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Legislative Bulletin.....June 16, 2010

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H.R. 4451 — Collinsville Renewable Energy Promotion Act (*Murphy*, *D-CT*)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 4451 would permit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to reinstate licenses, and may extend the required construction date for two projects under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806). These projects are in Hartford County, Connecticut.

This legislation states that if the Commission reinstates a license, and extends the required construction date, that license shall be transferred to the town of Canton, Connecticut. This legislation requires the Commission to complete an environmental assessment for these two projects.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: CBO states that H.R. 4451 would have no net effect on the federal budget.

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.R. 4451 was introduced on January 13, 2010 and introduced to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Environment. A subcommittee markup was held on March 24, 2010 and the legislation was approved by

voice vote. A full committee markup was held on May 26, 2010 and the legislation was approved, as amended, by voice vote.

Administration Position: None available.

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 committee report citing any state-government, local government, or private-sector mandates is available.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No committee report citing compliance with the House earmark rule is available.

<u>**Constitutional Authority</u>**: No committee report citing constitutional authority is available.</u>

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.

H.Con.Res. 242 - Honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 101st anniversary (Green, D-TX)

<u>Order of Business</u>: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

<u>Summary</u>: H.Con.Res. 242 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes the 101st anniversary of the historic founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and
- "Honors and praises the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its anniversary for its work to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this resolution as the `NAACP'), originally known as the National Negro Committee, was founded in New York City on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, by a multiracial group of activists who met in a national conference to discuss the civil and political rights of African-Americans;
- "The NAACP has used political pressure, marches, demonstrations, and effective lobbying to serve as the voice, as well as the shield, for minority Americans;

- "The NAACP was prominent in lobbying for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Cesar E. Chavez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, and the Fair Housing Act, laws that ensured Government protection for legal victories achieved;
- "The NAACP has helped usher in the new millennium by charting a bold course, beginning with the appointment of the organization's youngest President and Chief Executive Officer, Benjamin Todd Jealous, and by outlining a strategic plan to confront 21st century challenges in the critical areas of health, education, housing, criminal justice, and environment; and
- "On July 16, 2009, the NAACP celebrated its centennial anniversary in New York City, highlighting an extraordinary century of Bold Dreams, Big Victories with a historic address from the first African-American president of the United States, Barack Obama."

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.Con.Res. 242 was introduced on February 25, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

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H.Res. 1422 - Honoring the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary (Sensenbrenner, R-WI)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1422 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- "Honors the Department of Justice on the occasion of its 140th anniversary;
- "Commends the men and women of the Department of Justice for their tireless commitment to pursuing justice, combating major domestic and international crimes, ensuring civil liberties, and protecting the people of the United States; and
- "Encourages the Department of Justice to continue its mission of pursuing the administration of justice for all people in the United States."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "The Department of Justice officially came into existence on July 1, 1870, through an Act of Congress establishing it as `an executive department of the government of the United States' with the Attorney General as its head;
- "In 2006, the Department of Justice recognized the danger threatening the United States due to technology-assisted exploitation crimes targeting children, and responded by launching Project Safe Childhood, an effort which has resulted in record numbers of arrests and prosecutions of individuals who seek to commit sexual crimes against children;
- "In the past 8 years, the Department of Justice has disrupted 8, and dismantled 2, Priority Target Organizations (PTOs);
- Since 2004, the Department of Justice has led the 2 largest multinational law enforcement efforts ever directed at online piracy, involving simultaneous efforts in 12 countries, more than 200 searches and arrests in more than 30 States, more than \$100,000,000 in seized pirated works, and a total of 112 felony convictions to date; and
- "The Department of Justice's accomplishments are numerous and have played a significant part in securing the safety and security of the families and communities of the United States."

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.Res. 1422 was introduced on May 28, 2010, and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: The resolution would not authorize any additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules. <u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report stating constitutional authority is unavailable.

<u>RSC Staff Contact</u>: Curtis Rhyne, <u>Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov</u>, (202) 226-8576.

H.R. 2142—Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act (*Cuellar, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 20010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: Authorizing \$150 million over five years according to CBO, H.R. 2142 would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to designate performance improvement officers at each federal agency to be responsible for conducting an assessment of each program of the agency at least once every five years. In addition, agencies would have to form performance review councils to work with OMB on the efficiency upgrades. The bill would implement program assessments to identify program goals, submit improvement plans, and designate agency improvement officers within each agency, among other goals.

Performance improvement officers would be tasked to supervise the performance management activities of the agency, including development of the agency's strategic plans, annual performance plans, and annual performance reports. The bill also allows the officer to assist the head of the agency in the development and use of performance measures in personnel performance appraisals and other agency personnel and planning processes.

The bill allows the Director of the OMB to establish a Performance Improvement Council to facilitate the exchange among agencies of information on performance management, including strategic and annual planning and reporting, to accelerate improvements in program performance. Finally, the Director of the OMB may require the development of an internet website that provides the public with information on how well each agency performs and that serves as a source of information for the public on their activities.

Additional Information: The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) requires federal agencies to define their mission and evaluate their performance.

Committee Action: On April 28, 2009, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The full committee held a mark-up on May 20, 2010, and the legislation, as amended, was reported by a voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: According to CBO, "implementing the new performance evaluation requirements <u>would cost about \$150 million</u> over the 2011-2015 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary funds."

Potential Conservative Concerns: Some conservative have expressed concern the bill authorizes \$150 million to establish agency performance officers and interagency councils, but does not contain an effective means in which to consolidate or eliminate ineffective programs at each agency. Additionally, some conservatives have expressed concern that H.R. 2142 does not contain an amendment introduced in committee mark-up by Rep. Schock (R-IL). The amendment would have established a "Federal Program Sunset FERC" to evaluate agency performance and eliminate programs that failed performance standards, were found to be duplicative, or determined to be unnecessary (modeled on Rep. Brady's Federal Sunset Act).

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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits? A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

<u>**Constitutional Authority</u>**: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable at press time.</u>

RSC Staff Contact: Bruce F. Miller, Bruce.Miller@mail.house.gov, (202)-226-9720.

H.Res. 879 - Supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week (Minnick, D-ID)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 879 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- > "Supports the goals and ideals of American Education Week; and
- "Encourages the people of the United States to observe National Education Week by reflecting on the positive impact of all those who work together to educate children."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

 "The National Education Association has designated November 15 through November 21, 2009, as the 88th annual observance of American Education Week;

- "Public schools are the backbone of the Nation's democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain the Nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality;
- "By equipping young people in the United States with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future;
- "People working in the field of public education, be they teachers, higher education faculty and staff, custodians, substitute educators, bus drivers, clerical workers, food service professionals, workers in skilled trades, health and student service workers, security guards, technical employees, or librarians, work tirelessly to serve children and communities throughout the Nation with care and professionalism; and
- "Public schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults, children, educators, volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise."

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.Res. 879 was introduced on October 29, 2009, and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226 8576.

H.Res. 1357 - Commending and congratulating the Hollywood Walk of Fame on the occasion of its 50th anniversary (Watson, D-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1357 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

"Commends and congratulates the Hollywood Walk of Fame on the occasion of its 50th anniversary."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a tribute to those who have significantly contributed to the entertainment industry;
- "On March 28, 1960, the first star, awarded to Stanley Kramer, was laid in the Hollywood Walk of Fame;
- "On February 1, 1994, Sophia Loren was honored with the 2,000th star in the Hollywood Walk of Fame;
- "The Hollywood Walk of Fame is a top visitor attraction in the City of Los Angeles; and
- "Today an average of two stars are added to the Hollywood Walk of Fame each month."

Potential Conservative Concern: Some conservatives may be concerned that, while the federal government is running federal deficits of \$1.5 trillion annually, Congress is spending time debating a resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of "a tribute to those who have significantly contributed to the entertainment industry" instead of legislation that would reduce the deficit. For example, see <u>here</u> for a series of RSC Sunset Caucus bills that would reduce federal spending. Or see <u>here</u> for the YouCut spending options.

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.Res. 1357 was introduced on May 12, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

H.Res. 1429 - Celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day. (Latta, R-OH)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 1429 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

> "Celebrates the United States flag and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14, the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777;
- "On June 14, 1894, the Governor of New York ordered that the American flag be displayed at all public buildings in the State, prompting many State and local governments to begin observing Flag Day;
- "In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually;
- "The United States flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their life in the defense of the United States; and
- ➤ "June 14, 2010, is recognized as Flag Day."

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.Res. 1429 was introduced on June 9, 2010, and was referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

H.J.Res. 86 - Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirming the United States-Korea alliance (Rangel, D-NY)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

<u>Summary</u>: H.J.Res. 86 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- "Recognizes the historical importance of the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950;
- "Honors the noble service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of allied countries that served in Korea since 1950 to the present;
- "Encourages all Americans to participate in commemorative activities to pay solemn tribute to, and to never forget, the veterans of the Korean War;
- "Calls upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Korean War and commemorating National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day; and
- "Reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its alliance with the Republic of Korea for the betterment of peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "On June 25, 1950, communist North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea with approximately 135,000 troops, thereby initiating the Korean War;
- "On June 27, 1950, President Harry Truman ordered the United States Armed Forces to help the Republic of Korea defend itself against the North Korean invasion;
- "Casualties of the United States during the Korean War included 54,246 dead (of whom 33,739 were battle deaths), more than 92,100 wounded, and approximately 8,176 listed as missing in action or prisoners of war;
- "North Korea's sinking of the South Korean naval ship, Cheonan, on March 26, 2010, which resulted in the killing of 46 sailors, necessitates a reaffirmation of the United States-Korea alliance in safeguarding the stability of the Korean Peninsula; and
- "Beginning in June 2010, various ceremonies are being planned in the United States and the Republic of Korea to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and to honor all Korean War veterans."

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.J.Res. 86 was introduced on May 25, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution does not authorize additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>**Constitutional Authority:**</u> A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226 8576.

H.Con.Res. 286 - Recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army (*Edwards*, *D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, June 16, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

<u>Summary</u>: H.Con.Res. 286 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- "Expresses its appreciation to the members of the United States Army for 235 years of dedicated service;
- "Honors the valor, commitment, and sacrifice that members of the United States Army, their families, and Army civilians have displayed throughout the history of the Army; and
- Calls upon the President to issue a proclamation--
 - "Recognizing the 235th birthday of the United States Army and the dedicated service of its members; and
 - "Calling upon the people of the United States to observe the anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- "On June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens of 13 American colonies, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army;
- "The collective expression of the pursuit of personal freedom caused the authorization and organization of the United States Army, led to the adoption of

the Declaration of Independence, and prompted the codification of the new Nation's basic principles and values in the Constitution;

- "For the past 235 years, the United States Army's central mission has been to fight and win wars;
- "The motto on the United States Army seal, 'This We'll Defend', is the creed by which the members of the Army live and serve; and
- "No matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, the United States can rely on its well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated members of the United States Army to successfully carry out the missions entrusted to them."

<u>Committee Action</u>: H.Con.Res. 286 was introduced on June 14, 2010, and was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

<u>Cost to Taxpayers</u>: The resolution does not authorize additional 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.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

<u>Constitutional Authority</u>: A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

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