

from California (Mr. BILBRAY) for introducing this resolution.

A number of much-publicized studies have shown that the mathematics and science achievement of American students is poor by international standards. This is a dark cloud over the future of American competitiveness. Without high-achieving math and science students today, we won't have the innovative scientists, engineers and technologists for tomorrow.

As you know, the House recently passed the America COMPETES Act reauthorization, which seeks to improve STEM education at all levels, not only so that our Nation will produce the world's leading scientists and engineers, but also so that all students, high school, and junior college students will have a strong background in math and science.

The USA Science and Engineering Festival, which is taking place in October on the National Mall and in satellite locations across the country, is a collaboration of hundreds of science and engineering companies, professional associations, colleges and universities, K-12 schools, and other organizations, all with the goal to recruit the next generation of scientists and engineers by inspiring students and showing them how science intersects daily with their lives. The culmination of the festival will be a free 2-day expo on the National Mall and will feature over 1,500 interactive science activities.

Once again I want to commend Mr. BILBRAY and his cosponsors for introducing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1660, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, of course, rise in support of H. Res. 1660, supporting the goals and ideals of the USA Science and Engineering Festival taking place on the National Mall and at satellite events around the country.

This inaugural national event on October 23 and 24 is intended to celebrate science and raise awareness of the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math education in the United States. STEM education is a crucial component to our Nation's growth and well-being. Advances in the science and engineering fields not only have made our lives significantly better but also have had a global impact as well.

The USA Science and Engineering Festival will have over 1,500 free hands-on activities and shows for all ages featuring some of the most talented and experienced specialists in the science and engineering fields. This festival aims to reinvigorate the interests of our Nation's youth in STEM by producing and presenting the most compelling, exciting, educational, and en-

tertaining science gatherings in the United States.

Inspiring our children to become more interested in the STEM fields and in careers through endeavors such as this is the key to unlocking our future economic and innovative potential and success. Over 100 members of Congress have joined to support the efforts of this festival in a bipartisan fashion.

I am pleased to support the USA Science and Engineering Festival, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in this support.

At this time I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer a resolution to support the inaugural USA Science and Engineering Festival to be held here in Washington, D.C., and, more importantly, to be held in 49 other locations across this country between October 10 and October 24. I say "more importantly" because of the fact that sometimes those of us in Washington forget that we are the capital of the Nation, but we are not the Nation. The foundation of this concept of our Federal republic is to make sure that we represent those communities out throughout this Nation, not just here in D.C.

This festival is actually going to be centered here in D.C. and in 49 other locations, and I think it is one of those bipartisan efforts that I would like to thank my colleagues for, those such as Chairman GORDON, PETE OLSON of Texas, CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS and BRIAN BAIRD of Washington, two colleagues from Washington.

This is a unique opportunity for thousands of Americans to learn more about science and engineering from exhibits, participation, demonstrations, performances and discussions.

For those of us in San Diego who firsthand witnessed the wonderful event we had in 2009, the inaugural event of the San Diego Science and Energy Festival that attracted over a half-million participants, we are really kind of excited for the rest of the Nation to experience this.

Our Nation finds itself in the midst of a terrible economic recession, a crisis that is one that has been growing for generations, not one that was just spurred in the recent past. One of the key answers to pulling ourselves out of this economic trouble is to activate those entrepreneurial spirits in the scientific research that has always led America on the cutting edge of technology, and of economic and social prosperity.

Our Nation needs this kind of stimulus. Frankly, I think the USA Science and Engineering Festival is a great opportunity and can help the private sector work with the public sector. In fact, I think the latest I saw was that there were millions of dollars being put into this by the private sector because they see how important this investment of not just money, but of minds and creativity is going to be for all of us.

Madam Speaker, I think that we can recognize that though we have been successful in the past, only if we recognize that science, math, technology is going to be essential for a prosperous future, I think that we can look at each other and say maybe we need to spend more time focusing on those things that we have taken for granted for much too long.

I am happy to say I think culturally America is waking up to the fact that science is cool, that science is a neat thing to be involved with. In fact, I think that those of us who remember when the chairman and I were growing up, the great heroes of law enforcement were Joe Friday and the cops carrying the badge, who are still the heroes, but now our young people are learning it is the scientists who can find that little particle that leads to the answers. And every day, every night we can always turn on the television now, and we don't just see the strong cop on the beat, we see the scientists in the laboratory being our heroes.

Hopefully this will help to continue to grow the culture that being smart is cool, being a scientist is something to aspire to be. And maybe in our own little way, in our small way by supporting this festival, we can cultivate those minds and that creativity out there and maybe we will see the future Alexander Graham Bells, the Thomas Edisons, the Robert Fultons and many other great Americans who have been able to create the America we know today and the world we see around us that too often we take for granted that science and technology made it all possible.

With this event, maybe we will be able to remind all of us how lucky we are to be in America, where freedom of mind goes along with freedom of spirit.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I once again thank my friend from San Diego for an excellent resolution and also for the good constructive role he plays on our Science and Technology Committee.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1660.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1640

RECOGNIZING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 13 MISSION

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res.

1421) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the *Apollo 13* mission and the heroic actions of both the crew and those working at mission control in Houston, Texas, for bringing the three astronauts, Fred Haise, Jim Lovell, and Jack Swigert, home to Earth safely.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1421

Whereas, on April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched with an intended destination of Fra Mauro highlands on the Moon;

Whereas on the way to the Moon, roughly 199,990 miles from Earth, the number 2 oxygen tank exploded and seriously damaged the Apollo 13 spacecraft;

Whereas after mission control calculated that a lunar landing was impossible, mission control decided to fly a circumlunar orbit and use the Moon's gravity to return the ship to Earth;

Whereas the tireless and heroic work of both mission control and the astronauts on board the spacecraft allowed Apollo 13 to safely navigate back to Earth;

Whereas the heroic work of mission control in Houston, Texas, solved a number of unique engineering problems, such as using the lunar module as a lifeboat for the crew and devising a carbon dioxide control system completely from scratch;

Whereas without the outstanding work of the men and women at mission control, the astronauts would most certainly not have been able to return to Earth safely;

Whereas the safe return of the crew is a testament to United States ingenuity, and a can-do attitude which represents the best of the space program and the Nation;

Whereas the Apollo program lasted from 1961 to 1975 and set a number of milestones in human spaceflight, including the first mission that left low Earth orbit and the first man on the Moon;

Whereas the Apollo program spurred advances in many areas of technology including avionics, telecommunications, and computers; and

Whereas the Apollo missions sparked interest in many fields of engineering which benefited the United States economy, national psyche, and leadership in science and technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission;

(2) recognizes the bravery and heroism of the astronauts of the Apollo 13 mission, as well as the men and women in mission control;

(3) reaffirms its support of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and human space flight; and

(4) recognizes the tremendous advances to science and technology in the United States that were spurred by the Apollo space program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous mate-

rial on H. Res. 1421, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is hard to imagine a more difficult problem than that of figuring out how to safely return to Earth in a critically damaged spacecraft heading towards the Moon—one that is more urgent. Yet, through the combined efforts of the three consummately trained astronauts, the skilled NASA engineers and flight controllers and contractor workforce, *Apollo 13* and its crew were brought back to Earth safely. As we consider the future of NASA and its human spaceflight programs, let this 40th anniversary of the *Apollo 13* mission both inspire us and remind us of the importance of ensuring safety and the strength and capabilities of our human spaceflight workforce as we send our astronauts into space.

I would like to thank the resolution's sponsor, Mr. POE, for introducing this good resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1421, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the safe return of the *Apollo 13* crew capsule. *Apollo 13* launched from Kennedy Space Center on April 11, 1970, for a planned lunar landing, but suffered serious mechanical and systems failures 2 days later while en route to the Moon.

Through inventiveness and tireless efforts, the men and women at NASA's mission control center provided untested solutions to complex challenges that, up to that time, were unthinkable and unknown. Using out-of-the-box creativity, NASA engineers and program managers salvaged what was later deemed to be a "successful failure," bringing the crew successfully back to Earth on April 17.

I am proud to support this resolution. I am proud, of course, of American ingenuity and the valor of the people of NASA, and encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 40th anniversary of the *Apollo 13* mission.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1421.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RARE EARTHS AND CRITICAL MATERIALS REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6160) to develop a rare earth materials program, to amend the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6160

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Rare Earths and Critical Materials Revitalization Act of 2010".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—RARE EARTH MATERIALS

Sec. 101. Rare earth materials program.

Sec. 102. Rare earth materials loan guarantee program.

TITLE II—NATIONAL MATERIALS AND MINERALS POLICY, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 201. Amendments to National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980.

Sec. 202. Repeal.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate Congressional committees" means the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Energy.

(3) RARE EARTH MATERIALS.—The term "rare earth materials" means any of the following chemical elements in any of their physical forms or chemical combinations:

- (A) Scandium.
- (B) Yttrium.
- (C) Lanthanum.
- (D) Cerium.
- (E) Praseodymium.
- (F) Neodymium.
- (G) Promethium.
- (H) Samarium.
- (I) Europium.
- (J) Gadolinium.
- (K) Terbium.
- (L) Dysprosium.
- (M) Holmium.
- (N) Erbium.
- (O) Thulium.
- (P) Ytterbium.
- (Q) Lutetium.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

TITLE I—RARE EARTH MATERIALS

SEC. 101. RARE EARTH MATERIALS PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department a program of research, development, demonstration, and commercial application to assure the long-term, secure, and sustainable supply of rare earth materials sufficient to satisfy the national security, economic well-being, and industrial production needs of the United States.

(2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The program shall support activities to—