

ROLL CALL REPORT

Sander Levin says no to full House post office disclosure

Here's how Observer & Eccentric-area members of Congress voted on major roll call votes in the week ending July 24.

HOUSE

No for public disclosure of post office scandal: By a vote of 223 for and 196 against, the House killed a proposal (H Res 526) for full public disclosure of transcripts that underpin a task force finding of employee misconduct at the House Post Office.

accused of corrupt activity in the matter. Robert Walker, R-Pa., objected to the Democrats' "behind closed doors" treatment of the post office scandal, saying "the American public ... wants us to open up to them."

A yes vote opposed disclosure of witness transcripts from the post office probe. Area representatives voting yes were: Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, William Ford, D-Taylor, Sander Levin, D-Southfield. Voting no were: Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, William Broomfield, R-Birmingham.

Yes to raise grazing fees: By a vote of 164 for and 245 against, the House refused to kill a proposed bill (H Res 485) to reinstate federal regulation of cable television. It empowers the FCC to control rates charged by the nation's 11,000-plus cable systems, set customer service standards, open monopolistic programming practices and prohibit exclusive operating franchises.

the hike because, he said, "it is going to drive marginal cattle operators off the land."

Chester Atkins, D-Mass., asked foes of the increase, "How can you be aggressively for a balanced budget amendment but then want the big subsidies for the big operators in your district?"

Yes to regulate cable TV: By a vote of 340 for and 73 against, the House sent to conference with the Senate a bill (HR 485) to reinstate federal regulation of cable television. It empowers the FCC to control rates charged by the nation's 11,000-plus cable systems, set customer service standards, open monopolistic programming practices and prohibit exclusive operating franchises.

have been subjected to rate increases that never seem to end. Customer service is poor or nonexistent.

Opponent Thomas Bliley, R-Va., said the bill is "over-regulatory in every respect" and "will result in higher, yes, higher rather than lower cable bills."

Yes to bar out-of-state trash: By a vote of 89 for and 20 against, the Senate passed a bill (S 2077) allowing states to restrict municipal waste imports from other states. Governors could ban or limit out-of-state trash on written request from their local governments.

so by Congress. Supporter Max Baucus, D-Mont., said "no state should be forced to take another state's trash because the exporting state doesn't have the political will to deal with its own waste."

No opponent spoke against the bill. A yes vote was to pass the bill. Michigan Senators Carol Levin, D, and Donald Riegler, D, voted yes.

Yes on community control issue: By a vote of 60 for and 31 against, the Senate tabled (killed) an amendment to S 2077 (above) restricting the right of local governments to accept out-of-state trash.

A yes vote was to bolster the power of communities to accept out-of-state trash. Sens. Levin and Riegler voted no.

SENATE

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