negative impacts on wildlife, natural or cultural resources, or traditional uses; and

(B) ensures that the Trail designation--

(i) is an effort to extend the Silver State Off-Highway Vehicle Trail designated under section 401(b) of the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 1244 note; Public Law 108-424); and

(ii) is limited to--

(I) 1 route that generally runs in a north-south direction; and

(II) 1 potential spur running west.

(c) *Management.*--

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(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary shall manage the Trail in a manner that--

(A) is consistent with any motorized and mechanized uses of the Trail that are authorized on the date of enactment of this Act under applicable Federal and State laws (including regulations);

(B) ensures the safety of the individuals who use the Trail; and

(C) does not damage sensitive wildlife habitat, natural, or cultural resources.

(2) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Not later than 2 years after the date of designation of the Trail, the Secretary, in consultation with the State, the County, and any other interested persons, shall complete a management plan for the Trail.

(B) **COMPONENTS.**--The management plan shall--

(i) describe the appropriate uses and management of the Trail;

(ii) authorize the use of motorized and mechanized vehicles on the Trail; and

(iii) describe actions carried out to periodically evaluate and manage the appropriate levels of use and location of the Trail to minimize environmental impacts and prevent damage to cultural resources from the use of the Trail.

(3) **MONITORING AND EVALUATION.**--

(A) **ANNUAL ASSESSMENT.**--The Secretary shall annually assess--

(i) the effects of the use of off-highway vehicles on the Trail to minimize environmental impacts and prevent damage to cultural resources from the use of the Trail; and

(ii) in consultation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the effects of the Trail on wildlife and wildlife habitat to minimize environmental impacts from the use of the Trail.

(B) **CLOSURE.**--The Secretary, in consultation with the State and the County and subject to subparagraph (C), may temporarily close or permanently reroute a portion of the Trail if the Secretary determines that--

(i) the Trail is having an adverse impact on--

(I) wildlife habitats;

(II) natural resources;

(III) cultural resources; or

(IV) traditional uses;

(ii) the Trail threatens public safety;

(iii) closure of the Trail is necessary to repair damage to the Trail; or

(iv) closure of the Trail is necessary to repair resource damage.

(C) **REROUTING.**--Any portion of the Trail that is temporarily closed may be permanently rerouted along existing roads and trails on public land open to motorized use if the Secretary determines that rerouting the portion of the Trail would not significantly increase or decrease the length of the Trail.

(D) **NOTICE.**--The Secretary shall provide information to the public with respect to any routes on the Trail that are closed under subparagraph (B), including through the provision of appropriate signage along the Trail.

(4) **NOTICE OF OPEN ROUTES.**--The Secretary shall ensure that visitors to the Trail have access to adequate notice relating to the routes on the Trail that are open through--

(A) the provision of appropriate signage along the Trail; and

(B) the distribution of maps, safety education materials, and any other information that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) *No Effect on Non-Federal Land and Interests in Land.*--Nothing in this section affects the ownership or management of, or other rights relating to, non-Federal land or interests in non-Federal land.

Subtitle F--Transfer of Land to Be Held in Trust for the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

SEC. 361. TRANSFER OF LAND TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE ELY SHOSHONE TRIBE.

(a) *In General.*--Subject to valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b)--

(1) shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Ely Shoshone Tribe (referred to in this section as the ``Tribe"); and

(2) shall be part of the reservation of the Tribe.

(b) *Description of Land.*--The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of parcels 1, 2, 3, and 4, totaling the approximately 3,526 acres of land that are identified on--

- (1) the Ely, Nevada Area map dated November 29, 2006; and
- (2) the Eastern White Pine County map dated November 29, 2006, as the ``Ely Shoshone Expansion".
- (c) *Survey.*--Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Land Management shall complete a survey of the boundary lines to establish the boundaries of the trust land.
- (d) *Conditions.*--
 - (1) **GAMING.**--Land taken into trust under subsection (a) shall not be--
 - (A) considered to have been taken into trust for gaming (as that term is used in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)); and
 - (B) used for gaming.
 - (2) **TRUST LAND FOR CEREMONIAL USE.**--With respect to the use of the land identified on the map as ``Ely Shoshone Expansion" and marked as ``3", the Tribe--
 - (A) shall limit the use of the surface of the land to traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation for the benefit of the Tribe; and
 - (B) shall not permit any permanent residential or recreational development on, or commercial use of, the surface of the land, including commercial development or gaming.
 - (3) **THINNING; LANDSCAPE RESTORATION.**--With respect to land taken into trust under subsection (a), the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management may, in consultation and coordination with the Tribe, carry out any thinning and other landscape restoration work on the trust land that is beneficial to the Tribe and the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management.

Subtitle G--Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project.

SEC. 371. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

- (a) *Findings.*--Congress finds that--
 - (1) there is an increasing threat of wildfire in the Great Basin;
 - (2) those wildfires--
 - (A) endanger homes and communities;
 - (B) damage or destroy watersheds and soils; and
 - (C) pose a serious threat to the habitat of threatened and endangered species;
 - (3) forest land and rangeland in the Great Basin are degraded as a direct consequence of land management practices (including practices to control and prevent wildfires) that disrupt the occurrence of frequent low-intensity fires that have periodically removed flammable undergrowth; and
 - (4) additional scientific information is needed in the Great Basin for--
 - (A) the design, implementation, and adaptation of landscape-scale restoration treatments; and
 - (B) the improvement of wildfire management technology and practices.
- (b) *Purposes.*--The purposes of this subtitle are to--
 - (1) support the Great Basin Restoration Initiative through the implementation of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project; and
 - (2) ensure resilient and healthy ecosystems in the Great Basin by restoring native plant communities and natural mosaics on the landscape that function within the parameters of natural fire regimes.

SEC. 372. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) **INITIATIVE.**--The term ``Initiative" means the Great Basin Restoration Initiative.

(2) **PROJECT.**--The term ``Project" means the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project authorized under section X73(a).

(3) **SECRETARIES.**--The term ``Secretaries" means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) **STATE.**--The term ``State" means the State of Nevada.

SEC. 373. RESTORATION PROJECT.

(a) *In General.*--In accordance with all applicable Federal laws, the Secretaries shall carry out the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project to-

(1) implement the Initiative; and
(2) restore native rangelands and native woodland (including riparian and aspen communities) in White Pine and Lincoln Counties in the State.

(b) *Grants; Cooperative Agreement.*--In carrying out the Project--

(1) the Secretaries may make grants to the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, the Great Basin Institute, and other entities for the study and restoration of rangeland and other land in the Great Basin--

(A) to assist in--

(i) reducing hazardous fuels; and

(ii) restoring native rangeland and woodland; and

(B) for other related purposes; and

(2) notwithstanding sections 6301 through 6308, of title 31, United States Code, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service may enter into an agreement with the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, the Great Basin Institute, and other entities to provide for the conduct of scientific analyses, hazardous fuels and mechanical treatments, and related work.

(c) *Research Facility.*--The Secretaries may conduct a feasibility study on the potential establishment of an interagency science center, including a research facility and experimental rangeland in the eastern portion of the State.

(d) *Funding.*--Section 4(e)(3)(A) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2346; 116 Stat. 2007; 118 Stat. 2414) is amended--

(1) by redesignating clause (viii) as clause (ix); and

(2) by inserting after clause (vii) the following:

``(viii) to carry out the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project in White Pine County, Nevada and Lincoln County, Nevada; and".

Subtitle H--Amendments to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998

SEC. 381. FINDINGS.

Section 2(a)(3) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2343) is amended by inserting ``the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area," before ``and the Spring Mountains".

SEC. 382. AVAILABILITY OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT.

Section 4(e) of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-263; 112 Stat. 2346; 116 Stat. 2007; 117 Stat. 1317; 118 Stat. 2414) is amended--

(1) in paragraph (3)--
(A) in subparagraph (A)--
(i) by striking "may be expended" and inserting "shall be expended";
(ii) in clause (ii)--
(I) by inserting ", the Great Basin National Park," after "the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area";
(II) by inserting "and the Forest Service" after "the Bureau of Land Management"; and
(III) by striking "Clark and Lincoln Counties" and inserting "Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties";
(iii) in clause (iii), by inserting "and implementation" before "of a multispecies habitat";
(iv) in clause (iv), by striking "Clark and Lincoln Counties," and inserting "Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties and Washoe County (subject to paragraph (4)),";
(v) in clause (v), by striking "Clark and Lincoln Counties" and inserting "Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties";
(vi) in clause (vii)--
(I) by striking "for development" and inserting "development"; and
(II) by striking "and" at the end;
(vii) by redesignating clauses (viii) and (ix) (as amended by section X73(d)) as clauses (x) and (xi), respectively; and
(viii) by inserting after clause (vii) the following:
 (viii) reimbursement of any costs incurred by the Bureau of Land Management to clear debris from and protect land that is--
 (I) located in the disposal boundary described in subsection (a); and
 (II) reserved for affordable housing;
 (ix) development and implementation of comprehensive, cost-effective, multijurisdictional hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention plans (including sustainable biomass and biofuels energy development and production activities) for the Lake Tahoe Basin (to be developed in conjunction with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency), the Carson Range in Douglas and Washoe Counties and Carson City in the State, and the Spring Mountains in the State, that are--
 (I) subject to approval by the Secretary; and
 (II) not more than 10 years in duration;"; and
(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:
 (D) **TRANSFER REQUIREMENT.**--Subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, and notwithstanding any other provision of law--
 (i) for amounts that have been authorized for expenditure under subparagraph (A)(iv) but not transferred as of the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after a request for funds from the applicable unit of local government or regional governmental entity, transfer to the applicable unit of local government or regional governmental entity the amount authorized for the expenditure; and
 (ii) for expenditures authorized under subparagraph (A)(iv) that are approved by the Secretary, the Secretary shall, not later than 60 days after a request for funds from the applicable unit of local government or regional governmental entity, transfer to the applicable unit of local government or regional governmental entity the amount approved for expenditure."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

(4) **LIMITATION FOR WASHOE COUNTY.**--Until December 31, 2011, Washoe County shall be eligible to nominate for expenditure amounts to acquire land (not to exceed 250 acres) and develop 1 regional park and natural area."

Subtitle I--Amendments to the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004

SEC. 391. DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.

Section 103(b)(2) of the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-424; 118 Stat. 2405) is amended by inserting "education, planning," after "social services,".

Subtitle J--All American Canal Projects

SEC. 395. ALL AMERICAN CANAL LINING PROJECT.

(a) *Duties of the Secretary.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, without delay, carry out the All American Canal Lining Project identified--

(1) as the preferred alternative in the record of decision for that project, dated July 29, 1994; and

(2) in the allocation agreement allocating water from the All American Canal Lining Project, entered into as of October 10, 2003.

(b) *Duties of Commissioner of Reclamation.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to paragraph (2), if a State conducts a review or study of the implications of the All American Canal Lining Project as carried out under subsection (a), upon request from the Governor of the State, the Commissioner of Reclamation shall cooperate with the State, to the extent practicable, in carrying out the review or study.

(2) **RESTRICTION OF DELAY.**--A review or study conducted by a State under paragraph (1) shall not delay the carrying out by the Secretary of the All American Canal Lining Project.

SEC. 396. REGULATED STORAGE WATER FACILITY.

(a) *Construction, Operation, and Maintenance of Facility.*--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, without delay, pursuant to the Act of January 1, 1927 (44 Stat. 1010, chapter 47) (commonly known as the "River and Harbor Act of 1927"), as amended, design and provide for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a regulated water storage facility (including all incidental works that are reasonably necessary to operate the storage facility) to provide additional storage capacity to reduce nonstorable flows on the Colorado River below Parker Dam.

(b) *Location of Facility.*--The storage facility (including all incidental works) described in subsection (a) shall be located at or near the All American Canal.

SEC. 397. APPLICATION OF LAW.

The Treaty between the United States of America and Mexico relating to the utilization of waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, and supplementary protocol signed November 14, 1944, signed at Washington February 3, 1944 (59 Stat. 1219) is the exclusive authority for identifying, considering, analyzing, or addressing impacts occurring outside the boundary of the United States of works constructed, acquired, or used within the territorial limits of the United States.

TITLE IV--OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. TOBACCO PERSONAL USE QUANTITY EXCEPTION TO NOT APPLY TO DELIVERY SALES.

(a) *Definitions.*--Section 801 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1681) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(3) **DELIVERY SALE.**--The term 'delivery sale' means any sale of cigarettes or a smokeless tobacco product to a consumer if--

``(A) the consumer submits the order for such sale by means of a telephone or other method of voice transmission, the mail, or the Internet or other online service, or the seller is otherwise not in the physical presence of the buyer when the request for purchase or order is made; or

``(B) the cigarettes or smokeless tobacco product is delivered by use of a common carrier, private delivery service, or the mail, or the seller is not in the physical presence of the buyer when the buyer obtains personal possession of the delivered cigarettes or smokeless tobacco product.".

(b) *Inapplicability of Exemptions From Requirements for Entry of Certain Cigarettes and Smokeless Tobacco Products.*--Section 802(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1681a(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ``The preceding sentence shall not apply to any cigarettes or smokeless tobacco products sold in connection with a delivery sale.".

(c) *State Access to Customs Certifications.*--Section 802 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1681a) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

``(d) *State Access to Customs Certifications.*--A State, through its Attorney General, shall be entitled to obtain copies of any certification required under subsection (c) directly--

``(1) upon request to the agency of the United States responsible for collecting such certification; or

``(2) upon request to the importer, manufacturer, or authorized official of such importer or manufacturer.".

(d) *Enforcement Provisions.*--Section 803(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1681b(b)) is amended--

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting before the period at the end the following: ``', or to any State in which such tobacco product, cigarette papers, or tube is found"; and

(2) in the second sentence, by inserting ``', or to any State," after ``the United States".

(e) *Inclusion of Smokeless Tobacco.*--

(1) Sections 802 and 803(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1681a and 1681b(a)) (other than the last sentence of section 802(b)(1), as added by subsection (b) of this section) are further amended by inserting ``or smokeless tobacco products" after ``cigarettes" each place it appears.

(2) Section 802 of such Act is further amended--

(A) in subsection (a)--

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting ``or section 4 of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 4403), as the case may be" after ``section 7 of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1335a)";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting `` or section 3 of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 4402), as the case may be," after `` section 4 of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1333)"; and

(iii) in paragraph (3), by inserting `` or section 3(d) of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 4402(d)), as the case may be" after `` section 4(c) of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1333(c))";

(B) in subsection (b)--

(i) in the heading of paragraph (1), by inserting `` **OR SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS**" after `` **CIGARETTES**"; and

(ii) in the heading of paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting `` **OR SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS**" after `` **CIGARETTES**"; and

(C) in subsection (c)--

(i) in the heading, by inserting `` **OR SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCT**" after `` **CIGARETTE**";

(ii) in paragraph (1), by inserting `` or section 4 of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C.

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4403), as the case may be" after `` section 7 of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1335a)";

(iii) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting `` or section 3 of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 4402), as the case may be," after `` section 4 of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1333)"; and

(iv) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting `` or section 3(d) of the Comprehensive Smokeless Tobacco Health Education Act of 1986 (15 U.S.C. 4402(d)), as the case may be" after `` section 4(c) of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1333(c))".

(3) Section 803(b) of such Act, as amended by subsection (d)(1) of this section, is further amended by inserting `` , or any smokeless tobacco product," after `` or tube" the first place it appears.

(4)(A) The heading of title VIII of such Act is amended by inserting `` **AND SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS**" after `` **CIGARETTES**".

(B) The heading of section 802 of such Act is amended by inserting ``

AND SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS" after ``

CIGARETTES".

(f) *Application of Civil Penalties to Relandings of Tobacco Products Sold in a Delivery Sale.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Section 5761 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to civil penalties) is amended by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively, and inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

``(d) *Personal Use Quantities.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--No quantity of tobacco products other than the quantity referred to in paragraph (2) may be relanded or received as a personal use quantity.

``(2) **EXCEPTION FOR PERSONAL USE QUANTITY.**--Subsection (c) and section 5754 shall not apply to any person who relands or receives tobacco products in the quantity allowed entry free of tax and duty under chapter 98 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, and such person may voluntarily relinquish to the Secretary at the time of entry any excess of such quantity without incurring the penalty under subsection (c).

``(3) **SPECIAL RULE FOR DELIVERY SALES.**--

``(A) **IN GENERAL.**--Paragraph (2) shall not apply to any tobacco product sold in connection with a delivery sale.

``(B) **DELIVERY SALE.**--For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'delivery sale' means any sale of a tobacco product to a consumer if--

``(i) the consumer submits the order for such sale by means of a telephone or other method of voice transmission, the mail, or the Internet or other online service, or the seller is otherwise not in the physical presence of the buyer when the request for purchase or order is made, or

``(ii) the tobacco product is delivered by use of a common carrier, private delivery service, or the mail, or the seller is not in the physical presence of the buyer when the buyer obtains personal possession of the tobacco product."

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**--

(A) Subsection (c) of section 5761 of such Code is amended by striking the last two sentences.

(B) Paragraph (1) of section 5754(c) of such Code is amended by striking ``section 5761(c)" and inserting ``section 5761(d)".

(g) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. ETHANOL TARIFF SCHEDULE.

Headings 9901.00.50 and 9901.00.52 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States are each amended in the effective period column by striking ``10/1/2007" each place it appears and inserting ``1/1/2009".

SEC. 403. WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND AND INTERESTS IN CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND FROM LOCATION, ENTRY, AND PATENT UNDER THE MINING LAWS AND DISPOSITION UNDER THE MINERAL AND GEOTHERMAL LEASING LAWS.

(a) *Definitions.*--In this section:

(1) **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND.**--The term ``Bureau of Land Management land" means the Bureau of Land Management land and any federally-owned minerals located south of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and east of the Lewis and Clark National Forest to the eastern edge of R. 8 W., beginning in T. 29 N. down to and including T. 19 N. and all of T. 18 N., R. 7 W.

(2) **ELIGIBLE FEDERAL LAND.**--The term ``eligible Federal land" means the Bureau of Land Management land and the Forest Service land, as generally depicted on the map.

(3) **FOREST SERVICE LAND.**--The term ``Forest Service land" means--

(A) the Forest Service land and any federally-owned minerals located in the Rocky Mountain Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, including the approximately 356,111 acres of land made unavailable for leasing by the August 28, 1997, Record of Decision for the Lewis and Clark National Forest Oil and Gas Leasing Environmental Impact Statement and that is located from T. 31 N. to T. 16 N. and R. 13 W. to R. 7 W.; and

(B) the Forest Service land and any federally-owned minerals located within the Badger Two Medicine area of the Flathead National Forest, including--

(i) the land located in T. 29 N. from the western edge of R. 16 W. to the eastern edge of R. 13 W.; and

(ii) the land located in T. 28 N., Rs. 13 and 14 W.

(4) **MAP.**--The term "map" means the map entitled "Rocky Mountain Front Mineral Withdrawal Area" and dated December 31, 2006.

(b) *Withdrawal.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subject to valid existing rights, the eligible Federal land (including any interest in the eligible Federal land) is withdrawn from--

(A) all forms of location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(B) disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**--The map shall be on file and available for inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

(c) *Tax Incentive for Sale of Existing Mineral and Geothermal Rights to Tax-Exempt Entities.*--

(1) **EXCLUSION.**--For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income shall not include 25 percent of the qualifying gain from a conservation sale of a qualifying mineral or geothermal interest.

(2) **QUALIFYING GAIN.**--For purposes of this subsection, the term "qualifying gain" means any gain which would be recognized as long-term capital gain under such Code.

(3) **CONSERVATION SALE.**--For purposes of this subsection, the term "conservation sale" means a sale which meets the following requirements:

(A) **TRANSFeree IS AN ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**--The transferee of the qualifying mineral or geothermal interest is an eligible entity.

(B) **QUALIFYING LETTER OF INTENT REQUIRED.**--At the time of the sale, such transferee provides the taxpayer with a qualifying letter of intent.

(C) **NONAPPLICATION TO CERTAIN SALES.**--The sale is not made pursuant to an order of condemnation or eminent domain.

(4) **QUALIFYING MINERAL OR GEOTHERMAL INTEREST.**--For purposes of this subsection--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--The term "qualifying mineral or geothermal interest" means an interest in any mineral or geothermal deposit located on eligible Federal land which constitutes a taxpayer's entire interest in such deposit.

(B) **ENTIRE INTEREST.**--For purposes of subparagraph (A)--

(i) an interest in any mineral or geothermal deposit is not a taxpayer's entire interest if such interest in such mineral or geothermal deposit was divided in order to avoid the requirements of such subparagraph or section 170(f)(3)(A) of such Code, and

(ii) a taxpayer's entire interest in such deposit does not fail to satisfy such subparagraph solely because the taxpayer has retained an interest in other deposits, even if the other deposits are contiguous with such certain deposit and were acquired by the taxpayer along with such certain deposit in a single conveyance.

(5) **OTHER DEFINITIONS.**--For purposes of this subsection--

(A) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**--The term "eligible entity" means--

(i) a governmental unit referred to in section 170(c)(1) of such Code, or an agency or department thereof operated primarily for 1 or more of the

conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of such Code, or

(ii) an entity which is--

(I) described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or section 170(h)(3)(B) of such Code, and

(II) organized and at all times operated primarily for 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of such Code.

(B) **QUALIFYING LETTER OF INTENT.**--The term "qualifying letter of intent" means a written letter of intent which includes the following statement: "The transferee's intent is that this acquisition will serve 1 or more of the conservation purposes specified in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 170(h)(4)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, that the transferee's use of the deposits so acquired will be consistent with section 170(h)(5) of such Code, and that the use of the deposits will continue to be consistent with such section, even if ownership or possession of such deposits is subsequently transferred to another person."

(6) **TAX ON SUBSEQUENT TRANSFERS.**--

(A) **IN GENERAL.**--A tax is hereby imposed on any subsequent transfer by an eligible entity of ownership or possession, whether by sale, exchange, or lease, of an interest acquired directly or indirectly in--

(i) a conservation sale described in paragraph (1), or

(ii) a transfer described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (D).

(B) **AMOUNT OF TAX.**--The amount of tax imposed by subparagraph (A) on any transfer shall be equal to the sum of--

(i) 20 percent of the fair market value (determined at the time of the transfer) of the interest the ownership or possession of which is transferred, plus

(ii) the product of--

(I) the highest rate of tax specified in section 11 of such Code, times

(II) any gain or income realized by the transferor as a result of the transfer.

(C) **LIABILITY.**--The tax imposed by subparagraph (A) shall be paid by the transferor.

(D) **RELIEF FROM LIABILITY.**--The person (otherwise liable for any tax imposed by subparagraph (A)) shall be relieved of liability for the tax imposed by subparagraph (A) with respect to any transfer if--

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(i) the transferee is an eligible entity which provides such person, at the time of transfer, a qualifying letter of intent,

(ii) in any case where the transferee is not an eligible entity, it is established to the satisfaction of the Secretary of the Treasury, that the transfer of ownership or possession, as the case may be, will be consistent with section 170(h)(5) of such Code, and the transferee provides such person, at the time of transfer, a qualifying letter of intent, or

(iii) tax has previously been paid under this paragraph as a result of a prior transfer of ownership or possession of the same interest.

(E) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**--For purposes of subtitle F of such Code, the taxes imposed by this paragraph shall be treated as excise taxes with respect to which the deficiency procedures of such subtitle apply.

(7) **REPORTING.**--The Secretary of the Treasury may require such reporting as may be necessary or appropriate to further the purpose under this subsection that any conservation use be in perpetuity.

(d) *Effective Dates.*--

(1) **MORATORIUM.**--Subsection (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **TAX INCENTIVE.**--Subsection (c) shall apply to sales occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 404. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS UNDER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM.

(a) *In General.*--Section 307(a)(4) of the DC School Choice Incentive Act of 2003 (sec. 38--1851.06(a)(4), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking ``200 percent" and inserting the following: ``200 percent (or, in the case of an eligible student whose first year of participation in the program is an academic year ending in June 2005 or June 2006 and whose second or succeeding year is an academic year ending on or before June 2009, 300 percent)".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the DC School Choice Incentive Act of 2003.

SEC. 405. STUDY ON ESTABLISHING UNIFORM NATIONAL DATABASE ON ELDER ABUSE.

(a) *Study.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall conduct a study on establishing a uniform national database on elder abuse.

(2) **ISSUES STUDIED.**--The study conducted under paragraph (1) may consider the following:

(A) Current methodologies used for collecting data on elder abuse, including a determination of the shortcomings, strengths, and commonalities of existing data collection efforts and reporting forms, and how a uniform national database would capitalize on such efforts.

(B) The process by which uniform national standards for reporting on elder abuse could be implemented, including the identification and involvement of necessary stakeholders, financial resources needed, timelines, and the treatment of existing standards with respect to elder abuse.

(C) Potential conflicts in Federal, State, and local laws, and enforcement and jurisdictional issues that could occur as a result of the creation of a uniform national database on elder abuse.

(D) The scope, purpose, and variability of existing definitions used by Federal, State, and local agencies with respect to elder abuse.

(3) **DURATION.**--The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall be conducted for a period not to exceed 2 years.

(b) *Report.*--Not later than 180 days after the completion of the study conducted under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives containing the findings of the study, together with recommendations on how to implement a uniform national database on elder abuse.

(c) *Authorization.*--There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

SEC. 406. TEMPORARY DUTY REDUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN COTTON SHIRTING FABRIC.

(a) *Certain Cotton Shirting Fabrics.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following new headings:

131	9902.52.08	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.21, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
	9902.52.09	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.22, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009

manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.

Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.29, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.

9902.52.10

Free No change No change On or before 12/31/2009

Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.31, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the

9902.52.11

Free No change No change On or before 12/31/2009

terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.

9902.52.12	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.32, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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9902.52.13	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.39, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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9902.52.14	<p>Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.41, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	
9902.52.15	<p>Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.42, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	
9902.52.16	<p>Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009	[Page: H9059]

subheading 5208.49, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.

9902.52.17	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.51, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
9902.52.18	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.52, of average yarn number exceeding	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009

135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.

9902.52.19	Woven fabrics of cotton, of a type described in subheading 5208.59, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, other than fabrics provided for in headings 9902.52.20 through 9902.52.31, certified by the importer to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Notes 18 and 19 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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9902.52.20	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.21, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.

9902.52.21	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.22, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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9902.52.22	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.29, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.

9902.52.23	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.31, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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9902.52.24	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.32, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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	terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.				
9902.52.25	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.39, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
9902.52.26	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.41, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
9902.52.27	Woven fabrics of cotton of a type	Free	No change	No change	On or before

12/31/2009

described in subheading 5208.42, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.

9902.52.28

Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.49, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.

Free No change No change On or before 12/31/2009

9902.52.29

Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.51, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified

Free No change No change On or before 12/31/2009

by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.

9902.52.30	<p>Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.52, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009
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9902.52.31	<p>Woven fabrics of cotton of a type described in subheading 5208.59, of average yarn number exceeding 135 metric, certified by the importer to be wholly of pima cotton grown in the United States and to be suitable for use in</p>	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2009 "
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men's and boys' shirts, the foregoing imported by or for the benefit of a manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts under the terms of U.S. Note 18 of this subchapter.

(2) **DEFINITIONS AND LIMITATION ON QUANTITY OF IMPORTS.**--The U.S. Notes to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States are amended by adding at the end the following:

18. For purposes of headings 9902.52.08 through 9902.52.31, the term 'manufacturer' means a person or entity that cuts and sews men's and boys' shirts in the United States.

19. The aggregate quantity of fabrics entered under headings 9902.52.08 through 9902.52.19 from January 1 to December 31 of each year, inclusive, by or on behalf of each manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts shall be limited to 85 percent of the total square meter equivalents of all imported woven fabrics of cotton containing 85 percent or more

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by weight of cotton used by such manufacturer in cutting and sewing men's and boys' cotton shirts in the United States and purchased by such manufacturer during calendar year 2000."

(b) *Determination of Tariff-Rate Quotas.*--

(1) **AUTHORITY TO ISSUE LICENSES AND LICENSE USE.**--In order to implement the limitation on the quantity of cotton woven fabrics that may be entered under headings 9902.52.08 through 9902.52.19 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, as required by U.S. Note 19 to subchapter II of chapter 99 of such Schedule, the Secretary of Commerce shall issue licenses to eligible manufacturers under such headings 9902.52.08 through 9902.52.19, specifying the restrictions under each such license on the quantity of cotton woven fabrics that may be entered each year by or on behalf of the manufacturer. A licensee may assign the authority (in whole or in part) under the license to import fabric under headings 9902.52.08 through 9902.52.19 of such Schedule.

(2) **LICENSES UNDER U.S. NOTE 19.**--For purposes of U.S. Note 19 to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, the Secretary of Commerce shall issue a license to a manufacturer within 60 days after the manufacturer files with the Secretary of Commerce an application containing a notarized affidavit from an officer of the manufacturer that the manufacturer is eligible to receive a license and stating the quantity of imported woven fabrics of cotton containing 85 percent or more by weight of cotton purchased during calendar year 2000 for use in the cutting and sewing men's and boys' shirts in the United States.

(3) **AFFIDAVITS.**--For purposes of an affidavit described in this subsection, the date of purchase shall be--

- (A) the invoice date if the manufacturer is not the importer of record; and
- (B) the date of entry if the manufacturer is the importer of record.

SEC. 407. COTTON TRUST FUND.

(a) *Establishment of Trust Fund.*--There is established in the Treasury of the United States a trust fund to be known as the ``Pima Cotton Trust Fund'' (in this section referred to as the ``Trust Fund''), consisting of such amounts as may be transferred to the Trust Fund under subsection (b).

(b) *Transfer of Amounts.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Beginning October 1, 2006, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Trust Fund, from the general fund of the Treasury, amounts determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be equivalent to the amounts received in the general fund that are attributable to duties received since January 1, 1994, on articles under subheadings 5208.21.60, 5208.22.80, 5208.29.80, 5208.31.80, 5208.32.50, 5208.39.80, 5208.41.80, 5208.42.50, 5208.49.80, 5208.51.80, 5208.52.50, and 5208.59.80 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, subject to the limitation in paragraph (2).

(2) **LIMITATION.**--The Secretary may not transfer more than \$16,000,000 to the Trust Fund in any fiscal year, and may not transfer any amount beginning on or after October 1, 2008.

(c) *Distribution of Funds.*--From amounts in the Trust Fund, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection shall make the following payments annually beginning in fiscal year 2007:

(1) 25 percent of the amounts in the Trust Fund shall be paid annually to a nationally recognized association established for the promotion of pima cotton grown in the United States for the use in textile and apparel goods.

(2) 25 percent of the amounts in the Trust Fund shall be paid annually to yarn spinners of pima cotton grown in the United States, and shall be allocated to each spinner in an amount that bears the same ratio as--

(A) the spinner's production of ring spun cotton yarns, measuring less than 83.33 decitex (exceeding 120 metric number) from pima cotton grown in the United States in single and plied form during the period January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2003 (as evidenced by an affidavit provided by the spinner) bears to--

(B) the production of the yarns described in subparagraph (A) during the period January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2003 for all spinners who qualify under this paragraph.

(3) 50 percent of the amounts in the Trust Fund shall be paid annually to those manufacturers who cut and sew cotton shirts in the United States who certify that they used imported cotton fabric during the period January 1, 1998, through July 1, 2003, and shall be allocated to each such manufacturer in an amount that bears the same ratio as--

(A) the dollar value (excluding duty, shipping, and related costs) of imported woven cotton shirting fabric of 80s or higher count and 2-ply in warp purchased by the manufacturer during calendar year 2002 (as evidenced by an affidavit from the manufacturer that meets the requirements of subsection (d)) used in the manufacturing of men's and boys' cotton shirts, bears to--

(B) the dollar value (excluding duty, shipping, and related costs) of the fabric described in subparagraph (A) purchased during calendar year 2002 by all manufacturers who qualify under this paragraph.

(d) *Affidavit of Shirting Manufacturers.*--The affidavit required by subsection (c)(3)(A) is a notarized affidavit provided by an officer of the manufacturer of men's and boys' shirts concerned that affirms--

(1) that the manufacturer used imported cotton fabric during the period January 1, 1998, through July 1, 2003, to cut and sew men's and boys' woven cotton shirts in the United States;

(2) the dollar value of imported woven cotton shirting fabric of 80s or higher count and 2-ply in warp purchased during calendar year 2002;

(3) that the manufacturer maintains invoices along with other supporting documentation (such as price lists and other technical descriptions of the fabric qualities) showing the dollar value of such fabric purchased, the date of purchase, and evidencing the fabric as woven cotton fabric of 80s or higher count and 2-ply in warp; and

(4) that the fabric was suitable for use in the manufacturing of men's and boys' cotton shirts.

(e) *Date of Purchase.*--For purposes of the affidavit under subsection (d), the date of purchase shall be the invoice date, and the dollar value shall be determined excluding duty, shipping, and related costs.

(f) *Affidavit of Yarn Spinners.*--The affidavit required by subsection (c)(2)(A) is a notarized affidavit provided by an officer of the producer of ring spun yarns that affirms--

(1) that the producer used pima cotton grown in the United States during the period January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002, to produce ring spun cotton yarns, measuring less than 83.33 decitex (exceeding 120 metric number), in single and plied form during 2002;

(2) the quantity, measured in pounds, of ring spun cotton yarns, measuring less than 83.33 decitex (exceeding 120 metric number), in single and plied form during calendar year 2002; and

(3) that the producer maintains supporting documentation showing the quantity of such yarns produced, and evidencing the yarns as ring spun cotton yarns, measuring less than 83.33 decitex (exceeding 120 metric number), in single and plied form during calendar year 2002.

(g) *No Appeal.*--Any amount paid by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection under this section shall be final and not subject to appeal or protest.

SEC. 408. TAX COURT REVIEW OF REQUESTS FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF FROM JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY.

(a) *In General.*--Paragraph (1) of section 6015(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to petition for tax court review) is amended by inserting `` , or in the case of an individual who requests equitable relief under subsection (f)" after `` who elects to have subsection (b) or (c) apply".

(b) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Section 6015(e)(1)(A)(i)(II) of such Code is amended by inserting `` or request is made" after `` election is filed".

(2) Section 6015(e)(1)(B)(i) of such Code is amended--

(A) by inserting `` or requesting equitable relief under subsection (f)" after `` making an election under subsection (b) or (c)", and

(B) by inserting `` or request" after `` to which such election".

(3) Section 6015(e)(1)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by inserting `` or to which the request under subsection (f) relates" after `` to which the election under subsection (b) or (c) relates".

(4) Section 6015(e)(4) of such Code is amended by inserting ``or the request for equitable relief under subsection (f)" after ``the election under subsection (b) or (c)".

(5) Section 6015(e)(5) of such Code is amended by inserting ``or who requests equitable relief under subsection (f)" after ``who elects the application of subsection (b) or (c)".

(6) Section 6015(g)(2) of such Code is amended by inserting ``or of any request for equitable relief under subsection (f)" after ``any election under subsection (b) or (c)".

(7) Section 6015(h)(2) of such Code is amended by inserting ``or a request for equitable relief made under subsection (f)" after ``with respect to an election made under subsection (b) or (c)".

(c) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to liability for taxes arising or remaining unpaid on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Amend the title to read as follows: ``An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expiring provisions, and for other purposes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1099, the gentleman from California (Mr. *Thomas*) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. *Rangel*) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, to make sure that Members understand what we are doing, and, quite frankly, why we are doing it today rather than yesterday, is that we are considering H.R. 6111. H.R. 6111 is a bill that passed the House on suspension by voice vote on December 5. It then passed the Senate by unanimous consent with an amendment yesterday, December 7.

We are doing this as the House of Representatives to assist the Senate under its rules to facilitate the handling of the amendment we are now discussing, and we are doing this because given the Senate rules, they

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would require a 2-day layover, two cloture votes and a number of other procedures. By doing this this way, we will save them a day and a cloture vote. Once again, the courtesy and kindness of the House is assisting the Senate in accomplishing the work of the Congress.

So, if you will please understand, the gentleman from New York and I will lead a discussion on the amendment to H.R. 6111. In fact, the amendment is as though the entire text of H.R. 4608, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, is before us. In addition to that, there are several other provisions that accompany the Tax and Health Care Relief Act.

So, notwithstanding the merits of H.R. 6111, the discussion will be on the so-called tax extenders bill; the energy extenders bill; Medicare, the so-called doctors fix; the health care provisions; certain wilderness designations; some tariff procedures and other items which will in fact be the subject of the debate we are about to be engaged in.

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

[Time: 13:30]

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield 15 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. *Markey*), who is in opposition to the bill before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Massachusetts will control that time.

There was no objection.

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

I concur, Mr. Speaker, with the observations of the chairman as to the content of this bill. Naturally, this is the last day of the 109th Congress, and I do hope that the new majority would at least learn how not to legislate. Most of the Members have no clue as to what is in this bill. This is a late hour. There is certainly far more good in it than bad.

I wish we had seen fit to have been able to get the New York Liberty Bond 9/11 relief converted to a transportation infrastructure, which was stripped from this bill that passed the House before.

There are other things in this bill, and I assume those people who are asking for time will be discussing them.

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

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

Perhaps again it is necessary to underscore the fact that the procedure we are going through is not the choice of the House. The current minority leader, to be the majority leader, and I know I am violating the rules when I say the gentleman from Nevada, personally called and asked that we engage in this procedure to assist the Senate. I do hope the gentleman from New York, when he assumes his majority rule, will see fit to accommodate even Members of the other party in making sure that the people's work is done in the most reasonable fashion possible.

So, yes, it seems a little bit complicated, but it is in large part because both the Democratic and the Republican leadership of the Senate asked for our assistance in doing it this way.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. *Hayworth*), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California, and I would be remiss if I did not take a portion of this time to thank him for his stewardship and his time as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

While we are in a period where we move to complete the 109th Congress and we look ahead, it is worth noting that what has passed is prologue, and indeed, as we have just come through a campaign where the cry has been for bipartisanship, for consensus, I commend one of the procedures, or one of the provisions, that is included in this legislative vehicle of extenders for tax considerations, and that is, the extension of the solar and fuel cell investment tax credits.

Why do we offer this? Well, because there is support for alternative forms of energy and, in particular solar power, from all America. Eighty-two percent of Republicans, 77 percent of Democrats, 87 of Independents say we need to find alternative forms of energy.

Mr. Speaker, for over a decade, I have been honored to represent the people of Arizona, more specifically, the eponymously nicknamed Valley of the Sun. But from Maine to Montana, from Arizona to Alaska to Alabama, across the country we need to utilize alternative forms of energy such as solar energy, such as fuel cell technology, and this provision does so.

We extend it for an additional year. Were it up to me, I would like to see it for a full decade, but as we know, as my good friend, the late John Rhodes, our former House Republican leader, used to say, ``Politics is the art of the possible."'

Today with this legislation, though some are troubled by process, we have a chance to produce results. I ask you to join us in passing this legislation and extending solar and fuel cell investment tax credits.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains a provision which really is unrelated completely to the tax extenders. There are indeed tax credits and other things, very good; but what they have decided to do is attach a rider to this bill, and that rider is a special sweetheart deal that changes the entire formula for the collection of royalties, that is, taxes, for the American people for oil and gas which is drilled for on public lands.

Because of this change in formula, \$170 billion is going to be transferred from the pockets of the American taxpayer of 46 States and sent to four States. In the course of the debate this afternoon within the hour, we will be considering an amendment, an amendment which will say that if any oil companies want to drill for the oil in the gulf that is going to be permitted under this new bill, that these companies must renegotiate the old leases which they received back in the 1990s, which, believe it or not, makes it possible for them to escape paying royalties on oil and gas drilled for on public lands in the United States. Even if the price of oil goes to \$40, \$50, \$60, \$70, \$80 a barrel, oil companies do not pay any more royalties.

Well, what our amendment will say is that they must renegotiate. The oil and gas industry must renegotiate with the Federal Government to return those windfall profits on the old leases before they are going to be allowed to drill for these new leases in the Gulf of Mexico. In that way, the taxpayers will reclaim \$20 to \$30 billion of revenues that can be used for health care, for education, to pay for the war in Iraq, to balance the Federal budget.

So I just want all the Members to know that that is the nature of the amendment which is going to come up within the hour. It is fair. If the oil companies are going to receive such a boon out of this bill, if the gulf States are going to receive such a boon out of this bill, as much as I object to it, the least that we should be able to say is that we reclaim those revenues, and as a bonus, Mr. *Rangel* has inserted into the amendment, which I will be making, a provision which extends the AMT protection for 20 million Americans so their taxes do not go up next year, 2007.

So with two things, you reclaim 20 to \$30 billion from oil companies and you protect all taxpayers from an increase in the AMT.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, so that people again understand the process, notwithstanding the fact we are dealing with what amounts to a tax bill, because of the unusual procedure of using H.R. 6111 as a vehicle, asked for by the bipartisan leadership

of the Senate and provided by us as a courtesy, there would be no motion to recommit available to the minority. This is a substantive amendment which is functioning as a substitute for the motion to recommit.

It has been indicated to me directly by that bipartisan leadership and those individuals I mentioned that if what was to be a motion to recommit and which will now be a substantive amendment passes, in their opinion, this bill will not be able to move through the Senate.

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It may surprise the gentleman from Massachusetts to know that I agree with virtually everything he said and would like to add additional items in terms of the OCS provision. In fact, an Outer Continental Shelf measure passed the House. The measure that is currently carried in this amendment is totally isomorphic, exactly the same as the Outer Continental Shelf legislation that passed the Senate, that the Senator from New York, Mrs. *Clinton*, that the Senator from Nevada, Mr. *Reid*, and others supported 71-25. Need I say, this is an additional courtesy that the House is providing.

If, in fact, Mr. *Markey's* amendment passes, everything we will be talking about for the rest of the time on this amendment will be moot.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. *Weller*), an extremely valued member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership in the last 6 years in the House Ways and Means Committee. It has been a privilege to serve with you and under your leadership.

I rise in support of this legislation, which is known as the extender legislation, extending tax provisions which expired this past year, all tax provisions that have an economic impact on investment decisions affecting the economy in my district and the economy of our Nation.

I am pleased that we are extending the work opportunity tax credit. I am pleased we are extending the welfare-to-work tax credit. I am pleased that we are combining these two to make them much more efficient. When Ronald Reagan created the welfare-to-work tax credit back in the early 1980s, his goal was pretty simple: let us give those who are on the welfare rolls an opportunity to get a job and incentivize private employers to do that, and it has worked. In the district I represent, an estimated 700 workers today have jobs because of the work opportunity tax credit.

Most are pleased that this legislation extends and expands the brownfields tax incentive. I represent an oil industrial area. They have brownfields, old industrial parks. We want to recycle them. We want to reclaim them. We want to revitalize the neighborhoods they are located in. The brownfields tax incentive provides that incentive for private investors to purchase it, help recover their costs in environmental cleanup.

Also in this legislation we expand it. Forty percent of brownfields have petroleum contamination. If you are driving through a community and you see that old abandoned gas station that has been there for decades and you wonder why somebody has not bought it, that is because there is petroleum contamination. This tax incentive will help clean that up and revitalize that strategic corner in your community.

Also, I want to commend this House and this committee on moving forward on extending the energy-efficient homes tax incentive. When you often think about

it, 20 percent of the energy we consume in America is consumed in our residences, in our homes, and people when they put a little extra money in their home, they want to make their bathroom nicer or they want a nicer, fancier kitchen, they do not always think about the need to conserve energy. The energy-efficient homes tax incentive encourages home builders, those building new construction, new homes to make them better insulated, better windows, better doors and ceilings and reducing energy costs.

I would note that both brownfields provisions and the energy-efficient residential tax incentive are both important environmental initiatives as well. We often talk about jobs being created, but when you reduce energy consumption, when you clean up and revitalize old industrial parks and, frankly, when you give those on welfare an opportunity to work, we all win.

So I encourage bipartisan support for this legislation, urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. *Levin*), a senior respected member of the Ways and Means Committee.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. *Rangel*.

All due respect to the energies and labors of the chairman of the committee, this is another example of how not to legislate. I favor the extenders bill. Almost everyone else in this place does. Mr. *Rangel* has been talking about extenders extensively.

An extenders bill could pass this House and could pass the Senate today on its own, just like this. Why is that not happening? It is not just because the gentleman from Arizona says politics is the art of the possible. It is also because it should be the art of the rational and the art of the appropriate, and this package is not appropriate.

Mr. *Markey* has spoken so eloquently about the Continental Shelf legislation, and now we are threatened that if his amendment fails the whole bill fails, which I think is a statement of how not to legislate. We do not want to legislate by holding ourselves hostage. That is not the way to legislate.

[Time: 13:45]

And also there will be some discussion about the health savings account. That proposal could not pass on its own, so essentially it is being packaged with the extenders bill because it is the only way to get it through here. We will do it differently next year; we will serve the people of this country more effectively, more openly. When there is a bill like the extenders bill that can rise on its own, it will do that.

The Senate says they need our cooperation. We will cooperate. It would be better to send the extenders bill on its own.

So all of us will have this choice, a package of good and bad, and each of us will have to make that decision, a decision we should not be forced to make.

Mr. MARKEY. I yield 3 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. *Hinchey*).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and colleague from Massachusetts for his initiative on this legislation, because what he is doing is making available to this House the opportunity to correct a very serious problem which has been existing now since 1995.

In 1995, this House and this Congress passed a law which essentially allows the oil companies to take oil and natural gas from the American people out of their public property without paying them the royalties that are owed to them. This ridiculous situation has been going on now for more than 10 years.

We have an amendment that is being offered to this bill which every Member of this House should vote for. If they have any respect for their obligations to the American people, every Member of this House should vote for this amendment, because what this amendment does is this, very simply: It says to the oil companies, if you want new leases so that you may increase your profits by taking a very valuable commodity from public property owned by the American people, if you want to be able to do that, you have to in order to get those new leases renegotiate the old leases that you have on public property so that you will pay back to the taxpayers of America the money that you owe them on this commodity, oil and natural gas.

It is a very simple and very reasonable thing to do. If we fail to do it, what will happen is this. According to the Department of the Interior, the taxpayers of America will lose as much as \$60 billion which will go into the pockets of the oil companies who are already realizing record profits. The oil companies have more cash than they know what to do with. And what this Congress has been doing is allowing them to increase their profits by taking a product that is owned by the taxpayers of America, exploiting that situation, increasing their profits, and not paying back the percentage of royalties that is owed to the people of this country. So it is a very simple amendment, and there is absolutely no reason why it should not pass.

This House already passed an amendment just like this. Back in May, Mr. *Markey* and I offered an amendment to an Interior appropriations bill which would do precisely the same thing. That amendment was adopted by this House by a very substantial margin. The problem is the Interior appropriations bill went over to the other Chamber and since then nothing has happened with the bill, it has just laid there idly. And so the situation now continues to exist.

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So what the majority here apparently wants to do is to say that even though the oil companies have leases on 80 percent of the land that is available, of the offshore land that is available, they want to increase that above and continue to take this product and continue to take this commodity from the American people without paying them back the money that is owed to them.

This has got to stop. It has been going on now for more than a decade. The people of this country continue to suffer. And that is one of the reasons why they made the decision on November 7 that they did, because they recognize the suffering that they have been exposed to as a result of the carelessness and exploitation that has been authorized by this Congress.

Pass this amendment, correct the mistake, give the American people the money that is owed to them, and do it in a just way.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate people and their passion getting a bit carried away.

This bill was signed into law by the last Democratic President, Mr. Clinton. It was on your watch. To stand in the well and tell us what is in the amendment that is going to be offered in a short time, after being criticized that they have only had 2 days on the content of our amendment, is absolutely unbelievable.

We made this amendment in order because you didn't have the right to the motion to recommit. The Rules Committee out of courtesy asked you, could we have a copy of your amendment? You told the Rules Committee ``No, you couldn't have a copy of the amendment."

Mr. *Markey* earlier described your amendment as having more than one item. Mr. *Hinchey* talked about it being OCS. Mr. *Markey* said it was OCS and it was AMT and it may be something else.

What amazes me is that they can stand there with a straight face and criticize us because they only got the copy, the absolute legislative language, 2 days ago on our bill, and they have the audacity to go to the well and describe their amendment and what it is when they won't even give us a copy of it. Now, this is a preview of the coming majority in terms of their saying one thing and doing another. Buckle your seat belts. The piety and the arguments about how correct they are and how unfair it is was just said. This was done by this Congress, it was signed by President Clinton, and we have no idea what is in your amendment because you didn't even offer the courtesy of giving us the language of your amendment notwithstanding the fact that we gave you the privilege of offering an amendment. Now, that is what this is about. Okay?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. *Herger*), a member of the committee.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the tax relief legislation before us today.

I would also like to make a note of thanks to Chairman **BILL THOMAS**. **BILL** is ending a prolific 6-year tenure as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, during which he has been responsible for the passage of each pro-growth and pro-family tax measure since 2001. I would like to thank Chairman *Thomas* and his staff for their work which has continued through the writing of today's legislation.

Among the expiring tax relief measures is an extension and modernization of the research and development tax credit. In my own home State of California, more than 6,600 firms perform R&D, helping to make California number one in reported research and development activity. In the face of an extremely competitive global marketplace, the R&D tax credit helps keep America first among other nations in new cutting-edge innovation.

Also included is a provision that helps bring equity to farmers and small businesses in rural areas such as my own home district in northern California. Agricultural aviators, who are exempt from fuel excise taxes, will now be able to claim tax refunds directly without having to rely on fuel suppliers to pass along this benefit. Even though this is a small change, it will help reduce fuel costs for ag aviators and spraying costs for farmers who employ ag aviators to plant and maintain their crops. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very careful in the words that I select because I am not certain that the House physician's office is still open, and I just don't want to get overstressed over a parliamentary problem that we are having here. But it is very difficult to understand how the outgoing chairman could be so frustrated that the amendment is coming at this late hour, because we cannot really get an amendment together until we know what we are amending, and I assume that we didn't know that until sometime early this morning at a meeting that took place at a room which I don't know where it exists. So I think that this amendment that we do have deals with an issue that

we never expected to be included in the extended bills. And under the parliamentary procedures that we have in this august House and this institution, Members, even if they are in the minority, have an opportunity at any time to raise it before the House. And we hope that we can extend this courtesy for the years that we have to come.

I would like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman Mr. *Pomeroy* from the sovereign State of North Dakota.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and would amplify just for a moment on his point. You can't get your amendment set until you know what the underlying bill is. And with all the moving parts in the underlying bill, that simply was not possible.

But I believe that this election was about restoring more of a bipartisan tone to the functions of this Chamber. And in that context, I want to tell the departing chairman I wish him well as his service in this body comes to a conclusion. I wish all my Ways and Means colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, a very happy holiday season.

There are several portions of this bill that are important, and I applaud those who constructed this legislation for including these components. I am not speaking about the amendment which will be brought; that will be dealt with by other speakers. But there is a lot of good in this bill, and I don't want it lost in the discussion here.

I chair, along with **GREG WALDEN**, a bipartisan group, the Rural Health Care Coalition. We have advanced legislation to try to improve the unfairness of the Medicare system relative to rural hospitals. I am pleased that the bill includes provisions, including a continuation of the geographic classification issue, section 508, that was in the Medicare Modernization Act and addresses reasonable cost payment for lab tests in small rural hospitals and a number of other provisions found their way into this bill. They are important to us, and I speak in favor of them.

I also believe that it was absolutely essential we address this physician payment issue in this legislation. It should be underscored, I suppose, that this is just a very stop-gap fix and more will need to be done. There is some very important features in here on renewable energy as well. The plus-up of the clean renewable energy bonds with an additional \$400 million to fund renewable energy projects, extremely important. A 1-year continuation of the wind production tax credit is, no question, going to allow more wind farms to be brought online, bringing this renewable energy source, clean renewable energy source, more into our power mix. And the extension of the ethanol tariff is also important, something to keep in mind as we consider it this afternoon.

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 as it provides for much needed relief for those physicians, hospitals and laboratories who serve North Dakota's 103,000 Medicare patients.

As you know, the Medicare Modernization Act made long overdue corrections to significant flaws in Medicare payment schemes that have made a tremendous difference to the hospitals, doctors and other providers in my State and throughout the rural America. Several of these provisions, which help to level the playing and simply keep hospitals and doctors offices open, have or are about to expire. However, access to health care services in rural areas continues to be in jeopardy due to physician shortages, low patient volume and geographic

isolation. In my own State of North Dakota, over two-thirds of our counties are designated as Physician Scarcity Areas.

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That is why Representative *Greg Walden*, myself and over 50 other bipartisan members of the Rural Health Care Coalition introduced H.R. 6030, the Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act, otherwise known as H-CARE. This commonsense legislation significantly improves health care quality and access in North Dakota and rural America while also increasing the viability of rural providers.

I am pleased to see that a number of the provisions Representative **WALDEN** and I authored for H-CARE are included in today's bill. From extending the Medicare Modernization Act, MMA, floor on the Medicare work geographic adjustment for physician services to continuing to provide reasonable cost payment for lab tests in small rural hospitals, H.R. 6111 helps to maintain important corrections in our current Medicare payment system. In addition, this bill extends a critical provision of the MMA that created greater wage parity between hospitals in my State of North Dakota.

These MMA rural health provisions have already made a tremendous difference in our State. For example, one hospital was able to use the funding to recruit four new physicians. Other hospitals used the funding to invest in capital infrastructure including much needed and costly ultrasound equipment and electronic health record systems. In addition, these hospitals were able to increase salaries anywhere from 4 to 8 percent.

While H.R. 6111 extends many critical rural health care provisions from the MMA and brings temporary relief for our Nations physician's, our work is not done. I think we would all agree that the physician payment system under Medicare is a flawed system that penalizes efficient care and rewards excessive care. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 110th Congress in a bipartisan manner to improve our Medicare physician payment system and further advance the remaining components of H-CARE in order to improve access to quality, affordable health care in North Dakota and rural America.

This bill also contains important provisions for our growing renewable energy industry. Included in H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, are an extension and expansion of the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program, a 1-year extension of the Wind Production Tax Credit and over a year extension of the ethanol tariff that protects American ethanol producers from subsidized foreign ethanol.

Through this continued investment in renewable energy we not only build a sustainable industry for our State but we are helping make America more energy independent and more secure.

Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, which I helped develop as part of the 2005 Energy Bill, can now be offered for an additional year and have been authorized to release an additional \$400 million of clean energy bonds. In North Dakota we have already seen the effects that Clean Renewable Energy Bonds can have. The city of Fargo will be using Clean Renewable Energy Bonds to finance a wind tower and a methane gas facility that will be used to reduce the city's energy costs. Great River Energy will also be using these energy bonds to finance the construction of a coal drying facility which will not only increase the efficiency of North Dakota lignite coal but also reduce emissions.

Clean Renewable Energy Bonds work by allowing a Federal tax credit to holders of bonds issued by public utilities and cooperatives to finance clean energy projects. Not-for-profit utilities can sell clean energy bonds to stakeholders, but instead of the utility or cooperative paying out interest to the bondholder, the Federal Government would give the bondholder a tax credit. These bonds provide what amounts to interest free loans for co-ops and public power systems to finance renewable energy projects.

This bill also extends the wind production tax credit to 2009. In 2015, wind energy generation is expected to reach 63 gigawatts with the tax credit in place compared to an estimated 9.3 gigawatts without. This represents a 650 percent increase in wind generation.

However, without stabilizing the tax credit, companies like DMI Industries in West Fargo and LM Glassfiber in Grand Forks are in constant limbo. DMI manufactures wind turbine towers and had furloughed over 100 employees in late 2003 after the expiration of the wind production tax credit. LM Glassfiber, which manufactures wind turbine blades, had previously idled all production due to the delay in extending the wind tax credit and was forced to furlough 60 to 70 employees.

- [End Insert]

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. *Maloney*).

[Time: 14:00]

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for all of his leadership, and I congratulate the dean of our delegation, **CHARLIE RANGEL**, for working hard on this bill and restructuring of the bond issue for New York City, among other issues.

Why I am rising today, however, is the audit report that came out 2 days ago of the Department of the Interior. It was a scathing indictment of mismanagement and cronyism. In my years on the Committee on Government Reform, it is the worst report I have seen and it documents billions of dollars that are owed to the American people for oil and gas extracted from federally owned land, land owned by the American people. These revenues are not coming into the Treasury, but into the pockets of the oil industry.

I rise in support of the Markey-Hinchey amendment, which includes, among other things, a renegotiation of these leases to pay a fair price to the American public and to our country. It is long overdue. We should not tolerate this type of mismanagement. It showed that the number of audits have gone down, the number of auditors have come down. They have a paper compliance review board that has oversight which amounts to pushing paper around. It is not a watchdog, but a lap dog, for private industry as opposed to documentation of what is fairly owned to the American people and to our government.

Correcting this will literally bring 10 to \$30 billion into the Treasury of the United States. It is the fair thing to do. It is the right thing to do. We should all follow and read this important report and vote to renegotiate the rip-off leases and have them pay a fair deal for what they are reaping for their own pockets.

Our constituents are paying record prices at the pump and for heating oil; yet the oil companies are not paying their fair due for their leases on American federally owned property. This is an important amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, this is the third Member on the other side of the aisle who spoke passionately about an amendment that apparently they have had time to write, circulate and read. We have not been presented with that amendment. Obviously, with some fervor, I indicated that I didn't think that probably was the fair thing to do. They now know how the majority feels, having given them the right to offer an amendment. My assumption is that continued refusal to provide us with a copy of the amendment is willful.

Mr. RANGEL. You may not have received the amendment, but you have received the best wishes from the Democrats on your 65th birthday, and we wish you well.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RANGEL. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. THOMAS. That was 2 days ago. What are you doing for me lately?

Mr. RANGEL. We are saying good-bye.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to an outstanding Member who has served this Congress and served the Ways and Means Committee with distinction. And as he goes to raise the level of intellect in the other body, I yield to him on this bill.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Mr. *Rangel* not just for yielding me this time, but for your friendship. I have enjoyed my years on the Ways and Means Committee. Mr. *Thomas*, I wish you only the best. It has been an incredible experience to serve on the Ways and Means Committee.

It is interesting that the last bill that we will be considering, maybe not the last because we will have a trade bill later, but this bill causes me some trouble because of the manner in which provisions have been brought together. It seems to me that we should have had an opportunity to vote on many of these provisions separately.

Several provisions that have been incorporated in this bill I have voted against, and I would like an opportunity to do that again.

I am troubled because there are some very important provisions included in this legislation. As you know, we let expire many important tax provisions in the beginning of this year, and this bill will reinstate those provisions effective for 2006 and 2007.

I am particularly pleased that the research and development credit is extended and improved for 2007. I worked with Mr. *Weller* from the other side of the aisle so we could make the research

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and development credit more available for businesses today. I am glad that is included.

I am glad that we have extended the deduction for higher education expenses. We need to bring down the cost for higher education for families in this country.

On the environmental front, I am very pleased we have extended the provisions for electricity-using renewable sources. That is certainly in our interest as a Nation on energy independence.

I am also pleased that on the Medicare side we have found a way to provide relief for physicians update for this year. I hope that we will be able in the next Congress to do that on a permanent basis, and I am pleased also that we have been able to extend therapy cap provisions so that the harsh impact will not be felt by Medicare beneficiaries.

Mr. Speaker, there are many provisions in this bill that are extremely important for us to enact before we adjourn sine die. I am pleased that the provisions that have come under the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means Committee are provisions that I think are important to be enacted, and I hope we will find a way to ensure that they are enacted before we adjourn sine die.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. *Becerra*), an outstanding member of the committee.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, here we are on December 8 talking about legislation that we had discussed in prior months this year before this Congress was set to adjourn officially on September 30. We find today a circumstance where we have some very good provisions that are lumped together in this legislation.

We have provisions in this bill that would promote the cleanup of brownfields. Those are contaminated sites throughout this country that are lying empty because they are too contaminated to use and too expensive to clean up. We are going to promote the cleanup of those brownfields.

We are going to provide a better way to have environmental settlements occur so we have funds in place that will then be used to help pay for cleanup of environmental degradation.

We have the very important research and development tax credit which so much of American business needs to know about so they can make sound investments into the future about what to devote their next 10-20 years' worth of money into in terms of research and development.

We have the welfare-to-work tax credit to get folks on welfare back to work.

We have the extension of the American Jobs Creation Act for Puerto Rico manufacturing; but we have a lot of other things as well that don't belong here.

It is one of those circumstances where you are looking at a great baby that just took a bath and you are wondering how you can get rid of the bath water without getting rid of the baby. Unfortunately, it is a circumstance where many Members are probably going to wait until the time of the vote to decide if it is worth throwing away the bath water and not jeopardizing the baby.

I must say, it is good to know we are at December 8 with a vote having taken place in November, with the American public having told us enough is enough, we want a new direction and a new way of doing things. I hope come 2007 this Congress will behave itself in a way that makes the American people proud of what it has so we don't have circumstances where a lot of Members say there is some great stuff here, and a lot of bad stuff, too. At the end of the day, this will be a vote that no one will be too proud of, but hopefully will move us forward.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. *Capps*).

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to this package of bills the Republican leadership has brought to the floor.

Included are many provisions that are worthy of support of this House. The bill extends important energy-efficiency tax credits, provisions so important to American families and businesses, which should be extended.

The bill also prevents what would have amounted to a 5.1 percent cut in Medicare physician reimbursements. That cut would be devastating, hindering physicians' ability to treat their patients.

But I must vote against this package because it includes the so-called Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. That act makes this bill fiscally irresponsible. According to estimates, the bill will drain \$170 billion from the Federal Treasury over the next 60 years, creating a new entitlement immediately, giving away huge amounts of revenue from offshore drilling, mostly to only four Gulf Coast States. It is a great deal for those four States, and I understand why they would support it; but what I don't understand is why any colleagues from the other 46 States would agree to it.

The offshore waters of the gulf coast belong to all Americans, as do the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Great Lakes, and public lands. This country has record deficits as far as the eye can see, and it is simply irresponsible to add billions more in new debt through legislation like this.

Mr. Speaker, in the new Democratically controlled Congress, we can and we should craft a sensible new energy policy, one that helps Louisiana and other States rebuild wetlands and restore their coasts, and one that makes America less dependent on fossil fuels. And one that doesn't bust the budget.

Sadly, this bill falls woefully short.

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to this package of bills the Republican leadership has brought to the floor this evening.

This bill includes many provisions that are worthy of the House's support.

For example, the bill extends the Research and Development tax credit and important energy efficiency tax credits. These tax provisions are important to American families and businesses and should be extended.

The bill also prevents what would have amounted to a 5.1 percent cut in Medicare physician reimbursements. This cut would be devastating, hindering physicians' ability to treat their patients. And it would make it even harder for Medicare beneficiaries to have the best possible access to quality health care.

I have long been vocal in my support for reforming the flawed physician fee structure so I am pleased that this provision will become law. But it is a pity that the Republican leadership has waited until the last minute to enact this provision.

Mr. Speaker, I have faith that the incoming Democratic Majority will move quickly to address this and other Medicare payment problems, like the geographic practice cost index problem plaguing my district, in the 110th Congress next year. I know that I will be working hard to see these issues addressed.

We simply must revamp the Medicare physician payment structure to ensure our doctors are being paid appropriately and that our patients can be assured of readily available quality health care.

But Mr. Speaker, I must vote against this package because it includes S. 3711, the so-called Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

There are several reasons that I oppose S. 3711.

First, it's bad energy policy. Our first steps in crafting a new energy policy should be to reduce demand and develop new alternative and renewable energy sources. We missed that opportunity in last year's misguided energy bill and sadly, this bill continues that mistake.

Second, this bill is fiscally irresponsible. According to estimates, the bill will drain \$170 billion from the Federal treasury over the next 60 years. It creates a new entitlement immediately giving away huge amounts of revenue from offshore drilling, mostly to only four Gulf Coast States.

This is a great deal for these four States and I certainly understand why they support it. What I don't understand is why my colleagues from the other 46 States would agree to it. The offshore waters of the gulf coast belong to all Americans, as do the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Great Lakes and other public lands.

Mr. Speaker, we have record deficits as far as the eye can see and it is simply irresponsible to add billions more in new debt through legislation like this.

Finally, this bill will damage our environment. It will bring the 25-year-old bipartisan moratorium against new drilling off America's coasts one step closer to an end. It threatens our coastal economies with the risk of pollution and oil spills.

Mr. Speaker, in the new Democratically controlled Congress we can--and should--craft a sensible new energy policy. One that helps

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Louisiana and other States rebuild wetlands and restore their coasts. One that makes America less dependent on dirty fossil fuels. And one that doesn't bust the budget.

Sadly this bill falls woefully short.

And that's why I urge my colleagues to support the Markey-Boehlert motion to recommit.

This motion would prevent the Interior Department from awarding leases to companies that are currently drilling in American waters without paying royalties. We need to bring the oil companies back to the negotiating table to close the royalty relief loophole.

And, Mr. Speaker, as one of the last acts of this Congress we need to pass a clean bill that extends these critical tax credits and fixes the flawed physician fee formula once and for all.

- [End Insert]

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Massachusetts for providing the majority with the amendment.

Frankly, I was rather baffled why my friend from New York would yield half their time to the gentleman from Massachusetts since he has time under his own amendment. Having now seen the amendment, I find it interesting that it is an 11-page amendment, a portion of a page is on research credits, a portion of a page is on the alternative minimum tax. The Outer Continental Shelf portion of the 11-page bill, which has been the sole focus of my friends on the other side of the aisle, is six lines. Not six pages, six lines.

What in the world is in the rest of the 11-page bill: Eight pages address putting back into this, over the objections of the Democratic leader on the Senate side, the New York railroad bond provision. I now understand why Mr. *Markey* got his 15 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. *Johnson*), the chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation because it adopts a number of extremely important tax provisions, expensing of

brownfields remediation costs, mental health parity benefits, deduction of higher education expenses, the work opportunity tax credits, incentives for renewable and alternative sources of energy, and the R&D tax credit with its new forward-looking option; but it also helps to ensure that our senior citizens will be able to choose the physician of their choice by preventing the scheduled 5 percent cut in physician Medicare reimbursements.

In addition, it extends the 508 hospital payments and requires a study of how to reform the wage index system, laying the foundation for needed reform in that area.

The Medicare home demonstration project it adopts will reward small physician offices for managing patients with chronic or severe illness more holistically, both to reduce the cost of medical care and to improve the quality of the care those seniors receive.

But while I support this bill, I believe the 1-year doctor payment policy it adopts is deeply flawed and urge my colleagues to develop a more thoughtful and fair approach to reflecting the quality of physician performance in our Medicare payment system.

First, in any pay-for-performance system, clinical criteria for quality must emanate from the physician community. Bureaucrats must never be allowed to dictate medical practice.

Second, any pay-for-performance system must not penalize doctors who care for difficult, noncomplying patients, or patients for whom criteria has not been established.

Consequently, all doctors should receive some increase to recognize the increased cost of delivering care to our seniors, increased cost of malpractice insurance, health benefits for their employees and so on. And above that, a fair, balanced pay-for-performance system must be adopted.

I urge support of the bill.

[Time: 14:15]

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. *Melancon*).

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding.

I appreciate the fact that today is a historic day for Louisiana. After 50 years of producing the energy for this country that power the plants, that power the cars, that provide the heating oil and the natural gas, we finally are going to come to a point in Louisiana where we are going to get something in return for the efforts that we have put forth. And during those 50 years, our wetlands have been damaged. Our estuaries are eroding.

The Nation, I hope, will understand after these storms, and it is regretful that we had to have these storms in order to get the attention, but the marshlands, the wetlands, the estuaries of South Louisiana, the State in its wisdom has made a constitutional amendment to dedicate the funds that come from the revenues, and this will be new revenues, this will not be money coming out of the budget of the country, and it will be dedicated to rebuilding America's wetlands. It is America's wetlands because it provides for America energy and seafood, approximately 30 percent of each to the men, women, and children of this country.

I encourage everyone to please vote for this bill. Some have said it is too much money, but long ago the Louisiana delegation for decades has been asking for help and have been like the tree falling in the woods, unheard. Now is the opportunity to not only do something for energy production for this country but to do something for America's wetlands, and I urge your support and vote.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield on my time?

Mr. MELANCON. Yes.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman because I do appreciate the remarks that he just made. And we probably had not planned on highlighting it, but as the gentleman from Louisiana well knows, another portion of the changes that we are making in this package is to take what was known as the Katrina GO Zone, a benefit, and, after the time has passed, focus the money on those counties that still remain devastated by a high percentage of destruction. Rather than simply having money go where it may not be necessary, a portion of this bill focuses the money where it is absolutely necessary. And as the gentleman from Louisiana well knows, there are still major areas of his State and other States that can easily be defined as devastated.

Mr. MELANCON. Thank you, sir.

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Waters).

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for the time.

The special interest Republican Congress is at it again. Republican leaders are packaging three different bills together in one in order to force Members of Congress to pass controversial legislation together with popular legislation. And once again they have brought this complicated legislation to the House floor without providing an opportunity for meaningful debate and without allowing Members to review the text of the bill in advance.

Before the election they packaged tax credit extensions and an increase in the minimum wage together with an estate tax cut that benefits some of the richest people in the country. Now they are packaging tax credit extensions and an adjustment in Medicare payments to physicians together with a special interest giveaway to their friends in the oil industry. This special interest bill opens up 8 million acres of Florida gulf coast waters to offshore oil drilling.

The American people are sick and tired of these deceptive procedures. That is why we won the election.

Perhaps my friends on the opposite side of the aisle just want to provide one more favor to the oil industry before they lose control of Congress next month.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure now to yield 2 minutes to a valued member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Brady).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. First let me thank you, Chairman *Thomas*, for your years of hard work to provide real tax relief for families.

Mr. Speaker, I know in Texas, in our region, our community, your leadership on restoring the State and local sales tax deduction, that saves our Texas families \$1 billion a year that we

do not have to send to Washington, that can stay in their pocketbooks, stay in our communities, creates jobs in our State. And I know that on behalf of seven States to whom that deduction is so important, you have saved us from a \$5.5 billion tax increase, and we are grateful.

In Washington we spend too much time debating what bills mean to each other and not enough about what bills mean to real families. Being able to deduct that sales tax is a real help for families, especially those who are starting out in life. Sales taxes add up so quickly.

This bill helps families struggling to afford tuition for their college students. It helps teachers who have to go into their own pocketbook to pay for classroom supplies each year. I do not think they ought to ever have to do that, but when they do, at least let them write those expenses off.

It helps American companies who are trying to compete against the rest of world afford the type of research it takes to keep jobs here in America. This allows people who are trying to get their first job off of welfare a chance to get some job openings they might not otherwise help. It allows seniors, like my mom, to see a doctor whom she knows and a doctor who knows her, because it does an important fix on the Medicare.

And for States like Texas, with this new bill, we will get some revenues from leases off our shores that will help us rebuild our coastal wetlands and preserve our shores.

This is a classic piece of legislation that helps so many people in America.

And while you can talk a good game about tax relief for middle-class families, it is another thing to actually vote for it. I am proud to vote for this bill. This is going to help a lot of families.

I encourage your support.

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

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, at this time I will place a letter in the **RECORD** which is a clarification sought by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Price) to me.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, December 8, 2006.

Representative **J. DENNIS HASTERT**,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: We would like to clarify the intent of certain provisions in Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, H.R. 6111.

The first clarification addresses Section 1848(k)(2) of the Social Security Act as proposed to be added by Section 101(b) of H.R. 6111. The language presents the issue of 'consensus-based quality measures' and any 'consensus organization'. The intent of this language is to ensure that physician groups (such as the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement) are actively involved in defining the quality measures and determining the quality data to be reported under the program.

The second clarification is in regards to the bonus payments for physicians who volunteer to report on quality measures starting in July of 2007 as proposed in Section 101(c) of H.R. 6111. The intent of the bill is to ensure that the 1.5 percent bonus money to be paid to physicians who participate in the voluntary reporting program are paid on all Medicare claims submitted [during the

reporting period] by those participating providers, with the recognition of monetary caps.

We appreciate your leadership and dedication to this piece of legislation and to the House of Representatives.

Yours Truly,
Bill Thomas,
Member of Congress.

Tom Price,
Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 2 1/2 minutes to a member of the committee who will no longer be a member of the committee but who had, in the time that she was with us, made enormous contributions, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. Hart).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman not only for yielding but especially for his 6 years of incredible service as chairman and his other years of service on the Ways and Means Committee. I have not in my 16 years as a legislator seen anybody who is so capable of developing great policy which certainly has produced an incredible return for this country.

Following with that, this legislation carries a number of important tax provisions and extensions of some of those great policies that have really helped the economy to grow in this country. With today's announcement of an additional 132,000 new jobs created this month, this adds to the 5.7 million jobs that our pro-growth tax policies have created since the year 2003.

These provisions are also important to the economy in my home area, especially in western Pennsylvania, where we have seen our unemployment rate drop to about 5 percent over the last 3 years from upwards of 7-plus percent.

Part of what is continuing to help development and job growth in my area are some of the incentives to redevelop brownfields; brownfields, those abandoned industrial sites that are very difficult to find the capital to clean up. We are extending the incentive to clean up brownfields. This is so hugely important to an area like mine where there are so many industrial sites that need to be redeveloped but also the expansion of that credit to areas that have some petroleum contamination, which will also help us clean up the smaller sites such as old abandoned gas stations. Extremely important to the communities I represent.

Also the green building incentives. These tax credits for the construction repairs for energy-efficient homes and commercial buildings are extremely important. My home area is home to development of such products. My area is home to a significant amount of design of green buildings and also development of such buildings. We have had a great spurt in that growth and are headquarters to the Green Building Alliance. That is certainly going to help our region.

But, finally, the issue of health care and health coverage is one that we have great strides in the last few years to improve for Americans. The other side can say what they want about HSAs, and I hear a lot of silliness in the characterization of HSAs from the other side of the aisle. There are more than 3.2 million enrollees in these health savings accounts, an alternative health coverage in this country. More than 30 percent of those individuals were previously uninsured. And I am going to restate that. More than 30 percent of people who put HSAs were previously uninsured. This alternative health

coverage has provided so many opportunities for families who find it difficult to afford traditional health coverage. The changes that we include in this legislation will provide even more opportunity for more families to have very good flexible health coverage.

I urge my colleagues to support these changes. They are vitally important.

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

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, at this time the Chair would recognize the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. *Ginny Brown-Waite*) for 2 minutes.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank Chairman *Thomas*. He has been a great chairman and has worked with everybody on both sides of the aisle and is sorely going to be missed. I know he doesn't like people to say nice things about him because he does not want to be known as a nice guy, but he truly is.

Florida, like other States, does not have an income tax, and only recently have the residents again been able to deduct the sales taxes from their Federal income tax. That is called parity. It is parity with other States. This deduction was about to expire at the end of 2005.

In recent months I and many others from States that only have a sales tax have heard from many constituents who are concerned about whether or not they will be able to claim this deduction as they begin their taxes, due April 15. Thankfully this legislation before us today will extend this critical provision.

I know throughout the last several months I have probably been the biggest nag to Mr. *Thomas* about this issue. I know all of my colleagues from States that only have sales tax also have been making their views known that this does need to be continued.

I certainly want to stress that it is common sense, and, again, it is just parity. And we do need this very much-needed tax benefit and it is good that we are able to deliver it just before the holidays.

I want to thank the chairman.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. *Kucinich*).

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Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is faced with an unprecedented challenge in global warming. Saving the planet will undoubtedly require us to drastically curtail our use of fossil fuels. The CDC recently said, "Climate change is perhaps the largest looming public health challenge we face."

There are solutions available now, like conservation; efficiency; development of alternative energy, wind, solar, geothermal, green hydrogen. Congress is going to need to facilitate the transition to clean energy in the future.

Instead, the response of this Congress is to open up 6 million acres of protected area in the Gulf of Mexico to drilling for oil and gas. In other words, with this bill the response is more of the same of yesterday's destructive energy portfolio.

Wake up, Congress. Step into the 21st century of sustainable energy. Save our natural resources. Protect our environment. Save our planet. Or we are going to have more toxic air pollution, more fouling of the waters of the United States on which entire industries like fishing and tourism depend; and more global warming, more monopoly control of our energy by oil companies, more price gouging by oil companies, more record profits to the oil companies. In fact, this

bill deprives the Federal treasury of \$170 billion, further deepening our deficit. The government is subsidizing the oil companies, who are gouging the public, taking huge profits, while exploiting natural resources which belong to the people.

[Time: 14:30]

Then the oil companies refuse to pay to the government the royalties, which is why the Markey amendment is so important. You have to look at what this bill is going to do in permitting the opening up of six million acres for drilling of oil and gas. It, in effect, creates a transfer of wealth from the people of the United States to the oil companies, a transfer of wealth in terms of destruction of the environment. We are subsidizing the oil company's destruction of the environment. A transfer of wealth in terms of diminishing the health of the people of the United States. With all the environmental pollution that causes people's help to be degraded, well, guess what? That is a subsidy that they pay to the oil companies, and the oil companies make a profit on that.

We are ruining our planet. We are ruining our Nation because of corporate control of our energy resources. It is time to stop this bill, which is called the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, folded into a larger bill. We need to stand up for clean energy. We need to stand up for the future of America and stand up for our planet.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the Chair appreciates the vigor of the gentleman from Ohio on 6 lines out of an 11-page amendment.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. *Peterson*) for 1 1/2 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and knowledge that he has brought to this committee. It will be missed.

The most important part of this bill was just discussed, the energy portion of this bill. This starts, for the first time, opening up some energy for America.

It is interesting, Mr. *Markey* has talked about \$170 billion thievery of our resources; 12.5 percent, or \$55 billion will go into the land and water conservation fund, if we produce it; and \$225 billion will go into the treasury, if we produce the energy.

America, for the last 5 years, has had the highest energy prices in the world. And our homeowners are paying more to heat their homes than Canada, South America, Europe.

Our small businesses are paying the highest energy prices in the world, and our corporations are leaving this country. Petrochemical is moving. The best jobs we have left. Why? They use huge amounts of energy.

Fertilizer. Fifty percent of the fertilizer industry has left in the last 2 years, and our farmers will be buying Russian fertilizer to grow corn to make ethanol. Does that make sense?

Energy is the linchpin of the future of America's economy and the working people of this country having jobs. And the reason oil companies make excessive profits, when you shorten the supply of energy, the price goes up. And Congress is the reason we don't have adequate energy in this country. And many that we have heard today are the main speakers. And when you shorten the supply, the price goes up. And the oil companies who already own the inventories all over the world, the cheapest place to produce energy is in other countries, but when

you produce it here, you create wealth in America for Americans and make it affordable for businesses to stay here and grow.

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I only have one speaker remaining.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, would you indicate the time remaining for each manager?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. *Forbes*). The gentleman from California has 3 1/2 minutes. The gentleman from New York has 3 minutes, and the gentleman from Massachusetts has 2 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. And would the Speaker indicate who has the right to close?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has the right to close.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the chairman reserves the time.

Mr. RANGEL. I would just ask the chairman whether he is going to be the last speaker, then I can just use whatever time I have.

Mr. THOMAS. I would tell the gentleman that I have the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. RANGEL. Well, I reserve. I would just like to be able to close on my side.

Mr. THOMAS. Is the gentleman indicating that the gentleman from New York is the last speaker under his time control?

Mr. RANGEL. Yes.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the gentleman.

Does the gentleman from Massachusetts indicate that he is the last speaker under his time? I thank the gentleman.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Texas, the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. *Barton*, for 2 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and I thank my distinguished friends on the other side of the aisle for their strong leadership on these issues in this debate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. I want to especially thank full committee Chairman *Thomas*, Subcommittee Chairman **NANCY JOHNSON** of the Ways and Means Subcommittee, and Subcommittee Chairman **NATHAN DEAL** of my Health Committee for their leadership on this legislation. It has been an honor to work with all of these folks over the years on the issues, and I am glad that we have some resolution that will help in the years to come.

The legislation before us would ensure continued beneficiary access to quality health issues. This legislation provides significant relief for payment cuts that would have gone into effect for physician services for 2007, and does promote appropriate quality care.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has held a number of hearings to examine how we pay physicians, what we need to think about when we talk about how to pay physicians tomorrow, and how we protect the taxpayer from being billed for unnecessary services. We have heard about flaws in the current physician payment system, and I think it needs to be structurally reformed. Unfortunately, the bill before us does not. We do not have the depth and scope to do that. But we at least hold our physicians harmless in terms of expected cuts that they would have taken otherwise. Hopefully, in the next Congress we

can work a bipartisan basis to come up with a permanent solution to some of these physician payment issues.

It is important to fix the problems with physician payment once and for all. The legislation before us today does provide a stabilizing period for physicians. It fills the hole in payments for next year, provides a bonus for those physicians that would report data on quality measures. That is an

[Page: H9069]

important first step, in my opinion. It also helps ensure beneficiary access to quality health care.

I rise today in support of this bill. I hope that the House will pass it and send it to the Senate and that the Senate will also pass it.

Again, I want to thank Chairman *Thomas* for his leadership. It will be a different Congress in the next Congress without him here in person, but he will always be with us in spirit, and I really, really support the many things that he has done to improve America during his tenure as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. I want to thank Chairmen **THOMAS, JOHNSON, and DEAL** for their leadership on this legislation. I want to specifically thank Chairmen **THOMAS** and **JOHNSON** for their leadership over the years on health care issues, particularly the issue of physician payment. It has been an honor to work with you on these issues.

This legislation will help ensure continued beneficiary access to quality health care. This legislation provides significant relief for payment cuts for physician services for 2007 and promotes appropriate, quality care. This year the Energy and Commerce Committee held a number of hearings to closely examine how we pay physicians, what we need to think about when we talk about how to pay physicians tomorrow, and how we protect the taxpayer from being billed for unnecessary services. We heard about the flaws in the current physician payment system that may contribute to overuse of physician services. We heard about the promise of a system that more fairly pays physicians for the necessary services they provide--those that reflect the best quality and efficient care that a physician can provide for any particular patient.

It is important to fix the problems with physician payment once and for all. I believe the legislation today provides an important stabilizing period for physicians. It fills the hole in payments for next year and provides a bonus for those physicians that report data on quality measures. It helps ensure beneficiary access to quality health care. It helps physicians work with us to develop a better payment system, one that provides the right incentives for care rather than the wrong incentives for overuse, and one that recognizes that there are savings accrued when chronic care is managed effectively.

I rise today in support of this bill. In addition to providing help in stabilizing physician payment, this bill extends many important payment provisions that affect access to health care, particularly in rural areas, such as therapy and dialysis services. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

- [End Insert]

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we close this debate, I agree it will be a different Congress, and I will sincerely miss the spirited debate from the distinguished gentleman from California who has served the committee and served the

Congress and served this country so well. And I am just bothered that he is disturbed about the lateness of the amendment which comes to the floor, but, of course, you cannot amend anything until you get it, and this just came to the floor this morning.

Many of the issues and extenders in this bill are long overdue, and I certainly encourage people to support the bill. But the bill would be strengthened if indeed it excluded the provision that has been debated and will come up in the amendment as relates to the gulf opportunity zone property.

In addition to that, most of us would agree that if there is one provision in the Tax Code, a burden that Republicans, conservatives, Democrats, Republicans, can agree to that should be removed is the alternative minimum tax. Nobody ever intended for these 23 million people to be shoved into a tax bracket that they didn't deserve. And since it is not included in the extenders, for reasons which I don't know, it would seem to me that people would have an opportunity, in this amendment offered by the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, to do that and, at the same time, strip from the provision the offending provisions as relates to the Gulf States.

And lastly, those of you that were kind enough to support the city and State of New York during the trying 9/11 experience would know that at one time we had passed a provision that would allow us, under the New York liberty bond provisions, to provide a tax credit for the transportation infrastructure. I want to thank the chairman for trying so hard to see that that provision would be included in this bill. But, because of reasons and problems that we have had on the other side, that provision is omitted. However, it will be included in the amendment, and I am convinced that the base bill, coupled with the amendment, would be a better piece of legislation.

I know we have other issues on the floor, and this is not the time to say farewell to the chairman, but as it relates to at least this part of our debate, Mr. Speaker, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The amendment which we are about to consider does not prohibit drilling in any of this new land. The amendment we are about to debate does not prohibit drilling in any of the new land which is authorized to be drilled in. What the amendment says is this: is that the oil and gas companies that received leases over the last 10 years where they pay no royalties whatsoever, and that has been determined, as a result, deprived the American taxpayer of between 20 and \$60 billion worth of royalties, which they are entitled to as taxpayers, will be renegotiated by the oil companies that want to drill in this new land in the Gulf of Mexico. That is all it does. So anyone who is listening to this, this amendment will not prohibit drilling here. All it says is that where these massive, tens of billions of dollars of windfall profits are falling into the pockets of oil and gas companies under these oil leases, that these oil and gas companies do not have the privilege of coming into these new leases. However, any other oil company, any other gas company, they can go right into this Gulf of Mexico area and drill.

So for Mr. *Peterson*, or anyone else, it has nothing to do with it. The question for you, Mr. *Peterson*, the question for the other Members is: Do you want to recollect these other royalties? Or if the price of oil goes to 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, \$80 a barrel, do you want the oil and gas industry to pay any royalties at all? Because right now, they don't. So if you want all the revenues to go to them, nothing to go to the taxpayer, then, fine. Vote against the Markey amendment.

But if you want to open up the lands in the gulf, let the oil industry come in, but to make sure that they pay on their old leases a fair share of the dues to live in this country, because it is a massive part of the revenues that we use to fund our defense, then you vote ``yes" on the Markey amendment.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to refocus our Members. We are not on the Markey amendment. The Markey amendment will be presented following the conclusion of the discussion on the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has made available to the public a technical explanation of the bill. This technical explanation expresses the committee's understanding and legislative intent behind this important legislation.

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has made available to the public a technical explanation of the bill. This technical explanation expresses the Committee's understanding and legislative intent behind this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in keeping with the spirit of H. Res. 1000, which the House passed this year to reform the legislative process, I note that the Joint Committee on Taxation has identified 2 provisions of H.R. 6408, introduced yesterday, as ``earmarks" under the terms of that resolution. These provisions also appear in the amendment to H.R. 6111 which the House will consider today. A copy of the Joint Committee on Taxation's opinion letter is available for Members to review if they wish.

The identified provisions are Title I's Section 414. Modification of special arbitrage rule for certain funds made permanent, and Section 211 of Division C, Certain related persons and successors in interest relieved of liability if premiums prepaid. Section 414 was requested by Congressman *Kevin Brady* (R-TX). Section 211 is part of a comprehensive mining reform proposal requested by Senators *Rick Santorum* (R-PA) and *Max Baucus* (D-MT).

H.R. 6408's Division B--Medicare and Other Health Provisions, contains an earmark. Section 111, Clarification of hospice satellite designation, was requested by Senator *Reid* (D-NV). The amendment also contains this provision.

In addition, Division C, Title I, Gulf of Mexico Energy Security requested by Congressman *Bobby Jindal* (R-LA) and Title III, White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development requested by Senator *Harry*

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Reid (D-NV) have been identified as containing probable earmarks.

- [End Insert]

December 8, 2006.

Hon. **WILLIAM M. THOMAS,**

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: House Resolution 1000 provides that the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation identify any tax earmark in a bill carrying a tax measure reported by the Ways and Means Committee or in a conference report to accompany a bill carrying a tax measure. You requested that we review the language of H.R. 6408, the ``Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006" as introduced in the House of Representatives on December 7, 2006, and the House Amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 6111 (``An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims

for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending") scheduled for consideration by the House on December 8, 2006, to identify any provisions which would satisfy the tax earmark standard of House Resolution 1000, if applicable.

In response to your request, the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation has identified two provisions in each piece of legislation that would qualify as tax earmarks under House Resolution 1000, were they included in a bill reported by the Ways and Means Committee or contained in a conference report. The two provisions, which are the same in both bills, are: (1) the provision to make permanent the modification of special arbitrage rules for the Texas Permanent University Fund (sec. 414 of Division A of each bill); and (2) the provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2006 allowing release of joint and several liability in the case of prepayment of liabilities to the Combined Benefit Fund, section 9711 individual employer plan, or 1992 UMWA benefit plan and modifying of the definition of successor in interest (sec. 211 of Division C of each bill).

Sincerely,
Thomas A. Barthold,
Acting Chief of Staff.

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December 8, 2006.
Hon. **BILL THOMAS**,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: In compliance with H. Res. 1000 as passed the House of Representatives on September 14, 2006, the Committee finds that the amendment to H.R. 6111 contains no earmarks within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Sincerely,
Joe Barton,
Chairman.

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December 8, 2006.
Hon. **J. DENNIS HASTERT**,
Speaker, House of Representatives, H 232 Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have just reviewed the proposed amendment to H.R. 6111, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending. Division C unexpectedly contains several provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Resources. I have been asked to review these extensive provisions (126 pages) under severe time limits to determine whether they contain any earmarks as defined under House Resolution 1000.

Without the opportunity to question the authors of these provisions, it is difficult to determine their effect on the public lands and resources of the United States. Especially troubling is the reference to maps in the context of land sales, exchanges and special use designations. Neither myself or any of my staff have seen these maps or reviewed the conditions of these transactions. Most importantly, none of these provisions have been reviewed by the Congressional Budget Office to determine the budgetary effect of their implementation. With

these caveats, here is my assessment whether these provisions constitute earmarks under the House Resolution 1000.

DIVISION C--OTHER PROVISIONS

Title III--White Pine County Conservation, Recreation and Development. Many provisions of this Title appear to provide authority for a grant, contract or other expenditure with or to a non-federal entity, most specifically, White Pine County, Nevada; Washoe County, Nevada; the State of Nevada; the Ely Shoshone Tribe; the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition; the Great Basin Institute (whatever these are).

Because of the hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands involved in the land sales, wilderness designation and other transactions authorized by this title, and the lack of maps or other information, I cannot determine with specificity the fiscal impact of Title III. As a consequence, we have no way of determining whether this constitutes sound land management policy which we would support. In addition, because I was not involved in the writing of this provision, I do not know who the requestor was but this language has not been reported by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Resources or considered by the Senate or House.

I am extremely disappointed that the committee of jurisdiction was not consulted regarding the inclusion of these provisions. Their ill-advised inclusion undermines valuable natural resources, cheats taxpayers out of their investment in our public lands and benefits special interest groups on a completely unprecedented scale.

Sincerely,
Richard W. Pombo,
Chairman.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to 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 California?

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from New York for the kind comments that he made. I would like to reference his statement about the other side. For those of you who may not have understood what he meant, the other side is not the other side of Jordan. It is the other side of the Capitol. Oftentimes in dealing with the other side of the Capitol, it feels like you have crossed over the other side of Jordan in trying to make sure various things happen.

There are a number of items, and I guess at some point, your entire presentation oftentimes in dealing with Congress was woulda, coulda, shoulda. And that is fine to debate woulda, coulda, shoulda, which is basically process.

We have reached a point where, through great difficulty, the House and Senate have agreed on a number of important measures to extend benefits and to at least keep open the opportunity to do additional items.

[Time: 14:45]

We happened to reach agreement at the very end of the session. The point I want to underscore is, we have reached agreement. The question will be on

whether we decide to support that agreement or not support the agreement. I do appreciate all the time consumed in complaining about how we got there.

I have counseled my friends on this side that when they become the minority, I will provide them with all the yellow pages and the copies of the other side while they have been in the minority about the ``woulda coulda shoulda." Right now, it is about substance, it is about doing something, and we will have the vote on this measure following the debate on the Markey amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. *Forbes*). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1099, the previous question is ordered.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. MARKEY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. *Markey*:

Amend the House amendment by striking section 123 of title I of division A and inserting the following:

SEC. 123. SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTIONS UNDER EXPIRED PROVISIONS.

(a) *Research Credit Elections.*--In the case of any taxable year ending after December 31, 2005, and before the date of the enactment of this Act, any election under section 41(c)(4) or section 280C(c)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be treated as having been timely made for such taxable year if such election is made not later than the later of April 15, 2007, or such time as the Secretary of the Treasury, or his designee, may specify. Such election shall be made in the manner prescribed by such Secretary or designee.

(b) *Other Elections.*--Except as otherwise provided by such Secretary or designee, a rule similar to the rule of subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections under any other expired provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 the applicability of which is extended by reason of the amendments made by this title.

SEC. 124. EXTEND ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX EXEMPTION AMOUNT FOR 2007.

(a) *In General.*--Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 55(d)(1) (relating to exemption amount for taxpayers other than corporations) are each amended by inserting ``or 2007" after ``2006".

(b) *Effective Date.*--The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2008, but once in effect shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006.

SEC. 125. RESTRUCTURING OF NEW YORK LIBERTY ZONE TAX CREDITS.

(a) *In General.*--Part I of subchapter Y of chapter 1 is amended by redesignating section 1400L as 1400K and by adding at the end the following new section:

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``SEC. 1400L. NEW YORK LIBERTY ZONE TAX CREDITS.

``(a) *In General.*--In the case of a New York Liberty Zone governmental unit, there shall be allowed as a credit against any taxes imposed for any payroll period by section 3402 for which such governmental unit is liable under section 3403 an amount equal to so much of the portion of the qualifying project expenditure amount allocated under subsection (b)(3) to such governmental unit

for the calendar year as is allocated by such governmental unit to such period under subsection (b)(4).

``(b) *Qualifying Project Expenditure Amount*.--For purposes of this section--

``(1) **IN GENERAL**.--The term `qualifying project expenditure amount' means, with respect to any calendar year, the sum of--

``(A) the total expenditures paid or incurred during such calendar year by all New York Liberty Zone governmental units and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for any portion of qualifying projects located wholly within the City of New York, New York, and

``(B) any such expenditures--

``(i) paid or incurred in any preceding calendar year which begins after the date of enactment of this section, and

``(ii) not previously allocated under paragraph (3).

``(2) **QUALIFYING PROJECT**.--The term `qualifying project' means any transportation infrastructure project, including highways, mass transit systems, railroads, airports, ports, and waterways, in or connecting with the New York Liberty Zone (as defined in section 1400K(h)), which is designated as a qualifying project under this section jointly by the Governor of the State of New York and the Mayor of the City of New York, New York.

``(3) **GENERAL ALLOCATION**.--

``(A) **IN GENERAL**.--The Governor of the State of New York and the Mayor of the City of New York, New York, shall jointly allocate to each New York Liberty Zone governmental unit the portion of the qualifying project expenditure amount which may be taken into account by such governmental unit under subsection (a) for any calendar year in the credit period.

``(B) **AGGREGATE LIMIT**.--The aggregate amount which may be allocated under subparagraph (A) for all calendar years in the credit period shall not exceed \$1,750,000,000.

``(C) **ANNUAL LIMIT**.--

``(i) **IN GENERAL**.--The aggregate amount which may be allocated under subparagraph (A) for any calendar year in the credit period shall not exceed the sum of--

``(I) the applicable limit, plus

``(II) the aggregate amount authorized to be allocated under this paragraph for all preceding calendar years in the credit period which was not so allocated.

``(ii) **APPLICABLE LIMIT**.--For purposes of clause (i), the applicable limit for any calendar year is--

``(I) in the case of calendar years 2007 through 2016, \$100,000,000,

``(II) in the case of calendar year 2017 or 2018, \$200,000,000,

``(III) in the case of calendar year 2019, \$150,000,000,

``(IV) in the case of calendar year 2020 or 2021, \$100,000,000, and

``(V) in the case of any calendar year after 2021, zero.

``(D) **UNALLOCATED AMOUNTS AT END OF CREDIT PERIOD**.--If, as of the close of the credit period, the amount under subparagraph (B) exceeds the aggregate amount allocated under subparagraph (A) for all calendar years in the credit period, the Governor of the State of New York and the Mayor of the City of New York, New York, may jointly allocate to New York Liberty Zone governmental units for any calendar year in the 5-year period following the credit period an amount equal to--

``(i) the lesser of--

``(I) such excess, or
``(II) the qualifying project expenditure amount for such calendar year,
reduced by

``(ii) the aggregate amount allocated under this subparagraph for all
preceding calendar years.

``(4) **ALLOCATION TO PAYROLL PERIODS.**--Each New York Liberty Zone
governmental unit which has been allocated a portion of the qualifying project
expenditure amount under paragraph (3) for a calendar year may allocate such
portion to payroll periods beginning in such calendar year as such governmental
unit determines appropriate.

``(c) *Carryover of Unused Allocations.*--

``(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in paragraph (2), if the amount
allocated under subsection (b)(3) to a New York Liberty Zone governmental unit
for any calendar year exceeds the aggregate taxes imposed by section 3402 for
which such governmental unit is liable under section 3403 for periods beginning
in such year, such excess shall be carried to the succeeding calendar year and
added to the allocation of such governmental unit for such succeeding calendar
year. No amount may be carried under the preceding sentence to a calendar
year after 2026.

``(2) **REALLOCATION.**--If a New York Liberty Zone governmental unit does
not use an amount allocated to it under subsection (b)(3) within the time
prescribed by the Governor of the State of New York and the Mayor of the City of
New York, New York, then such amount shall after such time be treated for
purposes of subsection (b)(3) in the same manner as if it had never been
allocated.

``(d) *Definitions and Special Rules.*--For purposes of this section--

``(1) **CREDIT PERIOD.**--The term 'credit period' means the 15-year period
beginning on January 1, 2007.

``(2) **NEW YORK LIBERTY ZONE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT.**--The term
'New York Liberty Zone governmental unit' means--

``(A) the State of New York,

``(B) the City of New York, New York, and

``(C) any agency or instrumentality of such State or City.

``(3) **TREATMENT OF FUNDS.**--Any expenditure for a qualifying project
taken into account for purposes of the credit under this section shall be
considered State and local funds for the purpose of any Federal program.

``(4) **TREATMENT OF CREDIT AMOUNTS FOR PURPOSES OF
WITHHOLDING TAXES.**--For purposes of this title, a New York Liberty Zone
governmental unit shall be treated as having paid to the Secretary, on the day
on which wages are paid to employees, an amount equal to the amount of the
credit allowed to such entity under subsection (a) with respect to such wages,
but only if such governmental unit deducts and withholds wages for such payroll
period under section 3401 (relating to wage withholding).

``(e) *Reporting.*--The Governor of the State of New York and the Mayor of the
City of New York, New York, shall jointly submit to the Secretary an annual
report--

``(1) which certifies--

``(A) the qualifying project expenditure amount for the calendar year, and

``(B) the amount allocated to each New York Liberty Zone governmental unit
under subsection (b)(3) for the calendar year, and

` ` (2) includes such other information as the Secretary may require to carry out this section.

` ` (f) *Guidance.*--The Secretary may prescribe such guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to ensure compliance with the purposes of this section.

` ` (g) *Termination.*--No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any calendar year after 2026."

(b) *Termination of Certain New York Liberty Zone Benefits.*--

(1) **SPECIAL ALLOWANCE AND EXPENSING.**--Section 1400K(b)(2)(A)(v), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by striking ` ` the termination date" and inserting ` ` the date of the enactment of the Extension of Tax Relief Act of 2006 or the termination date if pursuant to a binding contract in effect on such enactment date".

(2) **LEASEHOLD.**--Section 1400K(c)(2)(B), as so redesignated, is amended by striking ` ` before January 1, 2007" and inserting ` ` on or before the date of the enactment of the Extension of Tax Relief Act of 2006 or before January 1, 2007, if pursuant to a binding contract in effect on such enactment date".

(c) *Conforming Amendments.*--

(1) Section 38(c)(3)(B) is amended by striking ` ` section 1400L(a)" and inserting ` ` section 1400K(a)".

(2) Section 168(k)(2)(D)(ii) is amended by striking ` ` section 1400L(c)(2)" and inserting ` ` 1400K(c)(2)".

(3) The table of sections for part I of subchapter Y of chapter 1 is amended by striking ` ` 1400L" and inserting ` ` 1400K".

(d) *Effective Date.*--

(1) **IN GENERAL.**--Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to periods beginning after September 30, 2008.

(2) **SUBSECTION (b).**--The amendments made by subsection (b) shall take effect as if included in section 301 of the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002.

SEC. 126. LIMITATION ON AWARD OF LEASES TO HOLDERS OF CERTAIN EXISTING DEEP WATER LEASES.

No lease may be issued under title I of division C of this Act to any lessee under an existing lease issued by the Department of the Interior pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Deep Water Royalty Relief Act (43 U.S.C. 1337 note), where such existing lease is not subject to limitations on royalty relief based on market price.

Mr. MARKEY (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the **RECORD**.

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I believe perhaps we ought to proceed in the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk continued to read the amendment.

Mr. THOMAS (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I believe the point has been made that the amendment goes on for another 9 pages like that and doesn't reach the OCS point.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to dispensing with the reading?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1099, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. *Markey*) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

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Mr. Speaker, again, the Markey amendment does nothing about drilling in the new areas that are opened up in this bill. What the amendment says is that on all of those leases in the 1990s that had no royalty payments required at all, that finally if these oil and gas companies want to move into this new oil and gas gold rush in the Gulf of Mexico, they have to renegotiate those old contracts, those windfall profits, that 20 to \$60 billion that could be used for the defense of our country, to reduce the deficit or for any other purposes.

This is a very simple amendment, and what it does is it mirrors what we voted on in May of this year when 252 Members of the House voted to force these oil and gas companies to finally play their role in contributing to the balancing of the budget. Otherwise, the oil companies are going to continue to just tip the American taxpayer upside down.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman cannot reserve his time.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. *Rangel*).

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I just want to share with the chairman that I recognize his concern that he got the amendment too late. I am surprised that he is opposing it, because I know that the content of the amendment, even though the procedure may not have been exactly as he would like, were things that he had previously supported. So it would seem to me that those of us who support the base bill, the amendment is only offered to improve upon that, even though it just excludes only one provision which is in this, which the gentleman from Massachusetts has spoken eloquently on, and I think even there the chairman would agree that it might be a better bill if that was excluded.

I do hope, as I am voting for the bill, that we might have a chance for those who are here and those who are listening to recognize that 23 million taxpayers are being held hostage by the alternative minimum tax. We have had ample opportunity to correct that, but coming from a Congress that most of us are against the tax increases, it just seems to me would be inconsistent with the past rhetoric, having the opportunity to remove this tax increase, which is certainly what it would be if we don't extend the relief from the alternative minimum tax for all of these people who never were intended to pay this tax.

So I think it would be a good time to show the bipartisanship in being for this substantial tax cut, or at least to prevent a tax increase, if we supported this amendment, at the same time to support the spirit of the reason in which this great Congress came to the assistance--

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Two minutes remaining.

Mr. MARKEY. I apologize to the gentleman. I only have 1 minute to give to the gentleman from New York (Mr. *Hinchey*) at this time.

I am now advised that the gentleman from New York (Mr. *Hinchey*) wants to yield his minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. *Rangel*).

Mr. RANGEL. I have completed. I yield back to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

I am just saying that we in New York thank you for the generosity that you have, and we just hope that it is not taken back by refusing to support this amendment, where we can receive the tax credit for our transportation.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of the time and that is again to make the point that this amendment is central to the reclaiming of the \$60 billion which the oil and gas industry has escaped in paying for drilling on the public lands of the United States. This is like Teapot Dome in the 1920s. They don't pay royalties. They have escaped payment for the use of the oil and gas for the American people.

This isn't their oil and gas; it is ours. This amendment just says that if they want to drill in the Gulf of Mexico in this new land, they have got to renegotiate these old contracts where they don't pay any royalties at all. At \$40, \$50, \$60, \$70, \$80 a barrel the American taxpayer is paying at the pump, they don't get any tax relief when they use American oil and gas from the American public lands.

Vote ``aye'' for the Markey-Hinchey amendment. It is the key to ensuring that this bill has a fiscally sound core at its heart.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. I do think it is important to note there are a number of items in the bill, not just the Outer Continental Shelf. As was indicated by the gentleman from Massachusetts and indicated by the gentleman from New York, there is an alternative minimum tax provision in this amendment. One of the things that the Democratic leadership has said, since prior to the election is, that if they were elected, if they were chosen, if they were going to be dealing with items that cost money, they were going to submit themselves to the so-called PAYGO rules. PAYGO rules are exactly what it sounds like: you pay as you go.

I find it ironic that there is this great pressure to move this amendment now before they do come into the majority, because the alternative minimum tax provisions of this amendment have no PAYGO requirement.

What, in fact, they have is spend without covering the costs, and so I understand the urgency to get this done right now so that they don't have to follow the commitment that they have made.

Boy, is that typical. In terms of the railroad bonds, I will repeat, in a personal conversation with the Democratic leader of the Senate, he asked me to make sure, notwithstanding previous support and structure that we were dealing with, in this extremely fragile measure, being carried in an unusual way to make sure that we can send it to the President, notwithstanding whether you believe the railroad bond provision has merit or doesn't have merit, it cannot be added at this time or you will lose the measure. I personally will put my trust in the judgment of the Democratic leader of the Senate.

Finally, on OCS. As I said to the gentleman from Massachusetts, in another time, in another place, in another circumstance for largely the same reason that I mentioned, we have to correct this. I appreciate it has been going on for 10 years. We do understand it was signed into law by President Clinton. I guess my question to you is, if it has been going on for 10 years, and you take over this place in less than a month, and you have 100-day priority structure, 100-hour structure, excuse me, were you not able to find room on the 100-hour structure

to do this? It sounds to me, based upon the strength and the merit of your arguments, this would be number 1, 2 or 3 on the 100 hours.

Because in that same conversation that I had with the Democratic leader in the Senate, he said, *Bill*, please, we cannot have this added to the measure. It will split the Senate. We are very fragile, trying to hold ourselves together, notwithstanding the merits of this. Please, don't put it on this measure.

Time, place, manner, it is 10 years overdue. Can we make it 10 years and 20 days overdue so that you don't destroy all of the stuff that is in this bill so that we can get this done and then we turn the floor over to you in the first 100 hours? I am sure this would be number 1, 2 or 3 based upon the outrage that I think you justifiably present on this particular issue.

For all those reasons, unwillingness to follow their own rules they say they are going to follow on PAYGO for an alternative minimum tax, the fact that we looked at the railroad bonds, there was a bipartisan bicameral agreement, it was too sensitive at this time, and the fact that OCS will blow up everything else in this bill, I will ask my colleagues to vote ``no" on this amendment so we can vote ``yes" on everything else.

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6111, which extends many essential Medicare programs that sustain our seniors every day and keeps them healthy. I applaud provisions in this bill that maintain and preserve access to crucial health care services, like physical therapy, primary care, and

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dialysis treatments. Our seniors should never have to worry about their access to care. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that our Medicare program is strong and stable enough to provide services without impediments or limitations on access.

Unfortunately, I believe Congress on this occasion missed an opportunity to ensure unfettered access in an increasingly crucial area of medical practice today: diagnostic imaging. Imaging procedures, like CT scans, MRIs, ultrasound, PET and Xrays save countless lives each day; they identify diseases early on, improving outcomes and lowering costs associated with undiagnosed illness. Seniors rely on brain scans, cardiac diagnostics and other diagnostic and therapeutic technologies every day for disease detection and treatment.

Access to those services, however, is threatened by provisions in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, DRA, that make drastic cuts to payments for these services that are crucial to identifying life-threatening conditions and guiding diagnostic and therapeutic interventions. The DRA includes payment reductions, inserted at the last minute of Congressional negotiations and without any debate in either body, of between 30 and 50 percent for many of these services performed in doctors' offices and freestanding clinics, seriously endangering the viability of those practices, and thus threatening seniors' access to convenient imaging services outside of the hospital setting.

This year, I introduced legislation, H.R. 5704, the Access to Medicare Imaging Act of 2006, which would have delayed these cuts for two years while the Government Accountability Office studies the cuts' impact on seniors' access to care. I did so because I was especially concerned that seniors in America's rural areas would face increasingly longer driving distances for testing when some physician clinics stop offering these services, and would inevitably be forced to receive these services in hospitals where longer wait times and higher co-

payments might cause many seniors to forego services altogether. In short, I introduced H.R. 5704 because I was concerned about patients--about patients losing their access to life-saving diagnostic services. Evidently, I was not alone. To date, 142 of my colleagues--from both sides of the aisle--in the House have signed on as cosponsors of this critically important legislation.

Unfortunately, the cuts my bill would have temporarily averted go into effect on January 1, 2007, and I fear that our action here today to protect access to a number of important Medicare services but not to preserve access to diagnostic imaging services is an omission with significant consequences. Without relief from the cuts, many physician practices that provide high quality diagnostic imaging services will shrink in size or shut their doors altogether. Hospitals will overload with patients, and access will suffer. Today's legislation offered a unique opportunity to prevent these consequences by including language to delay the looming cuts until further study of their appropriateness is completed.

While I regret this missed opportunity, I am hopeful that in the 110th Congress a bipartisan group of my colleagues will, once again, work together to provide open, unfettered access to medically appropriate services that improve the quality and length of life for America's seniors.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this unconscionable attempt by the Republican leadership to force passage of a damaging offshore oil drilling measure by attaching it to an omnibus bill, H.R. 6111. The language contained within this bill, which would open the eastern Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas exploration, threatens Florida's delicate ecosystem, places coastal tourism and fishing industries at economic risk, and does little to address our dependence on fossil fuels.

If Congress was serious about offering real energy solutions, then we would be examining the true environmental and economic impacts of offshore drilling and exploring the use of clean, renewable energy technologies, increased fuel efficiency, and conservation. Policymakers should not be strong-armed into supporting legislation that could cause irreparable harm to our ecosystem and economy.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve an open and honest debate on our Nation's energy policy. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and support passage of a comprehensive energy plan that promotes independence and protects our Nation's resources as well as the health of our communities.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3711, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. I believe this legislation offers a balanced approach to increasing our energy independence, while still ensuring the safety of our environment.

I had opposed H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act of 2006, when it was brought before the House because I believed it was the wrong way to approach Outer Continental Shelf drilling. It is my strong belief that if we are going to open Federal waters to leasing and drilling activities, than these revenues should be dedicated to go to the Federal Treasury for the betterment of our Nation. Ideally, I believe that revenues from leasing activities should be dedicated to conservation funding, as legislation like the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, which I introduced with Representative *Don Young* a few years back would have. Unfortunately, the full scope of our legislation was never signed into law.

However, S. 3711 offers just that. Fifty percent of revenues from leasing activities will be designated to the Federal Treasury, and revenues that will be designated to the gulf producing States are authorized solely for conservation efforts. This legislation clearly states that each gulf producing State dedicate their revenues `` only for 1 or more of the following purposes: projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resource; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plane; mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through the funding of onshore infrastructure projects." In addition, 12.5 percent of these revenues will be dedicated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

It is clear from the high cost of oil and natural gas today that we need to explore ways to increase our supply of hydrocarbons. Since the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, began in 1981, the portion of winter heating bills that LIHEAP covers has declined to 8 percent. Benefit levels based on the 1981 value have decreased from \$209 in 1983 to \$132 in 2004, causing many seniors on fixed incomes and low income families to bear the burden of excessive heating bills. If S. 3711 is enacted, the Minerals Management Service estimated that the area proposed for drilling contains at least 1.26 billion barrels of oil and 5.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas enough natural gas to heat and cool every home in Michigan for the next for 16 years. Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimates that if S. 3711 is enacted, direct spending of Outer Continental Shelf recipients would be reduced by \$900 million over the 2008-2016 period.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 3711 today because it proposes a more limited approach to Outer Continental Shelf drilling plan than the House version, H.R. 4761. I am pleased that this legislation directs revenues towards conservation, ensuring that by increasing our domestic natural gas supply we are not compromising the environmental safety of our coastal lands in the Gulf of Mexico.

We can all agree that we should be looking for alternative fuels and renewable energy sources, but our immediate concern should be reducing the cost of natural gas and oil supplies for those most vulnerable in our society. I anticipate that the House Energy and Commerce Committee will look into alternative fuels and renewable energy sources during the 110th Congress.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the many beneficial elements of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act. This bill includes several greatly needed extensions of tax provisions that will continue to help middle class families and small businesses to prosper throughout our Nation.

The measure before us today has many provisions I support, including extensions of the Research and Development Tax Credit and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, the deduction of higher education expenses, and others. I am a cosponsor of legislation to make the Research and Development Tax Credit permanent, as it keeps American companies competitive and provides a strong incentive for businesses to invest in the future and create jobs. I am also pleased that this bill includes provisions to help make college more affordable to millions of students and allow teachers to deduct out-of-pocket expenses.

This bill will also ensure that a pending 5.1 percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians does not take effect. While I believe we could--and should--have addressed this issue much earlier, I am pleased that these cuts will not take

effect. I expect that next year, Congress will take meaningful action to reform and stabilize the Medicare provider payment system and I pledge to support efforts to that end.

Unfortunately, this legislation also contains language authorizing an expansion of drilling in certain areas in the Gulf of Mexico. While I support efforts to improve our overall domestic energy production, we have not taken the necessary steps to encourage conservation efforts and energy efficiency programs, preferring instead to rely on oil and gas exploration. As I have stated in the past, we cannot dig or drill our way to energy independence. We need a comprehensive and forward-thinking energy policy that provides affordable energy, encourages the development of clean and renewable sources, and enhances our Nation's economy.

While I strongly believe that many of the tax provisions included in this legislation will significantly strengthen the middle class in our

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country, I am dismayed by the process through which we are considering this bill. The Republican majority has again waited until the last minute to bring this legislation to the floor, thereby considerably hindering our legislative process. In the 110th Congress, I will work with my colleagues to ensure measures are brought to the floor according to a process that allows ample time to review and debate legislation in an open and honest way.

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, H.R. 6111--Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

This bill will open 8.3 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico to new oil and natural gas production. This bill is more narrow in scope than the bill that passed the House in June and I believe that more still needs to be done to increase access to our Nation's oil and natural gas resources. But this bill is a good step and I am happy to support its passage.

Folks in my district near Houston, Texas understand the oil and gas business since Houston has long been headquarters to several of the world's largest oil and gas producing companies. Unfortunately, today the U.S. imports nearly 60 percent of our oil from foreign countries including more than 1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Venezuela which is run by a socialist who has made no secret of his dislike of capitalism and his disrespect for our President.

America holds vast resources of oil which can be accessed in an environmentally friendly manner with today's modern drilling technology. Reliance on foreign energy sources, if allowed to continue, will not only undermine our economy and our standard of living but will weaken our national security as we become more and more dependent on foreign sources to fulfill our energy needs.

Working Americans do not want to find themselves over a barrel, especially trapped over a barrel of foreign oil. Working Americans want energy independence. I do not believe the goals of environmental protection and energy independence are mutually exclusive but are actually mutually dependent. I believe that it is critical, now more than ever, that all domestic sources of energy should be explored including the Outer Continental Shelf, the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and the Atlantic.

I am also pleased that this bill dedicates 37.5 percent of the newly generated revenues to coastal States, including Texas, for beach restoration and 12.5 percent to the Land and Water Conservation Fund State assistance program. This

program funds the creation and upkeep of local and State parks, open spaces, and resource conservation in all 50 States. Not only will this bill help obtain energy independence, but it should result in recreation and conservation benefits for the American people. Over 40,000 local and state park and recreation projects have been aided by the LWEF in the 40-year history of the program since its inception in 1965.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support passage of H.R. 6111--Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of it.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I always tell people that I am from the most beautiful district in the country, Marin and Sonoma counties, California. We certainly have some of the most beautiful, pristine, and untouched coastline I have ever seen. That's why when I think of supporting an omnibus package today that includes offshore drilling within an 8.3 million-acre plot of the Gulf Coast, I can't help but think of what we'd be throwing away just for a 30-day supply of oil and gas.

In fact, the only way the current leadership can attempt to get this 25-year moratorium on offshore drilling lifted is by tying it together with other desperately needed provisions in order to try and sweeten the deal. Research and development tax credits, college tuition deductions, royalty set-asides for the urgently needed wetlands and levee restoration projects in Louisiana, and a package to prevent physician payment cuts next year. These are all perfectly good, bipartisan bills that should have passed on a number of occasions this year. In fact, while I'm happy to see that physicians are being spared a 5 percent cut in payments--I'm nonetheless appalled to see that yet again, we still have yet to improve their reimbursement formula.

But rather than working to ensure these and other important provisions are approved before we adjourn, and rather than creating a real energy policy by providing incentives for conservation and investing in renewable energy technology, we're having it all jammed down our throats at the end of a lame-duck session. What's more, deep within the tax-relief provisions before us today is an increase in the income eligibility level for recipients of federally funded Washington, DC private school vouchers. We ought to focus public funds on public schools, not private school voucher programs. These short-sighted approaches are getting us nowhere.

This pattern of putting politics over good policy has been typical of this Republican leadership and many of America's most vulnerable have suffered for it. Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill today because, while I know of the many good things it includes, I cannot support opening up any ocean to the often-irreversible damages associated with offshore drilling.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, getting American trade policy right is important for many reasons. We must aim to provide opportunity for American businesses and the workers they rely upon, while also providing opportunity to people in less developed nations.

We have before us a consensus measure that is long overdue. Consensus building is hard work and too often those in power seek that which is easy, not that which is best and necessary.

I'm very pleased the bill before us continues the trade benefits vital to the nations of sub Saharan Africa.

This bill would finally launch a more just trading policy with Haiti, and bring Vietnam into the community of trading nations that abide by international rules.

I am pleased this bill continues to provide discretion to the President to retain competitive need limit waivers under the Generalized System of Preferences and does not require revocation of any such waiver currently in effect.

Unfortunately, this bill falls short in some fundamental ways. First, we should make permanent GSP, not merely extend it temporarily.

The program should also be enhanced to meet the pledge made by the U.S. Trade Representative to extend duty-free and quota-free treatment to products produced by workers in poor countries.

At the beginning of this year's session of Congress, President Bush addressed the Congress and the American people and said, ``In a complex and challenging time, the road of isolationism and protectionism may seem broad and inviting--yet it ends in danger and decline."

The President is right. The bill before us offers a dangerous future for our dealings with our own hemisphere. It weakens our relationship with Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador. The conditions this bill imposes upon continued trade benefits for these countries are unrealistic.

This bill threatens thousands upon thousands of jobs in the Andean region, feeding a growing and destructive form of populism.

Mr. Speaker, the perfect cannot be the enemy of the good.

I know when the new Congress convenes in just over three weeks, the troubling components of this bill will be properly addressed, and I therefore support the bill before us today.

In conclusion, let me say I very much look forward to the new Congress, when trade policy will be constructed in public, and in daylight.

I look forward to next year's consideration of policies that aim to improve the human condition, and are produced by means enabling consensus, not division.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Healthcare Act. And, I would also like to thank Chairman **THOMAS** for all of his hard work both on this bill and throughout his tenure in Congress and as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased that this bill makes an important fix to a very urgent Medicare problem that if left unaddressed could have caused many hospitals--including 7 in New Jersey--to possibly have to close their doors to those who require that care. By providing an extension to changes to the hospital wage index classification system, these hospitals will be able to continue to receive higher Medicare reimbursement rates and thus avoid real financial jeopardy. Both this provision and the provision to eliminate the cut of up to 5 percent in payments to health care providers solve critical healthcare problems that cannot be put off any longer.

I am also pleased that a number of very important tax relief extensions were included such as the Research and Development Tax Credit and state and local sales tax deductions. I only wish that instead of extending these; we would make them permanent.

Mr. Speaker, I am, however, disappointed to see a number of miscellaneous provisions included in the bill that Congress has not had ample time to debate and that cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. The most egregious of these provisions is the provision regarding the Abandoned Mine Land Fund. The bill reduces some AML fees and converts the program from discretionary to

mandatory spending. This will increase the deficit by \$3.9 billion over the next 10 years. At a time when Congress should be looking for ways to reduce out-of-control mandatory spending, I do not believe this is prudent.

Mr. Speaker, even though I do not support every provision in this bill, the Medicare fixes and tax relief extensions are critical in nature and will benefit millions of Americans and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Tax Relief and Health Care Act

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of 2006. Today's legislation is a perfect example of the reckless priorities that voters rejected in giving Democrats control of both the House and Senate. Adding another \$45 billion to the deficit is a fitting last act from Congressional Republicans. They've added trillions to the debt in the last 6 years and have no remorse about adding a few billion more on the way out the door.

This bill destroys our environment with expanded offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, and though not in this bill, California is the next logical target. It expands school vouchers for Washington, D.C. as part of the Republican crusade to shift money to private and religious schools and undermine public education. On the healthcare front, this bill wastes a billion dollars on health savings accounts for the rich. It also expands the Medicare Advantage program, adding to the \$5.2 billion in annual overpayments taxpayers already cough up to private insurers.

I am glad that this bill includes a temporary update for physicians, giving us a little breathing room heading into next year. But we're still going to have to do some very heavy lifting in order to dig ourselves out of the \$250 billion hole Republicans created by kicking the can down the road the last few years. In the next Congress, I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle work with me to address this problem once and for all.

Tax breaks for the rich and new oil for **CHENEY** and the gang--looks like Republicans really won one for the Gipper today.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this fiscally irresponsible package and hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in rejecting this bill.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.

The bill contains a package of provisions designed to improve Health Savings Accounts, HSAs. HSAs were enacted by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. An HSA is a tax-exempt account to which tax-deductible contributions may be made by individuals with a high deductible health plan.

HSAs empower Americans to make informed decisions about their health care choices. Instead of being tied into a traditional plan that limits choice, and distances the consumer from the healthcare market, HSAs allow individuals to take an active role in the choosing how to spend their money.

This bill will:

- Allow rollovers From Health FSAs and HRAs into HSAs;
- Repeal the Annual Plan Deductible Limitation on HSA Contributions;
- Modify the Cost-of-Living Adjustment;
- Expand the Contribution Limitation for Part-Year Coverage;
- Modify employer comparable contribution requirements for contributions made to non-highly compensated employees; and

Allow one-time roll overs from IRAs into HSAs.

Health Savings Accounts help families more easily access quality health care and save for medical costs. This bill will expand HSAs to help provide more Americans with health care coverage.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this tax legislation.

H.R. 6111 includes many important provisions for the benefit of the American economy.

Although I would have preferred a longer extension, this bill extends for one year:

The R&D Tax Credit, which is a job creator and important to our domestic manufacturers, keeping them competitive globally;

The Welfare-to-Work and Work-Opportunity Tax Credits, which are incentives for employers that hire economically disadvantaged individuals with significant barriers to employment; and

The New Markets Tax Credit, which is important to the economic revitalization of our urban areas, such as Cleveland, Ohio.

And there are many more important tax provisions that this bill contains, in particular one which I have worked with Congressmen **MIKE TURNER** and **JOHN BOEHNER** and the Ohio delegation in a bipartisan fashion last year.

It deals with Regional Income Tax Agencies, and it helps municipalities improve their tax collection.

In my home State of Ohio we have the Regional Income Tax Agency (also known as RITA), which provides services to collect income tax for 120 municipalities in the state--including the cities of Shaker Heights, East Cleveland, Beachwood, and others in my district.

However, because their individual populations do not exceed 250,000 people, these cities cannot receive Federal tax information from the IRS in order to better and more accurately collect local taxes.

This legislation will allow municipalities that are members of Regional Income Tax Agencies to receive tax information from the IRS. Ohio RITA has determined that this will have two important economic benefits to Ohio cities:

1. Identification of delinquent taxpayers, which significantly enhance tax revenues to RITA municipalities in Ohio to the extent of a projected \$21 million per year, and
2. Streamlining current business processes, thereby reducing costs to member municipalities.

Additional revenues are exactly what cities in Ohio need as local governments face tough decisions to cut critical services such as police and fire protection. These additional funds can now go towards those key social services, as well as our schools.

That is why I am in favor of this legislation and support its passage.

However, let me state that I am greatly disappointed that relief from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) is not in this legislation.

The temporary AMT relief that Congress passed earlier this year expires at the end of this year, and it is not being extended in this legislation. That means that without AMT relief 15 million Americans face a tax increase as they stand to be hit by the AMT next year.

The Republican leadership decided to punt to the Democrats on that issue. But that is okay, as we Democrats have vowed next year to defuse the ticking time bomb that is the AMT.

The American people have placed us, Democrats, in the majority for a reason. They trust us to tackle the important issues that affect American families--and we will deliver.

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006, which includes an extension of 30A tax credits for American Samoa's tuna canneries and protects the jobs of more than 5,000 cannery workers in the Territory.

As a matter of public record, I thank the Honorable **WILLIAM THOMAS**, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, for his unwavering support in getting this deal done. Chairman **THOMAS** is a true friend of American Samoa and has stood by us in our most difficult times. Because of him, our people have hope for a better future, and for this, I extend my deepest appreciation to the gentleman from California.

I also thank the Honorable **CHARLES RANGEL**, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Congressman **RANGEL** is also a friend of American Samoa and has championed our cause on each and every trade agreement that has come before the U.S. Congress. He also supports our extension of 30A tax credits and is fully committed to working with us to implement a long-term tax policy based on the input of all vested stakeholders, especially our tuna canneries which are our largest private sector employers.

The possession tax credit offered by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 has encouraged two U.S. tuna canneries which employ more than 5,150 people or 74 percent of the workforce to remain and invest in American Samoa. More than 80 percent of American Samoa's private sector economy is dependent either directly or indirectly on these canneries and a decrease in production or departure of one or both of the two canneries in American Samoa could devastate the local economy resulting in massive layoffs and insurmountable financial difficulties.

For this reason, I again thank Chairman **THOMAS** and Ranking Member **RANGEL** for supporting my efforts to include an extension of 30A tax credits for American Samoa in H.R. 6111. Given how serious this issue is for American Samoa, I also urge my fellow colleagues to vote in favor of this important bill.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like the Record to show that I am voting for the pending legislation because it includes a historic accord to reauthorize the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program and to address, in a comprehensive fashion, the pressing need to insure the long-term financial stability of the funds which finance health care for members of the United Mine Workers of America.

My views on the OCS Leasing provisions in the pending legislation are well known. I oppose them.

Yet in this case, the health and safety of coalfield residents, takes precedence as it always has, and always will, when it comes to how I discharge my duties.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and would like to speak briefly on one of its most meaningful components.

When the topic of school choice is debated in Washington and elsewhere, we often refer to the lucky lottery of life. A child doesn't control which family he or she is born into, what economic situations that family must deal with, or what school he or she is likely to attend. Yet the result of that ``lucky lottery of life''

often sets a child on a very specific path through his or her early years--and beyond.

Each year, not too far from this Capitol building, we witness a lottery of a different type. The Washington Scholarship Fund, an organization founded to empower low-income Washington, DC families with a choice in where they send their children to elementary,

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middle, and high school, hosts an annual picnic where parents, grandparents, and others stand in line, waiting to enter a lottery of their own.

The prize? A partial scholarship to a private school in the nation's capital and a chance for their loved ones to escape some of the nation's most troubled public schools. It's ironic that each year, for a limited number of Washington families, one lottery has the potential to dramatically impact the results of the other.

In 2004, the Washington Scholarship Fund was chosen to manage the nation's first ever federally-funded K-12 scholarship program, the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program. This program provides low-income students and families access to up to \$7,500 to cover tuition, fees, and any transportation expenses at a private elementary or high school in Washington.

Written by Congress, signed by a Republican President, and embraced by a Democrat mayor of the District of Columbia, this school choice program is making a real difference for about 1,800 students this year.

But for some, their participation will be placed at risk if we do not act today. Due to very small increases in income or changes in family structure, some participating families now find themselves ineligible for the scholarships they have received for the last two years. Unless we increase the income eligibility threshold for renewing scholarship families that entered the program in its first two academic years from 200 percent to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, some participating students will no longer be eligible to attend the schools that they have called home for the last two years.

By raising the income eligibility limit for renewing families, the average income of Opportunity Scholarship Program families would be \$22,424. So, the program still would serve the low-income population for which it was initially designed. And this would not cost taxpayers a single dollar more, since this technical change simply allows participating students to remain in the program.

Just as importantly, by allowing these students to continue participating, an ongoing federal evaluation of the program can remain in place as it was intended. If we don't act, potentially hundreds of low-income students will be forced from the program but will continue to be studied as if they could use the scholarship, thereby compromising the study. For both supporters and opponents of the program, this study is sure to provide us some meaningful data about both its successes and shortcomings, and it serves us well to ensure its results are valid.

Mr. Speaker, this language has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee already and enjoys bipartisan support. For the good of this program and the students it serves--students we call neighbors here in Washington, DC--I urge its passage here in the House as well.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this bill serves as a reminder why the American people feel Congress is failing them. It is little more than an incoherent grab bag of the good and bad. I am disappointed that the Republicans, in their last act of power, chose to skirt their responsibilities as lawmakers by sending

this bill to the floor at the last minute and under a rule that does not allow for Members to thoroughly analyze its contents. Due to a prior engagement in my district, I was unable to be here to vote on H.R. 6111. But in the end, there is no good vote for this bill. It is my hope that under Democratic leadership next year, we will hold ourselves to a higher standard and refuse to make policy like this.

Had I been present for the vote on the Markey-Hinchey motion to recommit on the Alternative Minimum Tax and oil royalties, I would have voted ``aye."

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. I do so for three reasons. First, the bill extends and modifies certain key tax relief provisions through 2007, which provide much needed relief to working and middle-class taxpayers.

Second, I believe that among the most urgent challenges confronting the Nation, none is more important than lessening, and ultimately ending, America's dependence on foreign energy sources. H.R. 6111 advances this goal in a small but appreciable way by permitting oil and gas production in an 8.3-million acre area of the Gulf of Mexico, with 37.5 percent of the lease income allocated to the Gulf Coast States closest to the drilling area, excluding the Florida gulf coast.

Third, the bill blocks the scheduled 5 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors, and provides for a 1.5 percent increase in such payments next July for physicians who submit data relating to certain quality of care standards.

I. EXTENSION OF TAX RELIEF FOR WORKING AND MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6111 extends through 2007 several tax provisions under current law, including provisions that expired at the end of 2005 and some that are set to expire at the end of this year. Many of these provisions are targeted to middle- and working-class taxpayers. I strongly support this portion of the bill. I would like to discuss several of the more important middle class tax relief provisions.

STATE AND LOCAL SALES TAX DEDUCTION

H.R. 6111 extends by 2 years the provision allowing taxpayers the option of deducting general sales taxes paid. This provision is of particular benefit to taxpayers living in States that do not impose a State income tax. Taxpayers have long been permitted to claim an itemized deduction for certain State and local taxes, including personal income tax, real property taxes and personal property taxes, but they have not been to deduct general sales taxes since 1986. The 2004 corporate tax bill allowed taxpayers, in

2004 and 2005 only, to claim instead an itemized deduction for State and local sales taxes, either by accumulating receipts and deducting the total amount or using tables produced by the Internal Revenue Service. In States without State income tax, this provision provided a new deduction for individuals.

HIGHER EDUCATION EXPENSES DEDUCTION

Similarly, the bill renews and extends through 2007 the ``above-the-line" deduction that taxpayers may claim for higher education expenses: An ``above-the-line" deduction is a deduction that may be claimed by a taxpayer even if he or she does not itemize his or her deductions. Under the provision of law that would be extended, taxpayers can deduct up to \$4,000 of such expenses if their adjusted gross income does not exceed \$65,000 for a single return or \$130,000 for a joint return, and up to \$2,000 if their income does not exceed \$80,000 for a single return or \$160,000 for a joint return. In this increasingly globalized economy, a college education is becoming a necessity. We must do all we can to ensure that access to higher education remains affordable to the working and

middle class. That is why I support strongly the renewal and extension of the deductibility of higher education expenses.

TEACHER CLASSROOM DEDUCTION

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6111 also extends through 2007 a provision that expired at the end of 2005, under which teachers may claim an "above-the-line" deduction up to \$250 of the expenses for certain supplies that they purchase for their elementary or secondary classrooms with their own money.

Mr. Speaker, my daughter taught in elementary schools and I know how devoted she and her colleagues were to providing their students with the most enriching educational experience possible. It is not uncommon for them to dip into their personal funds to buy supplies and materials to supplement those provided by the schools. Teachers go this extra mile because they love what they do; everyone knows it is not because they are overpaid. I approve the teacher classroom deduction included in the bill. I hope we will be able to increase the amount of this deduction in the future.

II. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

It is imperative that America achieves energy independence in the 21st century. We must end our addiction to foreign sources of oil, most of which are found in regions of the world which are unstable and in some cases, opposed to our interests. Accordingly, there is no issue more integral to our economic and national security than energy independence.

Although I must admit that I do have reservations about certain aspects of this bill and the process with which this bill has arrived on the House floor, I nevertheless support it as a step in the right direction of America achieving energy independence. I think many of us in the House would agree that the issues central to this bill, the future of energy exploration off of our gulf coastlines, deserves more time for deliberation, debate, and a process for amendment. Some of these provisions which were incorporated into H.R. 4671 include my amendments which supported minority-serving universities and minority-owned businesses.

These very important provisions were designed to ensure that sectors of our Nation and economy which are often overlooked, namely, minority-serving institutions and minority-owned businesses, were given an opportunity to benefit from and compete for the opportunities afforded in this bill.

Nevertheless, I still support H.R. 6111 because it is a step in the right direction, a step towards energy independence, and a step away from being eternally beholden to foreign sources of oil. Additionally, I believe the energy aspects of the bill lay the foundation for the development of a new model for reclaiming wetlands; will help the Gulf Coast States affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to recover from the disaster and prosper in the future; provide thousands of good-paying jobs for the middle class; and serve as a blueprint for general revenue sharing in the 21st century.

In this connection, I would like to emphasize that the revenue sharing formula in the bill ensures that 37.5 percent of the revenue from

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new areas of production and new leases go towards gulf producing States. Furthermore, 20 percent of the revenue allocated to gulf producing States must be allocated to the State's coastal subdivisions to be used for the purposes of: coastal protection, conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, protecting coastal wetlands, and mitigating damage to fish and wildlife. In

addition, 12.5 percent of the revenue will be allocated to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which ensures that the environmental impact of offshore drilling will be monitored, managed, and regulated to ensure that our coasts are protected.

Energy is the lifeblood of every economy, especially ours. Producing more of it leads to more good jobs, cheaper goods, lower fuel prices, and greater economic and national security. However, the U.S. is more than 60 percent dependent on foreign sources of energy, twice as dependent today as we were just 30 years ago. Although energy is the lifeblood of America's economic security, this growing and dangerous dependence has resulted in

the loss of hundreds of thousands of good American jobs, skyrocketing consumer prices, and vulnerabilities in our national security.

Energy imports now make up one-third of America's trade deficit. Through this bill, America could improve the supply-demand imbalance, lower consumer prices, and increase jobs by producing more of its own energy resources. With my district of Houston being the energy capital of the world, I support the efforts that this bill makes to recognize State stakeholders and incorporate their interests in revenue sharing.

According to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, MMS, America's deep seas on the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, contain 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas--the U.S. consumes 23 TCF per year--and 86 billion barrels of oil--the U.S. imports 4.5 billion per year. Even with all these energy resources, the U.S. sends more than \$300 billion--and countless American jobs--overseas every year for energy we can create at home.

In some cases, the U.S. is facing much-higher energy prices than other countries. Natural gas, for example, is as much as ten times more expensive in the United States than it is in foreign nations. This fact alone has led to the loss of hundreds of thousands of high-paying American jobs, as natural gas-dependent factories are forced to close their doors and move overseas in search of more affordable energy. The outsourcing of American jobs is an issue of central importance to me and my constituents, and I believe this bill is a step in the right direction of bringing jobs back to hard-working Americans.

III. H.R. 6111 BLOCKS MEDICARE CUTS IN PHYSICIAN PAYMENTS

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I support the bill because it blocks the 5 percent cut in payments to physicians who treat Medicare patients which otherwise would go into effect on January 1, 2007. Over the next 9 years, Medicare's trustees are projecting a total of 40 percent in Medicare payment cuts to physicians. If the January 1 cut is imposed, the average physician payment rate, accounting for increases in the cost of running a practice, will be less in 2007 than it was in 2001.

The Medicare sustainable growth rate, SGR, formula, used in establishing payment rates under the physician fee schedule under the Medicare program, resulted in significant payment cuts to physicians and health care professionals in 2002. These cuts were for doctors only, not for hospitals or other medical facilities.

The Medicare SGR formula would have resulted in payment cuts to physicians and health care professionals in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 had Congress not intervened.

According to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, MedPAC, and the board of trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal

Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, the Medicare SGR formula will result in substantial payment cuts to physicians and health care professionals through at least 2015.

MedPAC is very well respected and a recognized authority on Medicare and healthcare issues. It does not support the impending payment cuts and is concerned that such consecutive annual payment cuts would threaten access to physician services over time, particularly primary care services.

MedPAC has raised concerns over current payment policies that may discourage medical students and residents from becoming primary care physicians because many Medicare beneficiaries rely on primary care providers for important health care management.

According to a 2006 American Medical Association, survey, if payment cuts to physicians under the Medicare program go into effect: half of physicians plan to decrease the number of new Medicare patients they accept; half of physicians plan to defer the purchase of information technology; 1 in 3 physicians who treat patients living in rural communities will discontinue rural outreach services; and almost half--43 percent--of physicians will decrease the number of new TRICARE patients they accept.

The annual actions by Congress that have overridden the Medicare SGR formula have only resulted in instability and unpredictability for physicians, health care professionals, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. It does not solve the long-term systemic problem of rising costs.

Stable, positive updates under the Medicare physician fee schedule that accurately reflect medical practice cost increases are vital for encouraging and economically supporting physicians' ability to make the significant financial investment required for health information technology and participation in quality improvement programs.

A stable payment system for physicians is critical to preserve Medicare beneficiaries' access to high-quality health care.

We cannot in good conscience establish barriers for doctors and health care professionals to surmount in order to continue to provide access to high-quality Medicare services for all Medicare beneficiaries. Congress must halt the impending January 1 cuts and develop an alternative payment system that accurately reflects the costs of providing care to Medicare beneficiaries.

The biggest single flaw is that this payment schedule rubric recently announced by CMS has no connection to the actual cost of providing patient care. Starving doctor's practices will not decrease healthcare prices, or change unethical behavior. It will drive doctors out of business who are desperately needed to provide care to our elderly.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6111 because it takes three steps in the right direction: (1) It provides much needed tax relief to working and middle class taxpayers; (2) It reduces the Nation's dependence on foreign energy supplies and ensures that Gulf Coast States share in the revenue from new areas of production while protecting our environment; and (3) It blocks draconian cuts by Medicare in payments to physicians. I urge all members to support the bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today, I voted for H.R. 6111, the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006. This bill contained a number of critical provisions, which I supported, and a few which I opposed.

Among the critical provisions contained in the bill, were the tax deductions for higher education expenses, the extension of the research and development tax credit, and the tax deduction for teachers who purchase certain educational supplies for their classrooms. I approve of allowing employers who hire individuals in targeted groups to claim the maximum \$2,400 work opportunity tax credit and the welfare to work tax credit. This bill enhances individual ownership of health care decisions by strengthening health savings accounts. And of course, I am thrilled that the bill prevents a decrease in Medicare physician reimbursement payments.

However, I was disappointed that some of my colleagues included some other policies, such as the provisions involving the abandoned mine land program. The Congressional Budget Office has determined that these changes will increase government spending, costing the taxpayers \$4.9 billion over 10 years. Ultimately, the inclusion of these provisions was enough to violate the budget resolution agreed to by the House, which is intended to help restrain out-of-control Federal spending. I am sorry also that the bill contained an earmark demanded by the Democratic leader in the Senate.

It is my firm belief, shared by many others, that this was the last opportunity we would have for at least 2 years to vote for these good provisions. Realizing that this was not a perfect bill and that it was unlikely I would have a chance to vote on a "clean" bill, I voted for this bill to ensure the positive tax policies that have led to 38 consecutive months of economic growth will not end.

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 6111 because it is critical that we address the unsustainable cut scheduled for reimbursement to physicians under Medicare. Due to the inequities of the Federal Government's formula, physicians in Minnesota receive some of the lowest payment in the Nation while providing, in my opinion, the best care. I will continue to work to ensure that Congress addresses this problem in the long term and that quality health care is available for Medicare beneficiaries in Minnesota and across the country.

I also strongly support the tax extensions included in this legislation. The Research and Development Tax credit, the college tuition deduction, the State sales taxes exemption, and teacher classroom expenses deduction are widely supported and important to families and businesses in the 4th District. It is unfortunate that the Republican majority has once again failed to craft a durable solution to the Alternative Minimum Tax, which is squeezing middle class families. I look forward to working with incoming-Chairman **RANGEL** to improve tax fairness for middle class families in the next Congress.

[Page: H9078]

However, I am deeply disappointed the Republican majority chose to insert an unrelated and irresponsible plan to open 8 million acres to oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico into this otherwise constructive bill. Our country consumes 25 percent of the world's oil supply but controls only 3 percent of known reserves. That means an energy policy focused primarily on domestic fossil fuel production will never deliver energy security for America's working families and small businesses. Instead, the Congress must commit to a comprehensive energy strategy that makes bold investments in homegrown renewable fuels, mass transit, innovative vehicle technology and increased vehicle efficiency.

In addition to these failings, the bill's offshore drilling provisions continue a pattern of giveaways for big oil at taxpayer expense. H.R. 6111 will rob tens of billions of dollars from the Federal Treasury in offshore drilling royalties. Nearly 40 percent of the royalty revenue generated from new leases will go to four States--Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama--which will cost the Federal Government an estimated \$20 billion over the next two decades. And the bill does nothing to stop the Federal Government from giving oil and gas companies \$7 billion in tax breaks for drilling on Federal lands (known as "royalty relief")--resources that should be directed to providing tax relief for American families.

I voted for the Markey-Hinchey amendment to H.R. 6111, which would have restored a modicum of fiscal sanity to the offshore drilling aspects of the bill. The amendment would push oil and gas companies to renegotiate their royalty free drilling leases by prohibiting companies holding such leases from gaining access to the eight million acres this bill opens to exploration. Unfortunately the amendment narrowly failed on the House floor.

Despite a clear message in last month's mid-term election for a return to ethical governance, Republican leaders used the popularity of tax credit extensions and the need to restore cuts in Medicare reimbursement to force a reckless offshore drilling plan upon America. Therefore, it is with both regret and resolve that I support the omnibus package included in H.R. 6111.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again express my strong opposition to the way the current Majority conducts business here in the House of Representatives. True to their tenure in charge of this Chamber, on the last day of the 109th Congress they are packaging four separate provisions only barely tenuously related into one omnibus measure. This is not the way to legislate, and it is particularly frustrating because there are several excellent provisions included in this omnibus bill, unfortunately packaged with atrocious provisions that cannot and would not stand on their own merits.

Mr. Speaker, there is much to like in this legislation. There are extensions of many important tax provisions that are scheduled to soon expire that are critical to businesses, students, educators, renewable energy development, and our troops. There is a vitally important freeze, and in some cases an increase, in reimbursements under Medicare for physicians. This particular provision is extremely important to my State of New Mexico, and I have worked to address the scheduled cut in reimbursement rates by cosponsoring legislation to repeal the sustainable growth rate formula, as well as joined many of my colleagues in sending letters to the House Leadership and other Members on committees with oversight responsibility for the Medicare program. In addition to the physician reimbursement, there are also several important provisions for rural health care providers under Medicare. Many of these provisions are included in rural health care legislation that I was proud to cosponsor during this Congress.

However there is more that is objectionable in this legislation. Once again, the majority's tunnel vision and unwillingness to legitimately explore alternative sources of energy has led us to their energy panacea--drilling in areas closed to exploration. There are answers to our energy problems beyond drilling, the majority simply chooses not to look at them in a serious manner. I strongly support the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast States devastated by last year's hurricanes, and recognize the obligation of the Federal Government to assist in doing so. I also believe we must urgently protect and restore coastal wetlands. But I do not believe it should be done through the royalties derived from oil and

gas leases authorized by this provision. These funds should be deposited in the Federal coffers--as more than the majority of funds derived from Federal oil and gas leases are--not set up as a new entitlement for only four States. Redirecting these funds marks an unprecedented raid on the Federal Treasury of billions of dollars for the benefit of four States. This kind of fiscal irresponsibility is unacceptable.

Also Mr. Speaker, I am extremely disappointed at the inclusion of Health Savings Accounts, a measure that would have trouble passing Congress as a stand-alone. Again, this legislation marks another significant decrease in revenue, to the estimated tune of \$287 million from FY07 to FY11, and by \$1 billion from FY07 to FY16.

Regardless of the provisions included in this legislation, this is no way to legislate. It is not good government and is not good for democracy. Each of these measures are important enough on their own that they deserve up-or-down votes and the only good about today is that this is the last day the majority win be able to conduct the business of the House in such an irresponsible manner.

- [End Insert]

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. *Markey*).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to amend will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the motion to concur, if ordered; and the motion to suspend on H. Res. 1091.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were--ayes 205, noes 207, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 532]

AYES--205

Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert

Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Boehlert
Boswell
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Castle
Chandler
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)

Fossella
Frank (MA)
Gerlach
Gordon
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy

McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Reynolds
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders

Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Simmons
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES--207

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)

Barton (TX)
Bean
Beauprez
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emerson

English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode

[Page: H9079]

Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)

Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Ortiz
Osborne
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam

Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)

Young (FL)

NOT VOTING--20

Baker
Blumenauer
Burton (IN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Evans
Fattah
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Jones (NC)
Kolbe
Norwood
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Watson

[Time: 15:28]

Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. Camp of Michigan, FLAKE, THOMAS, MACK, THOMPSON of Mississippi, TERRY, MURPHY, PICKERING, Mrs. CUBIN, Messrs. WELDON of Pennsylvania, BILIRAKIS, AL GREEN of Texas and PEARCE changed their votes from ``aye" to ``no."

Mr. OWENS, Mrs. KELLY, Messrs. HINOJOSA, REYES, SALAZAR, FERGUSON and MOLLOHAN changed their vote from ``no" to ``aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 532, Markey of Massachusetts amendment, had I been present, I would have voted ``no."

- [End Insert]

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. *Bonner*). The question is on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment with an amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment with a House amendment will be followed by 5-minute votes on suspending the rules on H. Res. 1091 and suspending the rules on H.R. 6375.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were--ayes 367, noes 45, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 533]
AYES--367

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Butterfield
Buyer

Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett

Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastert
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth

Higgins
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach

Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler

Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Northup
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Owens
Pascrell
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)

Sabo
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton

Van Hollen
Velázquez
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Watt
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES--45

Andrews
Baldwin
Brady (PA)
Capps
Conyers
Davis (FL)
Farr
Filner
Frank (MA)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Holt
Jackson (IL)
Kucinich
Lee
Lynch
Markey
McGovern
McKinney
Meek (FL)
Moore (WI)
Napolitano
Olver
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Ros-Lehtinen

Roybal-Allard
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanders
Schakowsky
Simpson
Stark
Tierney
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Wexler
Whitfield
Woolsey

NOT VOTING--21

Baker
Blumenauer
Burton (IN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Evans
Fattah
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Jones (NC)
Kolbe
Norwood
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Simmons
Strickland
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

[Time: 15:38]

Mr. BERMAN, Ms. SOLIS, and Mr. MEEHAN changed their vote from ``no" to ``aye."

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

- [Begin Insert]

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 533, Tax Relief and Health Care Act, had I been present, I would have voted ``yes."

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 533 I was listed as not voting. I was in the Capitol, however, and cannot explain the absence of a recorded vote. I would like to be recorded as voting ``yea."

- [End Insert]

END