



Honorable Edward R. Royce

For the Congressional Record on H.R. 4238—To amend the Department of Energy Organization Act and the Local Public Works Capital Development and Investment Act of 1976 to modernize terms relating to minorities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 4238, which was introduced by my colleague, the Gentlewoman from New York, Representative Meng.

Racism and discrimination have no place in America today. We are a nation of immigrants that is proud of its diversity.

Despite our society's progression and growth over the last 100 years, the Federal Code still contains language on ethnicity that is antiquated, and, quite frankly, inappropriate. For example, the term "Orientals" is offensive, especially so when referring to the vibrant Asian American community. Using this term in federal law lends it a legitimacy it doesn't deserve.

I strongly believe that when we get the chance, we should correct the mistakes of the past. This bill goes a long way towards correcting our mistakes.

H.R. 4238 eliminates outdated, disrespectful terms from federal law and replaces them with terms, such as "Asian American," "Alaska Natives," and "Hispanic," that are more appropriate for our times and in keeping with our values.

Last year, Representative Meng and I successfully amended H.R.8 to strike these derogatory terms, which did not move in the Senate. As an original cosponsor of this standalone bill, I'm very happy that she and I are closer to having this language signed into law and these terms removed for good.

Deleting inappropriate terms from the U.S. code is a simple, yet important, way of demonstrating respect for our nation's diversity.

I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues in the House to vote in support of it.

Thank you, I yield back my time.