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**Legislative Bulletin.....July 29, 2010**

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**H.R. 5900 - Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 (*Oberstar, D-MN*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5900 would extend the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) authority to collect taxes and administer FAA programs through September 1, 2010 (under current law this authority lapses on August 1, 2010).

Specifically, the legislation would:

- Extend Funding for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund through September 30, 2010;
- Extend the Airport and Airway Trust Fund Expenditure Authority through October 1, 2010; and
- Extend the Airport Improvement Program through September 30, 2010.

**Sets Authorized Spending Levels:** This legislation authorizes the following FAA programs, and sets authorized funding levels (subject to appropriation) as follows:

**FAA Operations**, \$9.35 billion for FY 2010  
**Air Navigation Facilities and Equipment**, \$2.936 billion for FY 2010  
**Research, Engineering, and Development**, \$190 million for FY 2010

This legislation also requires the Secretary of Transportation to annually submit a report to Congress regarding air carrier operations. The report will detail recommendations that the Secretary has developed, or intends to develop.

H.R. 5900 also establishes a Pilot Records Database within the FAA. Before hiring a pilot, air carriers will consult with the database. The FAA will be required to store airman certificates (including medical certificates), records of failed attempts of an individual to pass a competency test, and summaries of legal enforcement actions. The database will also contain motor vehicle driving records, and other records.

Prior to searching the database, an air carrier will obtain consent from the pilot, and the pilot will have the right to review this information. The legislation allows the FAA Administrator to set a processing fee for requests. The legislation authorizes (subject to appropriation) \$6,000,000 for FY 2010-FY 2013 for database operations.

H.R. 5900 also establishes the FAA Task Force on Air Carrier Safety and Pilot Training. The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator and shall include air carrier representatives, labor union representatives, and aviation safety experts with knowledge of foreign and domestic regulatory requirements for flight crewmember education and training. Within one year after enactment, and annually thereafter, the Task Force will submit a report to the house Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The Task Force will be terminated on September 30, 2012. The Task Force shall provide recommendations pertaining to:

- “Air carrier management responsibilities for flight crewmember education and support;
- “Flight crewmember professional standards;
- “Flight crewmember training standards and performance; and
- “Mentoring and information sharing between air carriers.

Within nine months of enactment, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation will review the aviation safety inspectors and operational research analysts of the FAA assigned to commercial air carries, and will submit a report to the FAA. The FAA will also convene an aviation rulemaking committee to develop flight and crewmember mentoring programs, and modify training programs.

The FAA Administrator will be required to conduct a study on aviation industry best practices with regarding to flight crewmember pairing, crew resource management techniques, and pilot commuting. Within one year after enactment, the Administrator will submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5900 will require the Administrator to establish crewmember training requirements regarding stalled aircraft scenarios, as well as stick pusher systems, icing conditions, and microburst and windshear weather events. The Administrator will also issue regulations to specify flight hour limitations, in order to address pilot fatigue. Furthermore, the legislation creates a fatigue risk management plan.

Within one year after enactment, the Administrator will submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. The report will detail the aviation safety action program, the flight operational quality assurance program, the line operations safety audit, and the advanced qualification program.

The Administrator shall develop and implement a plan to establish an aviation safety action program and a flight operational quality assurance program for all commercial air carriers. Within 180 days after enactment, the Administrator will submit a report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The Administrator shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require commercial air carriers to develop and implement methods for ensuring that flight crewmembers have proper qualifications and experience.

**Additional Background:** The FAA's authority to collect taxes and administer AATF programs has been extended, at least, ten times since FY 2007. Without an extension, the FAA's authority to collect and spend these taxes will expire on August 1, 2010. The last extension was enacted on March 17, 2010 ([H.R. 4915](#)), by voice vote. The House passed a four year reauthorization bill ([H.R. 915](#)) on May 21, 2009, by a vote of [277 – 136](#).

**Committee Action:** H.R. 5900 was introduced on June 28, 2010, and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, and the House Transportation and Infrastructure, which took no public action.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score is unavailable. However, the legislation does extend several authorizations and also creates a new program authorizing (subject to appropriation) \$6,000,000 for FY 2010-FY 2013.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. The legislation directs the FAA Administrator to establish new procedures, create a new program, and the legislation also extends other taxes which would otherwise expire.

**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.

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

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## **H.R. 5901 - Real Estate Jobs and Investment Act (*Crowley, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5901 would raise the 5% threshold for the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA) exception for foreign portfolio investors in U.S. publicly-traded companies to 10% for publicly-traded Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). The threshold for foreign persons who invest in publicly-traded companies that are not REITs would not be increased. The Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that the proposal would reduce revenues by \$995 million over 10 years. This provision would remove a barrier to foreign investment in the U.S. real estate market.

Beginning with levies issued after 2010, the legislation would allow the IRS to issue levies prior to collection due process (CDP) hearings for federal tax liabilities of federal contractors who owe taxes. This provision would increase federal revenues by \$1.06 billion over 10 years.

**Additional Background:** According to the Committee on Ways & Means Republican office:

Prior to 1980, foreign persons were not taxed on their capital gains in the U.S. In 1980, in response to an increase in high-profile acquisitions of U.S. real estate by foreign persons, Congress passed the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act (FIRPTA). Under FIRPTA, a foreign person who recognizes a gain on the sale of U.S. real property is subject to U.S. tax in the same manner as a U.S. person. (Foreign persons continue to be exempt from capital gains taxes on non-real property).

Many foreign investors choose to invest in U.S. real property through Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). REITs provide individual investors the ability to invest in a diversified pool of professionally-managed real property assets. Generally, REITs are corporations that are treated as pass-through entities and do not pay corporate income tax if they satisfy certain distribution requirements.

With limited exceptions, the IRS may not issue a levy for an unpaid federal tax liability until the taxpayer has had an opportunity for an administrative collection due process (CDP) hearing. Prior to making a disbursement to a federal contractor, the federal government checks for unpaid federal tax liabilities. The IRS may not, however, levy the disbursement if the contractor has not yet had a CDP hearing.

**Committee Action:** On July 28, 2010, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, which took no subsequent public action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this legislation will result in a net increase in federal revenues of \$61 million over the 2010 – 2020 period, as a result of continuous levees to tax liabilities of certain federal contractors.

**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 Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available at press time. However, such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report sighting constitutional authority is not available at press time.

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## **H.R. 5320—Assistance, Quality, and Affordability Act (*Waxman, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 5320 authorizes the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide technical assistance to small public water systems in order to maintain compliance with applicable national primary drinking water regulations through grants or cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations. The bill explicitly requires priority for assistance to projects that will promote compliance with national primary drinking water standards, public health protection, and long-term sustainability of small public

water systems. In addition, the bill requires the Administrator to give greater weight to nonprofit organizations that are most qualified and most effective at providing the types of technical assistance that are preferred by small public water systems. The bill authorizes \$20 million each year for the FY 2011- 2015 periods and explicitly prohibits earmarks.

The bill amends current law to require prevailing wages (Davis-Bacon Act) is paid to any contractor or laborer on a project and prohibits the use of funds for any project of a public water system unless the steel, iron, and manufactured goods used are produced in the United States. However, an exemption is provided if the requirement increases the cost of a project by 25%, the requirement is insufficient to the public interest, or goods are not reasonably available in quantities of satisfactory quantity.

H.R. 5320 requires each state that has entered into a capitalization agreement to evaluate whether they are meeting the standard is affordable for disadvantaged communities in the State. If the state finds that such capital improvements do not meet affordability criteria the state must prioritize the use of funds to public water systems affected by the standard and serving disadvantaged communities. The bill also requires the each states reserve not less than 6 percent to be spent on assistance towards disadvantaged communities. The bill also amends the formula for that state administration of the funds, allows the transfer of accounts, and increases the state revolving fund for Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Virgin Islands from .33% to 1%.

The bill lists authorization of appropriations of \$1.4 billion for FY 2011, \$1.6 billion for FY 2012, \$1.8 billion for FY 2013.

The bill amends the process for the negotiation of contracts for water systems serving more than 10,000 people, affordability standards for disadvantaged communities, lifecycle costs, and EPA enforcement standards.

The bill contains a change the definition of what constitutes “lead free” under the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce the amount of lead allowed in plumbing products by applying it to pipes, fittings, or fixtures used to provide drinking water that are sold after three years of the bill’s enactment.

Additionally, the bill authorizes the appropriation of \$5 million annually over the next five years to support EPA’s [Endocrine Disruptor Screening program](#). In 1996, Congress passed the Food Quality Protection Act that requires that EPA to screen pesticide chemicals and environmental contaminants for their potential to affect the endocrine systems of humans and wildlife. Specifically, the bill requires the EPA administrator to provide a list of no fewer than 100 substances for testing, a plan for the identification of additional substances for testing pursuant to subsection), and a schedule for issuing test orders for all such additional substances by not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of the bill. H.R.5320 requires the EPA to prioritize the selection of substances that pose the greatest public health concern that are identifiable as being at greater risk of adverse health effects due to exposure to substances in drinking water.

**Additional Background:** In 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act created a state revolving fund program through the Environmental Protection Agency to finance drinking water infrastructure improvements. States use those grants, along with their own funds, to make low-interest loans to communities to build or improve drinking water facilities. Indian tribes also use such grants to fund projects that would improve the quality of drinking water. All states receive at least 1% of total funding from the program. Funds from the SRF are allotted to the states based on a needs survey, with no state receiving less than 1 percent of the fund and reserve up to 0.33 percent of the fund for the territories.

According to the committee, this program has helped finance more than 6,600 drinking water projects throughout the country, using federal funds to supplement and leverage investment from other sources.

**Conservative Concerns:**

- ***Cost:*** Some conservatives expressed concern that the bill authorizes nearly \$5 billion over a three year period. In 2010, this program received an appropriation of about \$1.4 billion in FY 2010 and the so-called stimulus provided approximately \$2 billion more for this program.
- ***Davis-Bacon:*** H.R. 5320 imposes prevailing wage requirements to all projects authorized under the bill. This policy has been shown to increase public construction costs by anywhere from 5 to 38 percent above projected costs for the same project in the private sector.
- ***Buy American Requirements:*** H.R. 5320 requires all steel, iron, and manufactured goods to be produced in the United States. Some conservatives have expressed concern that this compromises the ability of states and localities to pursue projects because most municipalities that participate in these projects are not covered by international agreements. In turn, this will drive up costs and reduce competition, while not doing anything to improve water quality for consumers.

**Committee Action:** On May 18, 2010, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On May 19, 2010, the subcommittee on Energy & Environment held a mark-up and passed the bill by a vote of 18-13. On May, 26, 2010, the full Energy and Commerce Committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill reported (as amended) by a vote of 45-1.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** According to CBO, **H.R. 5320 would authorize \$4.925 billion mostly over three years, during the FY 2011 – 2015 period.** According to the Joint Tax Committee, H.R. 5320 would be used by states to leverage additional funds by issuing

tax-exempt bonds. The JCT estimates that issuing additional tax-exempt bonds would reduce federal revenues by about \$337 million over the next 10 years.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** Yes. The bill authorizes \$5 billion over three years and extends Davis-Bacon and buy American requirements.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** Yes, according to CBO the bill modifies the definition of “lead free” under the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce the amount of lead allowed in plumbing products. The new definition would apply to pipes, fittings, or fixtures used to provide drinking water that are sold after the bill's enactment. Plumbing products used and sold in the United States would have to meet the new standard within three years of enactment. While the additional costs to state, local, and tribal entities could be significant, CBO estimates that those costs would total less than the annual threshold established in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates.

In addition, the bill would require public water systems (including both public and private entities) to submit monitoring data electronically. CBO estimates that the cost to submit such information electronically would be minimal.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** According to Committee Report 111-524, H.R. 5320 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

**Constitutional Authority:** Committee Report 111-524 cites Article I, section 8, clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

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### **S. 3372 - Modifying the date on which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and applicable States may require permits for discharges from certain vessels (*Sen. Boxer, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The legislation is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the legislation.

**Summary:** S. 3372 extends the date that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may require permits for discharges for vessels less than 79 feet in length to December 18, 2013. Under current law, the provision is effective July 31, 2010.

**Committee Action:** S. 3372 was introduced on May 13, 2010, and referred to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. A markup was held on June 18, 2010, and

the legislation was approved without amendment. The legislation passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 14, 2010, and was held at the desk.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that S. 3372 “would have no significant budgetary effect.”

**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.

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

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### **H.Res. \_\_ - Recognizing and commemorating The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the National Sit-In Movement (*Lewis, D-GA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. \_\_ resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Recognizes the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC);
- “Recognizes and commemorate the significance and importance of SNCC and its role in organizing the national sit-in movement and the role that they played in the desegregation of United States society and for creating the political climate necessary to pass legislation to expand civil rights and voting rights for all people in the United States;
- Encourages the people of the United States to recognize and celebrate the legal victories of the national sit-in movement that sought to eradicate segregation in United States society; and
- “Aspires to work with the same courage, determination, dignity, and commitment exemplified by those pioneering students who dared to challenge a segregated society by addressing modern-day inequalities and injustice.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “By the end of February 1960, there were nonviolent sit-ins in more than 30 communities in 7 States;
- “On from April 15-17, 1960, with an \$800 grant, 126 delegates from 58 student sit-in centers and from 12 different States, from the North and the South gathered at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which lead to the national sit-in effort, and helped lead the “Freedom Rides” in 1961 and the historic March on Washington in 1963;
- “In 1964, SNCC helped organize the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), which challenged the legitimacy and seating of Mississippi’s officially recognized Democratic Party;
- “The enthusiasm of the students and the support they garnered for their pacifism in the face of hatred, led to the beginning of integration within the United States and the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. \_\_\_ has yet to be introduced.

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

**Cost to Taxpayers:** 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.

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

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**H.R. 5414 - To provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of National Forest System land in the Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina (Brown, R-SC)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** The bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture to sell all rights, titles, and interests of the United States a parcel of National Forest System land in the Francis Marion National Forest consisting of up to 3 acres to the Bonneau Baptist Church in South Carolina. The bill requires the Bonneau Baptist Church to pay cash consideration in an amount equal to the market value of the land based on appraisal instructions prescribed for a separate lot unconnected with a larger parcel, unencumbered by any permit or restrictive covenant and otherwise in conformity with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions. The bill requires the church to cover all reasonable costs associated with the conveyance.

**Additional Background:** According to the bill's sponsor, the church needs the land in order to facilitate a onetime expansion of their cemetery which has currently reached its capacity. This legislation would allow for the sale of federal land to a private organization and, in turn, provide the forest service additional revenue to help cover costs of maintaining other land under its control.

**Committee Action:** On May 16, 2010, the bill was introduced and referred to the Committee on Agriculture. On June 30, 2010, the Committee held a mark-up and ordered the bill reported favorably by a voice vote.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO report for H.R. 5414 is unavailable at press time.

**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 Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available at press time. However, such a report is technically not required because the bill is being considered under a suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A Committee Report sighting Constitutional authority is not available at press time.

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## **H.R. 2476 - Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act (DeGette, D-CO)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 2476 would authorize National Forest Ski Area Permit Act to allow for ski areas and associated facilities, in addition to nordic and alpine skiing, to be permitted on National Forest System land. The bill would authorize the holder of a ski area permit other seasonal or year-round natural resource-based, outdoor-developed recreational activities and associated facilities (in addition to skiing and other snow-sports) as the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be appropriate on Forest Service land. The bill does not allow the Secretary to authorize any activity or facility if it would result in the primary recreational purpose other than skiing or any other snow-sport.

**Additional Background:** According to the bill's sponsor, National Forest System land that is used for skiing and other snow-sports can provide additional opportunities for seasonal and year-round recreational activities, which promotes jobs and enhances the economy of local communities that serve these areas as well as the state and the United States.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 2476 was introduced on May 19, 2009, and referred to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry. A markup was held on December 16, 2010, by the Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands and ordered reported favorably, as amended, by voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** CBO estimates that enacting the bill would have no significant effect on the federal budget. The Forest Service already has authority to allow its concessioners to provide off-season and other recreational services at ski resorts. Clarifying that authority could facilitate the agency's collection of offsetting receipts from ski concessioners (currently about \$30 million a year), but CBO estimates that any increase, which would be deposited in the U.S. Treasury, would total less than \$500,000 a year.

**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?:** According to House Report, 111-533, H.R. 2476 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

**Constitutional Authority:** Committee Report 111-533 sites Article IV, section 3 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

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**H.J.Res. 90 - Expressing support for designation of September 2010 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month" and honoring gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States (*Jackson-Lee, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.J.Res. 90 resolves that Congress

- “Supports the designation of ‘Gospel Music Heritage Month’ which would recognize the contributions to the culture of the United States derived from the rich heritage of gospel music and gospel music artists.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “Gospel music is a beloved art form unique to the United States, spanning decades, generations, and races;
- “The history of gospel music can be traced to multiple and diverse influences and foundations, including African-American spirituals that blended diverse elements from African music and melodic influences from Irish folk songs and hymns, and gospel music ultimately borrowed from uniquely American musical styles including ragtime, jazz, and blues;
- “Beyond its contribution to the musical tradition of the United States, gospel music has provided a cultural and musical backdrop across all of mainstream media, from hit television series to major Hollywood motion pictures, including ‘American Idol’, ‘Heroes’, ‘Dancing with the Stars’, ‘O Brother, Where Art Thou?’, ‘Sister Act’, ‘The Preacher’s Wife’, ‘Evan Almighty’, and more;
- “Gospel music has a huge audience around the country and around the world, a testament to the universal appeal of a historical American art form that both inspires and entertains across racial, ethnic, religious, and geographic boundaries; and
- “September 2010 would be an appropriate month to designate as “Gospel Music Heritage Month”.”

**Committee Action:** H.J.Res. 90 was introduced on June 17, 2010, and 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 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.

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

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## **H.Res. 1527 - Congratulating the United States Men's National Soccer Team for its inspiring performance in the 2010 FIFA World Cup (Gohmert, R-TX)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Thursday, July 29, 2010, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 1527 resolves that it is the sense of the House of Representatives:

- “Congratulates the United States Men's National Soccer Team for its historic performance in the 2010 FIFA World Cup;
- “Recognizes the United States Men's National Soccer Team head coach Bob Bradley of Manhattan Beach, CA, the team's coaching, training, and administrative personnel, and each of the players for their tenacious play and dedication to excellence, including Tim Howard of North Brunswick, New Jersey, Jonathan Spector of Arlington Heights, Illinois, Carlos Bocanegra of Alta Loma, California, Michael Bradley of Manhattan Beach, California, Oguchi Onyewu of Olney, Maryland, Steve Cherundolo of San Diego, California, DaMarcus Beasley of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Clint Dempsey of Nacogdoches, Texas, Herculez Gomez of Las Vegas, Nevada, Landon Donovan of Redlands, California, Stuart Holden of Houston, Texas, Jonathan Bornstein of Los Alamitos, California, Ricardo Clark of Jonesboro, Georgia, Edson Buddle of New Rochelle, New York, Jay DeMerit of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Jose Torres of Longview, Texas, Jozy Altidore of Boca Raton, Florida, Brad Guzan of Homer Glen, Illinois, Maurice Edu of Fontana, California, Robbie Findley, of Phoenix, Arizona, Clarence Goodson of Alexandria, Virginia, Benny Feilhaber of Irvine, California, and Marcus Hahnemann of Seattle, Washington; and

- “Commends the United States Soccer Federation, the United States Soccer Foundation, and coaches and parents of young soccer players around the country for their role in the success of soccer in the United States.”

The resolution contains a number of findings, including:

- “The United States Men's National Soccer Team made the Nation proud and impressed fans around the world with steadfast play and an impressive performance in the 2010 FIFA World Cup;
- “The team won its group in the FIFA World Cup for the first time since 1930;
- “The United States demonstrated that it can compete with the elite soccer programs in the world; and
- “The team's achievement reflects the growth in popularity of soccer in the United States and the importance of athletic participation for building character and confidence in the Nation's youth.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 1527 was introduced on July 15, 2010, and 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 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.

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

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