



Legislative Bulletin.....May 16, 2006

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$10 million in FY06, and \$64 million over five years

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 1

Number of Reported Bills that Don’t Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 5

H.R. 586 — Right-to-Ride Livestock on Federal Lands Act of 2005 — *as introduced (Radanovich, R-CA)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

An almost identical bill, H.R. 2966, passed the House during the 108th Congress by a voice vote on September 21, 2004.

Summary: H.R. 586 would:

- Direct the Interior Secretary to preserve and facilitate the continued use and access of pack and saddle stock animals (including horses, burros, and mules) on parts of National Park System lands where there is a historical tradition of this use.
- Direct that – as a general rule – all trails, routes, and areas used by such animals shall remain open and accessible for this use.
- Allow the Secretary of the Interior to implement a proposed reduction in the use and access of pack and saddle stock animals on lands only after complying with the full review process required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
- Makes the same amendments to other laws regarding other public lands as follows:
 - 1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, with respect to Bureau of Land Management lands;
 - 2) the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, with respect to National Wildlife Refuge System lands; and
 - 3) the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, with respect to National Forest System lands (with the Secretary directed to act in this case being the Secretary of Agriculture).
- Require the Interior Secretary and the Agriculture Secretary to issue, within 120 days of enactment, final rules to define the meaning of a historical tradition of the use of pack and saddle stock animals on federal lands for the purposes of this Act.

Committee Action: H.R. 586 was introduced on February 2, 2005, and referred to the Committee on Resources and three subcommittees, and also referred to Committee on Agriculture. Neither committee took any official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 586 is unavailable, but CBO estimated that H.R. 2966 (an identical bill in the 108th Congress) would cost less than \$500,000 (in the year following enactment), subject to appropriations.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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H.R. 2978 — Assiniboine and Sioux water rights agreement — *as reported* (Rehberg, R-MT)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2006 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: The 106th Congress passed the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000 to construct a rural water project in the northeastern corner of Montana to serve the Fort Peck Indian Reservation and parts of Valley, Daniels, Sheridan, and Roosevelt Counties. H.R. 2978 allows the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, to enter into a lease agreement for water rights to the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Inc.

Under the Fort Peck-Montana Compact, the tribes have rights to the water in the Dry Prairie Rural Water System. The Montana State Water Compact Commission has already approved the conveyance from the tribes to the Association. The tribes will give the Association 28,000 acre-feet of water per year at no cost since the tribes have plenty of water and are not asking for payment for the water. Upon projected completion in 2011, the Association should be able to serve a population of 31,000.

Additional Information: A nearly identical bill, S. 1219, was passed by the Senate on February 1, 2006. According to the committee report (109-419), the tribes “have more than enough water and the Association does not.”

Committee Action: H.R. 2978 was introduced on June 16, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on Resources’ Subcommittee on Water and Power on June 28, 2005. On December 7, 2005, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill. The full committee marked-up the bill, and it was reported to the House by unanimous consent on March 29, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2978 will have no significant impact on the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee Report, H. Rept. 109-419, cites constitutional authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, but fails to cite a specific Clause.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” *[emphasis added]*.

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S. 1869 — Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 — *as received from the Senate* — Sen. Inhofe (R-OK)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1869 would reauthorize at current levels (\$2 million annually) through FY10, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA). The bill authorizes \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Department of Interior to submit to Congress a report regarding the digital maps of the Coastal Barrier Resources System areas and other protected areas created under a current pilot project authorized in current law (to read more about the pilot project, please see “Additional Information” section). S. 1869 would also **authorize \$5 million over five years (FY06-FY10) for a new project** to create digital versions of all the Coastal Barrier Resources Systems area maps and maps of other protected areas not included in the current pilot project.

Additional Information: According the Committee Report 109-428, the 2000 reauthorization of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) directed the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a new “digital mapping pilot study to produce digital maps of up to 75 CBRA areas and to estimate the cost and feasibility of completing digital maps for the entire [John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources] System.” The bill also reauthorized appropriations for the Coastal Barrier Resources System at \$2 million each fiscal year through September 30, 2005. S. 1869 extends this authorization to FY10.

Committee Action: S. 1869 was passed by unanimous consent in the Senate on December 16, 2005. The House received the bill on December 17, 2005, and referred it to the House Committee on Resources, which considered, held a mark-up, and reported it to the House by unanimous consent on March 29, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that, subject to appropriations, implementing S. 1869 will cost \$4 million in FY06, and \$17 million from FY06-FY10.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill would create a new federally funded resources project.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Resources Committee, in Committee Report 109-428, finds constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. House Rule XIII, Section d(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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H.R. 518 — Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006 — *as amended* — Kind (D-WI)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

Summary: H.R. 518 would reauthorize appropriations for programs funded through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), as follows:

- \$5 million for FY06
- \$5 million for FY07
- \$6 million for FY08
- \$7 million for FY09
- \$8 million for FY10

Under current law, NMBCA funding expired in 2005, and was authorized at \$5 million annually. In addition, the authorization for this program provides that at least 75% of the funding made available for NMBCA is to be used for projects carried out outside the U.S. The bill would also permit MNBCA funding to subsidize projects in Canada

H.R. 518 would also increase to 50% (up from 25%), the federal share for funding of projects under NMBCA. Under current law, the federal government is limited to covering 25% of the cost of a project, and this bill would increase this limit to 50%, therefore increasing the amount of federal funding permitted to be spent on each project.

The bill would “encourage” the Department of Interior to convene an advisory group to assist in implementation of NMBCA. In addition, the bill would increase to \$150,000 (up from \$80,000), funds available for administrative expenses for the program. Finally, H.R. 518 would expand the definition of Caribbean for the purposes of MNBCA, to include Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This will allow for the MNBCA funding of projects in these countries.

Additional Information: According the Committee Report 109-421, “Neotropical migrants are birds that travel between the United States, Mexico, Central America, much of the Caribbean, and the northern part of South America. These birds include the following species: blue birds,

cranes, ducks, goldfinches, gulls, hawks, herons, robins, hummingbirds, orioles, plovers, warblers, and woodpeckers.”

Committee Action: H.R. 518 was introduced on February 2, 2005, and referred to the House Committee on Resources, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on April 25, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that, subject to appropriations, implementing H.R. 518 will cost \$1 million in FY06, and \$27 million from FY06-FY10.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill authorizes an increases funding for MNBCA. Specifically, the H.R. 518 increases the federal share of projects funded through the program, and increase authorizations for administrative costs from \$80,000 to \$150,000.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Resources Committee, in Committee Report 109-421, finds constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific clause. House Rule XIII, Section d(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [*emphasis added*].

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S. 1165 — James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2005 *— as received from the Senate — Sen. Inouye (D-HI)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: S. 1165 would authorize such sums as necessary in order to expand, by 750 acres, the boundary of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Honolulu, Hawaii, making the Refuge roughly 1,100 total acres of land. The bill authorizes the Department of Interior to acquire the additional land and to make minor modifications to the boundary of the Refuge.

Additional Information: According the bill’s findings, “the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge for the purpose of promoting the recovery of four species of endangered Hawaiian waterbirds.” The bill also states that the U.S. FWS owns and operates the Refuge for the purposes of permanently protecting the endangered species habitat and improving the management of the Refuge, and the additional acreage includes several types of endangered species, which would be protected and observed by the inclusion of this land.

At a December 6, 2005, Resources Hearing, the Administration testified against this bill, stating the following:

“Two million dollars was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2005 for the Service to acquire the remaining acreage within the authorized boundary and to acquire other Estate lands outside the current refuge acquisition boundary upon conclusion of the planning process. ... In addition to the national priorities and funding constraints discussed above, we have already evaluated a proposal similar to H.R. 2866, adding this portion of the land to the approved PPP. On September 14, 2004, after a careful review, the Service concluded that a 388-acre expansion of the refuge is all that is feasible and can be accomplished at this time. The Service determined that the costs associated with the acquisition and management of the additional lands, in addition to expanded operational requirements, would compromise our ability to properly manage and address the needs of this refuge, as well as existing refuges throughout the Refuge System. We appreciate that Representative Abercrombie, Representative Case, and their constituents seek to expand James Campbell NWR. Given that just over one year ago we concluded that the proposed expansion in this area was not feasible, **we cannot support it at this time”** [emphasis added].

Committee Action: S. 1165 was received from the Senate on December 16, 2005, and referred to the House Committee of Resources, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported the bill, as amended, by unanimous consent on April 25, 2006.

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that, subject to appropriations, implementing S. 1165 will cost \$20 million over the FY06-FY10 period. CBO based their estimate on information provided from the Department of Interior regarding the estimated cost of purchasing the additional property and costs associated with maintaining the property.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: Yes, the bill authorizes the Department of Interior to increase federal land holdings by roughly 750 acres.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Resources Committee, in Committee Report 109-191, does not cite constitutional authority. House Rule XIII, Section d(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution” [emphasis added].

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H.R. 3682 — To redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge — as reported (Davis, R-VA)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 3682 would redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

Additional Information: According to the committee report, “the term ‘Mason Neck’ refers to George Mason who built the Gunston Hall Plantation and was one of the richest planters in Virginia. He served in the Virginia House of Burgesses, was the original author of the Virginia Bill of Rights and represented the State at the Constitutional Convention in 1787.”

The committee report states that Elizabeth Hartwell was a “leading environmentalist” who successfully led a campaign against at least 21 separate “environmental threats” to Mason Neck during an 18-year period, including stopping the following projects: a deep-water port for ocean going vessels, an outer beltway highway plan through the Refuge, a garbage landfill for the District of Columbia, a liquified natural gas pipeline, and a sewer line construction project.

Committee Action: H.R. 3682 was introduced on September 7, 2005, and referred to the Committee on the Resources’ Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans. The bill was marked-up on March 29, 2006, and was reported to the House by unanimous consent the same day (H. Rept. [109-433](#)).

Cost to Taxpayers: CBO estimates that any resulting change in federal spending would be negligible. The bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The Committee Report, H. Rept. 3682, cites constitutional authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 8 (enumerated powers of Congress) of the Constitution, but fails to cite a specific Clause. House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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H. Res. 788 — Supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day — as reported (Hefley, R-CO)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on May 15, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 788 resolves that Congress:

- “supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- “calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “more than 870,000 law enforcement personnel in the United States serve their fellow citizens as guardians of peace;
- “155 peace officers across the Nation were killed in the line of duty during 2005, well below the decade-long average of 164 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when 237 officers were killed, including 72 officers in the September 11th terrorist attacks;
- “a law enforcement officer is killed in the United States every 53 hours, and there are 56,000 assaults against our law enforcement officers each year, resulting in 16,000 injuries;
- “section 136 of title 36, United States Code, requests that the President issue an annual proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and
- “on May 15, 2006, more than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington, D.C. to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor those comrades and all others who have fallen before them.”

Additional Information: An almost identical bill, H. Res. 266, passed the House during the 109th Congress by a vote of 391 - 0 on May 16, 2005:
<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll172.xml>

Committee Action: H. Res. 788 was introduced on May 2, 2006, and referred to the House Committee on Government Reform. The resolution was considered and marked-up on May 4, 2006. It was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent the same day.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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**H. Res. 751 — Recognizing the cultural and educational contributions of
American Ballet Theater throughout its 65 years of service as “America’s
National Ballet Company”
— as introduced (Maloney, D-NY)**

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 751 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “recognizes and commends American Ballet Theatre for over 65 years of service as ‘America’s National Ballet Company’, during which it has provided world class art to citizens in all 50 States;
- “recognizes that American Ballet Theatre also serves as a true cultural ambassador for our Nation, by having performed in 42 countries and fulfilling its reputation as one of the world’s most revered and innovative dance companies; and
- “recognizes that American Ballet Theatre’s extensive and innovative education, outreach, and artistic development programs both train future generations of great dancers and expose students to the arts.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- the “American Ballet Theatre (ABT) is recognized as one of the world’s great dance companies;
- “ABT is dedicated to bringing dance to America and American dance to the world;
- “over its 65-year history, ABT has appeared in all 50 States of the United States, in a total of 126 cities, and has performed for more than 600,000 people annually;
- “ABT has performed in 42 countries as perhaps the most representative American ballet company, with many of those engagements sponsored by the Department of State; and
- “ABT has been home to the world’s most accomplished dancers and has commissioned works by all of the great choreographic geniuses of the 20th century;”

Additional Information: A nearly identical resolution passed the Senate on April 27, 2006 (S. Res. 452, sponsored by Sen. Schumer).

Committee Action: H. Res. 751 was introduced on March 30, 2006 and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H. Res. 751 is unavailable, but the bill does not authorize new expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H. Res. 740 — Calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Pat Finucane, as recommended by international Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park agreement and a way forward for the Northern Ireland Peace Process — *as introduced* (Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H. Res. 740 resolves that Congress:

- “commends the Finucane family--wife Geraldine and son Michael who have testified before Congress--for their courageous campaign to seek the truth in this case of collusion;
- “welcomes the passage of a resolution by the Dail Eireann on March 8, 2006, calling for the establishment of a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane as the Irish Government's most recent expression of support for the Finucane family;
- “acknowledges the United States Helsinki Commission and the House of Representatives' International Relations' subcommittees charged with human rights monitoring for their work in highlighting this case through hearings and legislation;
- “supports the efforts of The Honorable Mitchell Reiss, President Bush's special envoy for the Northern Ireland Peace Process, in pushing for the full implementation of the Weston Park Agreement and the establishment of an independent, judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane; and
- “calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to reconsider its position on the Finucane case to take full account of the family's objections, Judge Cory's objections, objections raised by officials of the United States Government, other governments, and international bodies, and amend the UK Inquiries Act of 2005; and
- “calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, as recommended by Judge Cory, which would enjoy the full cooperation of the family and the wider community throughout Ireland and abroad.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “human rights defense attorney and solicitor Patrick Finucane was brutally murdered in front of his wife and children at his home in Belfast on February 12, 1989;
- “numerous international bodies and non governmental human rights organizations have made note of serious allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane;
- “in July, 2001, the Irish and British Governments made new commitments in the Weston Park Agreement to hold public inquiries into high profile murders if so recommended by the Honorable Judge Peter Cory, with it being clearly understood that such an inquiry would be held under the United Kingdom Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921;

- “Judge Cory found sufficient evidence of collusion to warrant a public inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane and recommended that such an inquiry take place without delay;
- “in his conclusions, Judge Cory set out the necessity and importance of a public inquiry into the Finucane case and that the failure to hold a public inquiry as quickly as reasonably possible could be seen as a denial of the agreement at Weston Park;
- “on May 6, 2004, Judge Cory testified in Congress before the United States Helsinki Commission and presented his report which is replete with evidence of possible collusion relating to activities of the army intelligence unit and the RUC in the Finucane case;
- “the United Kingdom adopted new legislation after the public release of the Cory Report, the United Kingdom Inquiries Act 2005, which severely limits the procedures of an independent inquiry and which has been rejected as inadequate by Judge Cory, the Finucane family, the Irish Government and human rights groups;
- “on March 15, 2005, Judge Cory submitted written testimony to the House International Relations committee stating that the new legislation is ‘unfortunate to say the least’ and ‘would make a meaningful inquiry impossible’; and
- “the House of Representatives and Congress have passed legislation supporting the establishment of an independent, judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane and deeply regrets the British Government's failure to honor its commitment to implement Judge Cory's recommendation in full.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 740 was introduced on March 28, 2006, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H. Res. 795 — Condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt, on April 24 and 26, 2006 — *as introduced* (Davis, R-VA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2006 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.R. 795 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks on Dahab and Northern Sinai, Egypt and other terrorist attacks directed against Egypt;

- “expresses its condolences to the families and friends of those individuals who were killed in the attacks and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;
- “joins with President George W. Bush in expressing the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the people and Government of Egypt as they recover from these cowardly and inhuman attacks; and
- “expresses its readiness to support the Egyptian authorities in their efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the recent attacks in Egypt and to pursue, disrupt, undermine, and dismantle the networks which plan and carry out such attacks.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “on April 24 and 26, 2006, a series of explosions at Dahab and in Northern Sinai, Egypt, planned and carried out by terrorists, resulted in the deaths of scores of civilians and the injury of many others;”
- “the people of Egypt have been subjected to several other deadly terrorist attacks over the past years;”
- “President George W. Bush called President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to extend condolences on behalf of the American people for the loss of life.”

Committee Action: H. Res. 795 was introduced on May 3, 2006, and referred to the House Committee on International Relations, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H. Res. 499 — Condemning the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation — *as introduced* (McCotter, R-MI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2006, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.R. 795 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “condemns the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov on July 9, 2004, in Moscow and the murders of other members of the media in the Russian Federation;
- “urges the Government of Russia to continue its inquiries into the murder of Mr. Klebnikov;

- “urges the Government of Russia to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of the Russian media and all visiting members of the media; and
- “commends all journalists working and living in Russia for their courageous dedication to transparency and the truth.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “on July 9, 2004, American journalist Paul Klebnikov was murdered by gunmen as he exited the Moscow offices of Forbes Magazine;
- “twelve journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation since the Putin administration took office, and Mr. Klebnikov was the first and only United States citizen among these journalists;
- “the Department of State's 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices claims government pressure in Russia continues to weaken freedom of expression and the independence and freedom of the media, particularly among the major national television networks and regional media outlets;
- “the Government of Russia claims Mr. Klebnikov’s murder was ordered by Khozh-Akhmed Nukhayev, a fugitive Chechen warlord; and
- “a group of United States investigative journalists who doubt the Russian Government's claim has launched its own inquiry into the death of Mr. Klebnikov.”

Additional Information: Klebnikov was the first editor of Forbes Russia and wrote extensively on organized crime and corruption in Russia and Iran.

Committee Action: H. Res. 499 was introduced on October 18, 2006 and referred to the House Committee on International Relations. On November 16, 2005, the resolution was referred to the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats, a mark-up session was held, and the resolution was referred back to the full committee by unanimous consent. The same day, the full committee ordered the resolution to be reported by unanimous consent.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H. Res. 499 is unavailable, but the bill does not authorize new expenditures.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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