otherwise strengthen U.S. producers' ability to supply a safe, nutritious and quality product to both domestic and foreign markets.

Unfortunately, the bill as amended drastically reduced the federal commitment to this block grant proposal, from $470 million in mandatory spending down to $44.5 million in discretionary spending.

During the Agriculture Committee's markup of this bill, I attempted to restore merely half of the mandatory funds provided under the original bill for the block grant program. In order to keep the legislation revenue-neutral from a budgetary standpoint, I offered two separate alternative offsets—one based on a small, pro rata reduction in direct fixed payments to program commodity producers, and the other based on a bipartisan payment limitations proposal pending in the Senate (S. 667).

My amendment to finance the cost of a mandatory $220 million per year block grant program for specialty crops would have reduced the annual federal subsidies received by program crops by merely 1.7 percent. As a percent of program crop gross income, this represents a 0.36 percent reduction. Yet even this minuscule reduction encountered strong resistance by those farm and commodity organizations benefiting from these federal subsidies today.

The inequitable distribution of federal expenditures between program commodities and non-subsidized specialty crops must be changed. The United States can no longer afford to short-change the majority of its crop producers who rely on market forces—not federal program payments—to drive their income. The fact that the current farm bill, enacted in 2002, does not expire until 2007 is no excuse for not reallocating a small portion of federal expenditures by less than 2 percent.

Some of my colleagues seek to support the specialty crop sector without simultaneously disturbing the enormous benefits enjoyed by the program commodities. However, federal dollars are scarce resources and a more equitable distribution of these limited resources is long overdue. I hope my colleagues will eventually agree.

In the meantime, I urge adoption of this legislation today and hope that it will lay an effective foundation for a stronger federal investment in our specialty crop sector in future years.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the protection of the Nation against terrorist attacks is foremost on all of our minds. We all agree that we need to identify, detain, and prosecute those who intend to inflict terror on this Nation and its people. While I agree on the prosecution of terrorists requires tools that go beyond those available in our criminal justice system, I believe that this amendment goes too far.

Specifically, this amendment denies pre-trial release of terrorist suspects upon a certification from the Attorney General. Denial of pre-trial release would impede the ability of the wrongly accused from clearing their name. They would be hampered in their ability to select and meet with counsel, to search for witnesses who could vouch for them, and collect their own personal documents and other effects as evidence which could absolve them.

These concerns are not theoretical. We need only look to Oregon attorney Brandon Mayfield who was arrested in May as a suspect for the horrific terrorist attacks in Madrid last spring. Mayfield, a former U.S. Army lieutenant, was detained for three weeks because authorities believed that his fingerprints were found on evidence recovered in Madrid. Shoddy practices were used to transmit Mayfield's fingerprints by U.S. officials to Madrid. The poor quality of those transmitted prints should have precluded any positive identification. However, the compulsion to catch the perpetrators lead investigators to jump to the conclusion that Mayfield, a Muslim, must have been involved. Only after good quality fingerprint data was transmitted to Madrid was Mr. Mayfield cleared.

We need to pass responsible legislation that will be effective in detaining those who seek to harm this Nation. This amendment includes some provisions that overreach this responsibility.

IN MEMORY OF VERNON ALLEY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, It is with great personal sadness and San Francisco's deep sorrow, that I rise to pay tribute to Vernon Alley, the most distinguished and beloved jazz musician in San Francisco's history, who passed away on October 3rd. Vernon honored his beloved City by choosing to pass up playing in the big jazz cities of New York and Chicago to devote his life to enchanting and inspiring generations of San Franciscans. He elevated our City with his music and his dedication to racial justice.

A lifelong San Franciscan, Vernon went to high school with Joe DiMaggio, where he became an all-star fullback. His interest in jazz began as a boy when his parents took him to see jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton. He started his own group in the 30's in the Fillmore. In 1940 he went to New York and joined the Lionel Hampton Band. Two years later, he became a member of the Count Basie Orchestra.

Vernon Alley knew and played with the greatest jazz musicians and performers of his generation—Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Erroll Garner, Nat King Cole, Charles Mingus, Ella Fitzgerald, and Billie Holiday.

He returned to his beloved San Francisco in 1942. The music scene exploded in the 40's when African Americans moved to San Francisco's Bayview District to work in the shipyards. Vernon fostered jazz in the Bay Area during the heyday of the Fillmore District and North Beach jazz scenes of the 1940's and 50's.

Vernon was as dedicated to fighting racism as he was to his music. He singlehandedly integrated the San Francisco Musicians Union. As chairman of the board of the black musicians local, he fought for integration of the City's jazz clubs, luring most of the white musicians into his local, because they wanted to play jazz in the swing clubs. As an accompanist for Ella Fitzgerald, he fought the segregationist policies of the casinos of Las Vegas.

A close friend of many San Francisco mayors, he served for years on the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Human Rights Commission. He was active in the City's arts community and hosted two popular radio programs and a television show. His good friend, columnist Herb Caen, whom he first showed around town when Caen was a young newspaperman, often mentioned Vernon as a man "whose smile lights up the town, even on foggy days."

Vernon was inducted into the San Francisco State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2001, when his health was declining, the San Francisco Jazz Festival put together a 3½ hour tribute called "The Legacy of Vernon Alley" that drew more than a thousand musicians and friends. Later that year, an alley in a redevelopment project was named "Vernon Alley."

We will never forget our most beloved jazzman. With a twinkle in his eyes, an infectious smile, a booming laugh, and his bass "Baby" in hand, he captivated us all. I hope it is a comfort to his brother, Eddie, his longtime companion, Loma Ruyter, and his nieces and nephews that so many friends and fans share their grief and are praying for them at this sad time.

APPLAUDING LOUISVILLE'S JEWISH HOSPITAL

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 9, 2004

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr Speaker I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of one my district's premier hospitals in the field of medical technology advancements. Jewish Hospital HealthCare Services is a regional network of more than 50 health care facilities providing services for Kentucky and Southern Indiana residents. It has recently opened the doors of a "next generation" medical center, Jewish Hospital Medical Center East, offering the region's most advanced outpatient diagnostic procedures and treatment options in the areas of outpatient surgery, endoscopy, gender-specific medicine, diagnostic medical imaging, cardiopulmonary services, rehab services and occupational health.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced a legislative plan to electronically link health records nationwide, part of President Bush's call for an electronic health record for every American in the next 10 years. The aim is to make patient information available to several

physicians in multiple locations and to expand the capacity for monitoring disease trends and other indicators, as well as to facilitate research.

The benefit of linking medical records nationwide is clear: even when you are out of town and unable to reach your doctor or hospital, the staff at any ER or medical facility will have your medical history available at their fingertips. That can save valuable—possibly lifesaving time. It is the healthcare of the future, but it's already happening in Louisville at Jewish Hospital.

The electronic health records system in place at Jewish Hospital Medical Center East is now referred to as a ''show-site'' for medical technology. Accessing medical records, in the past, would take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour. Now the process is instantaneous. And according to an HHS report, only 13 percent of hospitals and between 14 and 28 percent of physician practices have such computerized patient records. The Louisville facility is, indeed, ahead of the curve.

I applaud the efforts and advancements in medicine pursued by Louisville's Jewish Hospital and offer them up as a model of health care excellence for the nation.

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2608. Title I of the bill is the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act and Title II is the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act. Both of these sections passed by the House separately earlier this year.

I want to acknowledge the leadership of Research Subcommittee Chairman SMITH and my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, in introducing and championing the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program—often called NEHRP—was established 25 years ago to address the serious seismic hazards in the United States. The program has the primary goal of determining how to lower the risk to people and to the built environment.

Most observers of NEHRP believe it has made many valuable contributions toward advancing understanding of earthquake processes and in developing detailed information about the geographic distribution of earthquake risk.

Equally important, the program has helped to improve engineering design and practice for structures and lifelines suitable for earthquake prone regions.

H.R. 2608 focuses on strengthening NEHRP by reinvigorating program leadership and by increasing program emphasis on transitioning the results of research to practice.

When I first introduced Title II of H.R. 2608 5 years ago, I modeled it after the NEHRP program because of its success over the past 30 plus years.

I would like to thank Chairman BOEHLERT for following through on his promise to mark up legislation on wind storms in the 108th Congress. I would also like to thank Congressman NEUGEBAUER for working with me on this important legislation.

I would like to thank Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, MELISSA HART, and WALTER JONES for working with me over the past three Congresses. I would like to thank Minority Counsel JIM TURNER of the House Science Committee and Brian Pallasch of the American Society of Civil Engineers for working on this issue tirelessly over the course of the past 5 years.

Almost 6 years ago, my hometown of Wichita, Kansas, was hit by a F4 tornado which plowed through the suburb of Haysville, killing 6, injuring 150, and causing over $140 million in damage. The devastation of this attack motivated me to try to do something.

I put together a bill, my goal—to mitigate loss of life and property due to wind and related hazards.

I reviewed comments from the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Association of Home Builders, the insurance industry, meteorologists, emergency managers, academia, industry, and the manufactured housing associations to fine-tune the legislation.

On May 4, 2003, almost 4 years to the day after the deadly 1999 Kansas and Oklahoma tornadoes, tornadoes touched down in metro Kansas City and the surrounding suburbs, as well as in many of my congressional colleagues' districts, destroying property, killing and injuring our constituents.

These tornadoes did not check with Congress to see if they were hitting Republican or Democratic districts; they are truly an equal opportunity destroyer. This is not a Republican or a Democratic issue; it is a human issue, and it is a human tragedy. These windstorms destroy lives; I have seen it in my own district and know many of my colleagues have seen it in theirs.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support this amendment that will help to facilitate emergency preparedness between the Federal Government and the States. This amendment instructs the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop emergency preparedness compacts for acts of terrorism, disasters, and emergencies throughout the Nation. Specifically, this will require the identification and cataloging of emergency response capabilities from Federal-State collaborations and from the Federal Government. It also shares examples of best practices between responders at the State, local, and Federal levels. No obligations are imposed on the States as a result of this amendment.

In August and September we saw the benefit of State and local government collaboration in the wake of the devastation caused by the four hurricanes that caused so much devastation in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and other southeastern states. This amendment will help to strengthen those collaborations and help to extend the benefit to all States.

9/11 RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to provide for reform of the intelligence community, terrorism prevention and prosecution, border security, and international cooperation and coordination, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, after the horrific attacks of September 11, Americans understand the significance and seriousness of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. Developed in a bipartisan manner after long study and debate, the recommendations (if implemented) would radically reorganize the intelligence community and unify government efforts to prevent future terrorist attacks. Of course, once the depth of the failure of our intelligence agencies became clear after 9–11, many of us recognized the need for such reform. The question Congress asked the 9–11 Commission to answer was—how?

We got an answer in the form of the 9–11 Commission report. The Commission put forth forty-one in depth recommendations to serve as a proposed blueprint for intelligence reform. While I believe Congress should not necessarily rubber-stamp the Commission's work, I also believe that we should honor the bipartisan spirit of the Commission by working in a similarly bipartisan way to reach agreement on the best way to implement the recommendations.

That is what has been so deeply disappointing about the process in the House. While the Senate—through an open and deliberative process—reached agreement on a substantive bill that reflects the views of both parties, the Commission, and the families of 9–11 victims, the House has played shameful politics with intelligence reform.

The Republican bill (H.R. 10) only fully implements eleven of the 41 recommendations of the 9–11 Commission, while it ignores some of the most important Commission recommendations. For instance, it fails to give the National Intelligence Director sufficient authority over the budgets and personnel of intelligence agencies. It fails to include a strong National Counterterrorism Center. It fails to strengthen the Nunn-Lugar programs and other nonproliferation programs to secure nuclear materials around the world. It fails to create an integrated border screening system to improve security at our borders. It fails to improve communications for first responders. It fails to create a government-wide Civil Liberties Oversight Board to review the use of intelligence powers and address civil liberties concerns. The list goes on.